

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

December 12 – 13, 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

Dengue

- **Bangladesh** recorded 344 new dengue cases hospitalised and five deaths on 12 December (bdnews24.com, 2024). Of the patients, 154 were reported from the Dhaka metropolitan area. Currently, 1,840 patients are being treated in hospitals across the country, bringing the total number of patients hospitalised this year to 97,947, with 541 deaths. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **Sri Lanka:** The Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health has confirmed leptospirosis as the cause of a fever outbreak in Jaffna that led to seven lives. (Fernandopulle, 2024). Initially reported at five fatalities, the toll includes three confirmed leptospirosis cases and two suspected ones. Blood samples sent to Colombo confirmed the diagnosis. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Australia:** A second measles alert has been issued for Perth, Australia, following the flight of an infected traveller (Edser, 2024). The latest case involves a recent traveler from Southeast Asia who visited public locations in Armadale. No epidemiological connection with the previous case reported. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- The **United States (US):** Doctors in southern Indiana are urging parents to check their children's vaccination records to prevent a rise in whooping cough (Yaney, 2024). Nine cases of whooping cough have been reported in the past year, with most requiring hospitalisation. The disease is particularly dangerous for babies and pregnant mothers, who cannot be vaccinated until they are two months old. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Russia:** A 44-year-old woman from Mikhaylovka has died from rabies after failing to seek treatment for a fox bite (Sergeeva, 2024). She initially visited doctors with symptoms of hydrophobia, a hallmark of rabies, which progressed rapidly despite hospitalization. The incident follows a similar case in Tver, where a resident died from a dog-inflicted rabies infection. [[Full article](#)]



Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Philippines:** Dengue cases in the Philippines are increasing, with Central Visayas recording the highest number from January 1 to November 9, 2024 (Noliverio, 2024). The Philippines has the highest dengue cases among ASEAN countries, with 304,860 cases as of November 16, 2024, followed by Indonesia with 202,012 cases and Malaysia with 106,773 cases. [[Full article](#)]
- **Viet Nam:** The Central Highlands General Hospital has treated seven children for severe dengue fever this December (Baodientuvtv, 2024). The children were detected early with mild symptoms, then worsened rapidly. All children had grade III and IV dengue fever, causing shock, cardiovascular collapse, massive bleeding, and decreased circulatory volume. The public is advised to remain vigilant in preventing dengue fever, especially in children with obesity or underlying medical conditions. [[Full article](#)]

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- **Philippines:** Iloilo province has reported 669 cases of hand-foot-and-mouth disease (HFMD) so far this year, an 81% decrease compared to the same period last year (Sornito, 2024). This decrease is attributed to increased public awareness of hygiene practices, particularly in schools, and an intensified campaign launched in 2023. Among the province's 42 municipalities, Maasin, Leon, and San Joaquin recorded the highest cases. [[Full article](#)]

HIV

- **Indonesia:** The Riau Provincial Health Office has conducted 180,925 HIV tests this year, with 1,151 results coming back positive (Yofani, 2024). The tests were administered to various groups, including men who have sex with men (MSM), transvestites, female sex workers, injecting drug users, and patients with tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, or hepatitis. The highest number of positive cases, 372, was recorded among the MSM group. Prevention efforts focus on expanding HIV awareness and prevention through collaboration with the Riau Province AIDS Control Commission. [[Full article](#)]

The Sambas District Health Office reported 67 cases of HIV as of December 10, 2024 with the highest concentration in Pemangkat and Sambas Districts, contributing 12 cases each (Media Kalbar, 2024). Tebas District followed with 11 cases, while other areas had lower numbers. The health office emphasizes the importance of preventive measures to prevent HIV transmission, such as not changing sexual partners, using condoms, avoiding injectable drugs, and increasing public awareness, especially among teenagers, about HIV and its prevention. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Viet Nam:** The number of measles cases in southern provinces and cities has been increasing since the beginning of this month, with growth expected to continue until the beginning of next year, according to the HCM City Pasteur Institute (Viet Nam News, 2024). The number of measles cases requiring hospitalization has increased significantly, from 80 cases to over 100 cases per week. Most of the children admitted to hospital have complications related to measles, mainly pneumonia and enteritis. [[Full article](#)]



Rabies

- **Indonesia:** The North Central Timor District Health Office, East Nusa Tenggara Province, has reported 10 rabies deaths as of December (Rebon, 2024). Investigations revealed that the last two victims consumed dog meat and had not bitten by dogs. The increase in rabies cases has led to increased public awareness campaigns and the distribution of rabies vaccinations at local health centres. [[Full article](#)]

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