

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

January 11 – 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 2024.

### Global Situation

#### COVID-19

- **India** has reported 514 new COVID-19 cases, with active cases declining to 3,422. Three deaths have been reported in a 24-hour span (PTI, 2024). The number of daily cases dropped to double-digits until December 5, 2023, but increased after the emergence of the new sub-variant, JN.1, and cold weather conditions. Around 92% of active cases are recovering under home isolation. India has experienced three waves of COVID-19, with the peak incidence occurring during the delta wave in April-June 2021. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United Kingdom**: The community risk index for COVID-19 in the Peterborough, Ontario, region remains high for the 11th week in a row, with active lab-confirmed cases dropping from 161 reported on January 3 to 219 reported on December 20, 2023 (Davis, 2024). The health unit reported the first confirmed case of the BA.2.86 variant in the region in September. The risk index for other respiratory viruses remains "high," including the influenza case rate and test percent positivity. As of January 8, there were 10 inpatients with COVID-19 at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre, and cumulative lab-confirmed cases have reached 12,636 since the pandemic began. Outbreaks have been reported, with 297 outbreaks since the pandemic was declared, four more since Jan. 3. Approximately 82% of area residents have two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, known as the "primary series count," and approximately 28,000 doses have been administered since September 14, 2023. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US)**: The JN.1 COVID-19 variant is now the most prevalent globally and in the U.S., accounting for 62% of cases (Carbajal, 2024). The virus has experienced rapid growth, with JN.1 making up about 21% of U.S. cases a month ago. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported nearly 10,000 COVID-19 deaths in December, with a 42% increase in hospitalizations and a 62% increase in ICU admissions. A study led by Ohio State University suggests that BA.2.86 and JN.1 may be linked to increased disease severity, as they can infect human cells lining the lower lung. The WHO classified JN.1 as a "variant of interest" due to its rapid spread, but there is no evidence of JN.1 causing more severe disease. [\[Full article\]](#)