

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

March 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 from January 2024.

Global Situation

COVID-19

- **Bangladesh** reported 34 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 632 samples tested, a 5.38% positivity rate (The Daily Observer, 2024). The country's total deaths remained at 29,492 with 2,048,997 cases and 2,016,045 recoveries. The first case was reported in March 2020. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **China:** The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that the JN.1 variant of COVID-19 has become the dominant strain in China, with 358 new serious cases and 22 deaths reported from February 1-29 (Li Yan, 2024). The majority of valid sequences were Omicron variant strains, with the proportion of JN.1 increasing. The number of fever outpatient consultations has fluctuated, with a positive rate of 14.3% in influenza-like cases. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India:** The coronavirus pandemic continues to spread, with Delhi experiencing the highest daily cases since May 2023 (MSN, 2024). India has registered 1,158 active cases today, an increase of 31 cases compared to the last 24 hours. Delhi's fortnightly numbers also show a sharp spike, with 459 cases reported in the last fortnight ending on March 7. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** Michigan reported 1,848 confirmed COVID-19 cases, a 24% decrease from the previous week, with the number of confirmed positive hospital patients dropping to 410 (Bridge Michigan, 2024). The state also reported 66 additional COVID-19-positive deaths, a 10% increase from the previous week. As of 2024, there have been 493 COVID-19 deaths. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** In the last 24 hours, no one has died from dengue in the country, but eight more people have been admitted to hospitals (Online Desk, 2024). A total of 20 people have died this year due to dengue. Five of the new patients are Dhaka city residents, while the remaining three are from different districts. This year, 1502 patients have been admitted to hospitals due to dengue. [\[Full article\]](#)



Measles

- **Canada:** Measles continues to spread in Quebec, with 17 confirmed cases, a 5% increase since Friday (Cousineau, 2024). The mainland remains the most affected region, with 13 people infected. Quebec's national public health director, warned that cases could increase rapidly and invited the population to be vaccinated. The Montreal Regional Public Health Department and five integrated university health and social services centres (IUHSSC) Montreal are preparing a targeted vaccination campaign for school-age students. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Iraq:** The Al-Diwaniyah Governorate has reported a rise in measles cases among children, with seven deaths and 1930 cases recorded (Al-Mahja, 2024). The Health Committee in the Diwaniyah Governorate Council, Sundos Al-Musawi, stated that the situation is under control but requires support from the central government. Vaccination campaigns will be launched, targeting schools and 250,000 children in the city. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United States (US):** Four cases of measles have been reported at a migrant shelter in Pilsen, Chicago, marking a total of five cases in just four days (Molina et al., 2024). One patient was a CPS student, while two additional cases were confirmed in adults. The Chicago Department of Public Health advised families staying at the shelter to keep their children in place and follow quarantine protocols. An organized effort has been made to get many migrants vaccinated to prevent an outbreak. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- **Spain:** The Minister of Health, has confirmed two possible outbreaks of whooping cough in the Principality of Asturias (Europa Press Asturias, 2024). Since January 1, 20 cases have been confirmed, with 12 children and 10 vaccinated. The current figures do not pose any risk, and the population is 98% vaccinated. The counselor emphasizes that the booster dose is always given, as it is part of the children's vaccination schedule, providing greater protection. The situation is not unusual, as the population is 98% vaccinated. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** The Bulukumba District Health Office in South Sulawesi has reported 130 cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF), with a 1.3% case fatality rate (Navidita, 2024). [\[Full article\]](#)

Batu City residents are advised to be aware of the increasing number of dengue hemorrhagic fever cases, with 84 cases currently reported (Zubaidi, 2024). Two patients have died from the disease from January to March 2024. [\[Full article\]](#)

DHF cases in Bogor District, West Java, have reached 563 cases in just three months, according to the Bogor District Health Office (JPNN, 2024). Six people have died, while the rest have recovered. The health service has intensified the eradication of mosquito nests, including counseling and fogging equipment. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Philippines:** The Benguet Provincial Health Office has reported an increase in dengue cases from January to March 2024, a seven percent increase from the same period last year (Quitazol, 2024). The number of cases reached 276, with Mankayan having 37 cases, Tublay town having 39 cases, and Buguias municipality having 19 cases. The PHO is closely monitoring the municipalities, with the average age of dengue infected being 10-14. No dengue-caused deaths were reported in the province this year. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Thailand:** Thailand is facing a severe dengue outbreak, with reported cases reaching 17,783, surpassing last year's figures (Tantivangphaisal, 2024). The Public Health Minister has highlighted the gravity of the situation, revealing 25 lives lost across 16 provinces. To combat the crisis, the Public Health Minister has issued directives to provincial disease control committees and enlisted the help of health volunteers to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding grounds using potent insecticides. [\[Full article\]](#)

Malaria

- **Vietnam:** A 19-week pregnant woman, was diagnosed with malaria after leaving Angola for Vietnam (Le Chung, 2024). She was examined at Hue Central Hospital and hospitalized with fever, abdominal pain, fatigue, and low blood pressure. Rapid diagnostic tests by the Center for Disease Control of Thua Thien Hue province confirmed the presence of *Plasmodium falciparum*. Despite treatment, the patient's condition remained severe. The CDC of Thua Thien Hue province warns that malaria elimination does not guarantee malaria elimination, and medical facilities and individuals must increase vigilance and report malaria epidemiological factors for early detection, correct treatment, and guidance on radical treatment. [\[Full article\]](#)

Malaria

- **Vietnam:** From 2024 to 2023, numerous rabies outbreaks have been recorded in various provinces and cities, with dozens of people being bitten and 21 people dying (Rfa, 2024). The main reason for these outbreaks is the inability to manage dog herds and the lack of rabies vaccination work. The country's average rabies vaccination rate is only 53% of the total dog population. The provinces with the highest number of deaths from rabid dog bites from 2023 to present include Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Binh Phuoc, Ben Tre, Nghe An, and Dien Bien. To prevent outbreaks, the Director of the Department of Animal Health recommends spreading information about rabies prevention and control. [\[Full article\]](#)



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