

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

January 13 – 15, 2024



With Support by:

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

- **Bangladesh** reported one more COVID-19 linked death and 21 new cases in 24 hours until Sunday morning (Tribune Desk, 2024). The country's total number of deaths rose to 29,479 and total confirmed cases to 2,046,599, with an overall detection rate of 13.09% and a fatality rate of 1.44%. The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) advised people to wear masks as a precautionary measure due to the increasing number of JN.1 COVID-19 variant cases worldwide. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India** has reported 375 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, with active infections declining to 3,075 (PTI, 2024). The number of daily cases dropped to double-digits until December 5, but increased after the emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions. A maximum of 841 new cases were reported on December 31, 2023, indicating a recovery rate of around 92%. India has experienced three waves of COVID-19, with the peak incidence occurring during the delta wave of April-June 2021. Over 44 million people have recovered from the disease, with a national recovery rate of 98.81%. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **New Zealand:** New COVID-19 cases were reported last week, with 8,040 being reinfections (RNZ News, 2024). As of midnight, 324 people were in hospital, six in intensive care. The number of people who had COVID-19 before getting it again was 4,992. Moreover, 77 new deaths were reported this week, including those between 23 December and 11 January. There were 6,558 new cases in the week leading up to 8 January, with 3,999 being reinfections. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has recorded 632 new cases of dengue fever in a day, bringing the total to 632 after the worst outbreak in 2023 (Desk, 2024). The death toll from the mosquito-borne virus increased by one to five in the 24 hours to Saturday morning. Experts blame a prolonged monsoon, rising temperatures, and lack of effective measures for the outbreak. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India:** Climate change has led to a surge in dengue cases in the state, with 14,955 recorded cases and 1,829 confirmed within a month (Vartabharati, 2024). Over 200,000 dengue fever suspects have been screened, with 9 deaths in BBMP this year. Over 60 thousand chickenpox cases have also been detected in 28 districts. To combat the situation, mosquitoes should be avoided, and nets and repellents should be used at home and at night. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Pakistan:** Dengue cases in Punjab have nearly been eliminated, with only one reported in the province (APP, 2024). The Health Department has recorded 16 confirmed cases across 36 districts in 2024. Hospitals are treating 7 patients, with one patient in Lahore under treatment. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- The **United States (US):** A resident in Camden County, New Jersey has been confirmed with measles, prompting contact tracing to locate the source of the infection (Brandt, 2024). The resident visited Cooper University Healthcare Pediatrics and Jefferson South Jersey Stratford Hospital on January 5 and 8, respectively. The county has identified anyone who may have been exposed at the daycare, but anyone who may have been exposed at the day care has been contacted. The case comes as Philadelphia deals with a measles outbreak in Montgomery County. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

Chikungunya

- The **Philippines:** Chikungunya cases in the Philippines increased 269% in 2023 (Campos, 2024). Central South Region recorded 27 cases, Chorotega 16 cases, and Central Pacific regions 14 cases. Those were the 3 regions with the highest number of reports from the Ministry of Health. The country-wide rate of the virus increased from 1.8 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2022 to 96 in 2023. [\[Full article\]](#)

COVID-19

- **Malaysia:** Four people, aged between four months and 60 years, have tested positive for COVID-19 at temporary flood relief centres in Johor (Yun Y.X, 2024). The situation is under control, and the state health department will continue to monitor and conduct daily tests to prevent the spread of the virus. As of 4 PM on January 13, Johor has recorded 1,515 evacuees seeking shelter at 14 PPS in Johor Baru, Kota Tinggi, Batu Pahat, Segamat, Kluang and Mersing. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue fever cases in Jombang have increased significantly, with 30 cases reported in the past three months (Zuhri, 2024). The majority of these cases are children and young adults. Jombang District Health Office has identified 11 positive cases of dengue fever, with 70% of cases are under 14 years old. The situation is expected to worsen in the coming months. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Malaysia:** Dengue fever cases increased to 3,181 in the first epidemiological week from December 31 to January 6, 2024 (Bernama, 2024). No fatalities were reported due to dengue complications. Hotspots decreased to 130, with Selangor having the highest number. One chikungunya case were recorded in the first epidemiological week, and 18 blood samples were screened for Zika and all negatives. No deaths were reported in the first week of this year. [\[Full article\]](#)



Malaria

- **Cambodia** has reported 1,384 malaria cases in 2023, a 66% decrease from the previous year, marking significant progress in the disease's fight (Online T.S, 2024). No deaths were reported, and the country has achieved a milestone in eliminating malaria deaths since 2018, with diagnostic tests and treatments being highly effective. [\[Full article\]](#)

Polio

- **Indonesia:** Indonesia's Director General of Disease Prevention and Control, has reported the current condition of three children affected by acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) caused by the Type 2 Polio Virus (Rahmadania, 2024). The children are currently being cared for at their homes and are in good condition. However, they suffered permanent disabilities due to the virus, as it attacks the nervous system, causing permanent paralysis of the muscles in the body's limbs. The three children need further rehabilitation to improve their walking function, legs, and muscles. The Ministry of Health recently reported three cases of AFP caused by the virus, two of which were discovered in Central Java and East Java last December 2023, and another in East Java on January 4, 2024. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **Indonesia:** Efforts to eradicate rabies in Bangli, Bali Province are ongoing, with two positive dog bite cases reported in Pengotan Village in early 2024 (Eka, 2024). The bites occurred in Banjar Delod Umah and Banjar Dajan Umah areas. Lab tests revealed both dogs were positive for rabies. The team is also conducting vaccinations in other dogs in the affected areas, with the general vaccination scheduled for February 2024. The team is taking samples from the dogs and addressing the situation. [\[Full article\]](#)

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