

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

### ASEAN REGION

February 10 – 12, 2024



This report is the result of media monitoring on infectious and emerging diseases happening around the world and among the ASEAN Member States. In order to improve pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response in the ASEAN Region. We provide this report three times a week starting January 2024.

## Global Situation

### COVID-19

- **Bangladesh** reported 29 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 342 samples tested, a positivity rate of 8.48% (Observer Online Report, 2024). The country's total fatalities remained at 29,483, with 2,047,552 cases and 2,014,744 recoveries. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India** has reported a single-day increase in 114 new COVID-19 infections, with 870 active cases, according to the Union Health Ministry (Standard B, 2024). The increase began after a new variant and cold weather conditions. India has experienced three waves of COVID-19, with the peak incidence occurring during the delta wave in April-June 2021. Since 2020, over 45 million people have been infected and over 530,000 deaths have been reported. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **New Zealand** has reported 5,878 new COVID-19 cases and 15 deaths since the fifth wave of the virus (News R, 2024). The majority were probable cases, with 3,807 reinfections. The seven-day rolling average of new cases was 838 per day. A recent study found that vaccines saved 4,000-12,000 lives in New Zealand during the Omicron phase, with New Zealand having one of the lowest global COVID-19 mortality rates. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has reported 14 dengue patients were hospitalized in Dhaka in the last 24 hours, with five in Dhaka and nine in other hospitals (BSS, 2024). This year, the total number of cases reached 1,093, with 115 still undergoing treatment. Last year, the country recorded 1,705 deaths and 321,179 cases. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Mauritius** has reported the dengue epidemic in Mauritius is escalating, with 408 active cases as of late Thursday afternoon (Sandra, 2024). The fight against the virus is intensifying, with heavy rains in Belal providing stagnant water points for tiger mosquitoes. Mauritian authorities have requested military participation in fumigation operations in risk areas, with the North, Port-Louis region, and West being prioritized. Local community agents are also asking citizens to eliminate water points for female tiger mosquito eggs. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Gastrointestinal Anthrax

- **Kenya** reported In Murang'a County, an anthrax scare has left over 300 people ill after consuming meat from a cow that had died under mysterious circumstances (Ojoko I, 2024). The cow's owner, was advised by a local veterinary officer that the carcass was safe for human consumption. The villagers, who initially dismissed the symptoms as food poisoning, soon discovered that something more sinister was at play. Local healthcare workers and officials traced the root of the problem back to Ngugi's cow and suspected anthrax, a deadly bacterial disease. As the villagers awaited the results, dogs that had consumed the tainted meat began to perish, further fueling their fears. Murang'a County's Deputy Director of Medical Services, explained that anthrax is a treatable condition, especially when caught early. [[Full article](#)]

## Measles

- **Austria:** Measles cases have reached over 100 in Austria in 2024, with most in Lower Austria, Vienna, and Tyrol (Msuppersberger, 2024). State Councilor emphasizes the importance of vaccination as a safe precaution, stating that it is not a harmless childhood disease and adults can also become ill. The State Health Councilor and Vorarlberg State Medical Directorate recommend the triple combination measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination for both children and adults, ensuring that "over-vaccination" is not possible. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** A measles case has been confirmed in Maricopa County, California, as cases increase in the U.S. and overseas (News Flash, 2024). The Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) is investigating the case, which is highly contagious and can spread through the air. Unvaccinated individuals are at the highest risk of developing the disease, as the virus can survive in the air for several hours. Measles can cause serious illness, especially in young children, pregnant women, and those with depressed immune systems. Symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, and red or watery eyes. It can take up to 21 days for a person infected to show symptoms. If you experience symptoms, self-isolate, stay away from others, and contact your healthcare provider. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- **India:** A woman in Palakkad, India, died of rabies after being bitten by a stray dog (Thiruvananthapuram, 2024). Her husband, was also bitten by a dog. They were all vaccinated after being bitten. She fell ill and was admitted to a private hospital but died on Monday. Thrissur Medical College doctors confirmed rabies as the cause of death. In 2022, 24 people died due to stray dog bites in West Bengali. The minister confirmed that there is no shortage of anti-rabies vaccine in the state and that the quality of the vaccine has been tested in a central laboratory. The number of people bitten by stray dogs in the state decreased from 8355 in September to 7542 in October. [[Full article](#)]



## Regional Situation

### Avian Influenza H5N1

- **Cambodia:** Reported a third H5N1 avian flu case in 2024, involving a 9-year-old boy from Kratie province (Schnirring, L, 2024). The cases occurred in two provinces, Prey Veng and Siem Reap. The boy died from the infection, and the birds were eaten. Cambodia has now reported nine H5N1 cases since 2023, following a decade-long lapse. The virus belongs to an older clade, not the newer one. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Dengue

- **Indonesia:** The Mimika District Health Office in Central Papua Province is expected to find 217 cases of DHF in early 2024 (Janggo A.E., 2024). The office reported 217 cases from January 1 to February 7. The Mimika General Hospital reported a high number of tropical disease patients admitted to the emergency room. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Malaysia:** Dengue cases in the 6th epidemiological week in Paranayana dropped to 3,631, compared to 3,969 cases in the previous week (Bernama, 2024). Health director-general, reported a cumulative total of 22,058, with 10 deaths due to complications. The number of reported dengue hotspots increased to 199 localities, with 158 in Selangor, 18 in Kuala Lumpur, and Putrajaya. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Singapore:** The number of cases of dengue fever in Singapore has increased significantly since February 2023, with 92 active cases reported (NEA, 2024). The National Health Authority (NEA) is working closely with local communities to manage the situation and ensure the safety of the population. Dengue fever has been prevalent in Singapore, with the virus dominating since September 2023. The population's response to the virus is still poor. Individuals are using ointment and mosquito eradicating method to control the fever. The method, which involves using a disinfectant and a disinfectant solution, is effective in preventing the disease. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Thailand** is facing a severe health crisis as dengue fever cases surge, with 8,197 confirmed cases and 13 reported deaths in January 2024 (News T.M, 2024). The disease, transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, poses a significant threat in tropical and subtropical climates, particularly affecting children aged five to fourteen. The southern and central provinces have been identified as hotspots for dengue fever, necessitating increased vigilance. Hospitals treating dengue patients have been instructed to distribute anti-mosquito cream or spray to protect other patients. Tourists have also been affected, with some contracting the disease during their stay. The public health department has issued warnings to pregnant women in specific areas due to reported Zika cases. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Malaria

- **Philippines:** Western Visayas has reported two imported malaria cases this year, primarily in individuals from Ilo-ilo City and the province of Ilo-ilo (Sornito I, 2024). The cases were confirmed after the overseas Filipino workers (OFW) showed fever and had previously suffered from malaria in Africa. The region is still considered malaria-free as there are no local or indigenous cases originating from within. To maintain this status, DOH-6 collaborates with local government units (LGUs) to enhance surveillance of OFWs, particularly during the December and January vacation period. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Mpox

- **Cambodia:** The Ministry of Health confirmed three more mpox cases in Phnom Penh, bringing the total to nine since the first case in July 2022 (Vna, 2024). The disease has been reported in 117 countries, with over 93,000 cases and 176 deaths, and symptoms include high fever, muscle pain, lymphadenopathy, and rash. [\[Full article\]](#)

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