

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

April 13 - 15, 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 nine more COVID-19 cases, increasing its total caseload to 2,049,728, with no new deaths (Sun, 2024). The daily positivity rate was 3.31%, with recovery and death rates at 98.41% and 1.44%, respectively. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **New Zealand:** New COVID-19 cases have been reported in Canterbury, with 434 active cases, followed by Waitematā and Counties Manukau (Rnz, 2024). As of midnight, 152 cases were in hospital, with 1,634 reinfections. The seven-day rolling average was 374. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh** reported no new dengue deaths, but eight patients were hospitalized with viral fever (UBN News, 2024). Since January 1, 2024, 1,831 cases have been reported, with September being the deadliest month with 396 fatalities and 79,598 cases. Last year, 1,705 people lost their lives due to dengue. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Sri Lanka:** Dengue cases in Sri Lanka have surpassed 21,000, with 21,028 reported as of April 13 (Daily Mirror, 2024). The highest number was in Colombo district, with the Western Province having the highest. Health officials urge people to clean surroundings and destroy mosquito breeding sites. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- The **United States (US):** A measles case has been confirmed in DuPage County, marking the county's first since 2009 (NBC Chicago Staff, 2024). The source of infection is unknown, but the individual is recovering. Unvaccinated individuals or those unsure of their vaccination status may have been exposed to measles. Vaccinated individuals are likely protected and should monitor for symptoms for 21 days. Those unsure should review their immunization records or contact their healthcare provider. [\[Full article\]](#)



Leptospirosis

- The **United States (US)**: New York City has seen a rise in cases of the deadly Human Leptospirosis disease, caused by exposure to rat urine (Anís, 2024). The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene issued a health advisory warning about the continued increase in cases. Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease caused by several species of a spirochete bacteria of the genus *Leptospira*. Infected animals excrete the bacteria through their urine, which can survive in warm and moist environments for weeks. Transmission occurs when direct contact is made with infectious urine. As of April 10, 2024, there have been at least 6 cases reported so far. Symptoms include acute renal and hepatic failure, and occasionally severe pulmonary involvement. If not treated, kidney failure, meningitis, liver damage, and respiratory distress can occur. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia**: The number of dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases in Indonesia reached 60,296 in week 14, with 455 death (Marzuqi, 2024)s. Several districts have declared outbreak for dengue fever, highlighting the need for further intervention. [[Full article](#)]

Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan, is still alert for DHF in April, totaling 41 people (Antara, 2024). The government must be aware of the increase in dengue cases and must ensure the rapid development of dengue mosquitoes. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **Philippines**: The Department of Health Bicol Center for Health Development (DOH Bicol CHD) has reported 21 pertussis cases in four provinces of the Bicol Region (Calinog, 2024). The province with the highest number is Camarines Sur, with nine cases, including one fatality. Extreme heat can exacerbate pertussis symptoms, causing severe coughing fits in children. The Department advises the elderly to seek medical attention if symptoms persist. Most children in Barangay Sua are fully immunized. [[Full article](#)]
- **Vietnam**: The city has recorded 46 cases of whooping cough in 20 districts since 2024, with 52.2% of cases being children under 2 months old (Baodientu vtv, 2024). To prevent epidemics, the city will organize activities to clean the environment, disinfect, and prevent diseases in preschools and kindergartens. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Indonesia**: The first rabies patient treated in Atambua, Belu Regency, East Nusa Tenggara, died on 14/3/2023 (Liza, 2024). Rabies has spread in four districts on Timor, with one patient undergoing treatment in Malacca Regency. Doctor hopes local government and community will prevent further deaths. [[Full article](#)]



- **Vietnam** has reported 29 rabies deaths this year, compared to 11 in 2023 (iO Foundation, 2024). Experts attribute this increase to a lack of animal vaccination and the country's significant dog and cat meat trade. Nationally, rabies vaccination rates stood at 58% in 2023, below the 70% required for "herd immunity." Only 19 cities and provinces have implemented vaccination campaigns, immunizing 550,000 dogs and cats. There is evidence that a higher rate of rabies-positive dogs are also euthanized and sold in public markets. [Full article]

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