

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

March 14 – 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 from January 2024.

Global Situation

COVID-19

- **Australia:** South Australia (SA) reported 1,241 new COVID-19 cases in the past week, with 3,951 people receiving a PCR test (Mirage News, 2024). The number of cases has been readjusted due to data reconfiguration. SA Health encourages everyone to be up-to-date with vaccinations and to have a plan with their general practitioner (GP) for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and antiviral treatments if symptoms develop. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Bangladesh** has reported 27 more COVID-19 cases in March 13, reaching 2,049,059 (Daily Bangladesh, 2024). The country's total deaths remain at 29,492, and 515 samples were tested, with a positivity rate of 5.24% and a recovery rate of 98.40%. 70 people have recovered in 24 hours. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India:** Delhi and Rajasthan have seen COVID-19 spikes with common symptoms, with 41 people tested positive for the virus in the state (TNN, 2024). In Jaipur, 17 people tested positive in March 14. 85 people in the city are undergoing treatment, while 188 people in the state are taking it. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** Ohio's COVID-19 cases have dropped from 4,499 to 3,235 for the fourth week in a row, according to state health data (Washington, 2024). The last time this low was recorded was in early August. At least 1,318,780 Ohioans have received the updated one-dose vaccine, representing 11.2% of the state's population. The total COVID-19 case count since early 2020 in Ohio has reached 3,732,166. The state has seen 139 new hospitalizations and six ICU admissions, and 32 deaths from COVID-19-related issues. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has reported no new dengue cases in March 13, but 15 more patients were hospitalized with viral fever (The Financial Express, 2024). Since January 1, 2024, 1,525 cases have been reported, with September being the deadliest month with 396 deaths and 79,598 cases. The Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS) recorded 321,179 cases and 318,749 recoveries last year. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- **Australia:** New South Wales (NSW) Health has reported a second confirmed case of measles in Wagga Wagga, linked to an earlier case acquired overseas in February (Mirage News, 2024). The new case was infectious over two weeks ago, suggesting the spread of the virus has not yet been detected. People in the affected areas should monitor for symptoms, which may already be experiencing. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, sore eyes, and a cough, followed by a red, blotchy rash. Symptoms may appear between seven and 18 days after exposure, so people should stay vigilant and contact their GP or emergency department if they develop symptoms. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Canada:** Hamilton's first measles case of the year was confirmed in a child who traveled to India, but there hasn't been any known local spread of the highly contagious virus (LaFleche, 2024). The child traveled on flight from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to Toronto on March 5. Public health has not disclosed the child's age or vaccination status. The case is the second one the local public health unit has investigated recently, with the first case involving a child infected during a trip to Europe. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Russia:** Pereslavl-Zalessky has reported 16 measles cases, with 11 children and 5 adults affected (Irina, 2024). The first case was imported due to unvaccinated pneumonia. An epidemiological investigation and sanitary and anti-epidemic measures have been taken by the education department and Pereslavl Central District Hospital. Measles is a highly transmissible viral disease, and vaccination is the best protection against measles. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Spain:** Public Health has confirmed a second case of measles in Zaragoza, following the first case of indigenous origin in February (Heraldo, 2024). The new infection is a contact of the first, a 52-year-old woman. These are the first two confirmed cases in the community since the virus's circulation has been reactivated. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United States (US):** Two new measles cases were detected in Chicago, raising the citywide total to 10 (NBC Chicago Staff, 2024). The cases were reported in children, with one in a Pilsen migrant shelter. The Illinois Department of Public Health, along with the Department of Human Services and Illinois Emergency Management Agency, is mobilizing resources to contain the spread of the virus. The Illinois Department of Public Health is assisting Chicago and Cook County officials. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **United Kingdom:** A fourth measles case has been confirmed in Ireland this year, following three other cases in recent weeks (O'Regan, 2024). The latest case is not believed to be linked to the public health alert following an airline passenger's infection during a flight lasting over eight hours. The Health Protection Surveillance Centre issued a public health alert after a passenger from Abu Dhabi to Dublin was found to be infectious. The Health Service Executive (HSE) has asked pregnant women, immunocompromised individuals, and parents with children under one year old to come forward. The HSE is managing the incident according to national guidelines and has worked with Etihad Airways to contact passengers. [\[Full article\]](#)



Poliomyelitis

- **Pakistan:** A 30-month-old boy in Dera Bugti district of Balochistan has been paralysed by wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), causing weakness in both lower limbs (Reporter, T.N.S., 2024) . The virus belongs to the imported YB3A cluster. The federal health secretary, Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, emphasized the need for polio vaccinations for children with insufficient immunity. A detailed case investigation will be launched to identify the virus's origin. This is the first polio case in 2024 in Pakistan and the first in Dera Bugti in 13 years. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **India:** A 21-year-old woman who was bitten by a stray dog a month ago in Kolhapur died after taking her anti-rabies vaccination (ARV) course and while undergoing hospital treatment (Gupta, 2024). The woman developed a fever after receiving the final dose of ARV, lost sensation in her legs, and worsened symptoms. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

COVID-19

- The **Philippines:** COVID-19 situation has improved four years after the pandemic, with the average daily cases now less than 40 (Ombay, 2024). The country implemented a mass vaccination campaign and reported 251 new cases from February 27 to March 4, 2024, a 27% decrease from the previous year. The number of new cases per day has risen from 25 to 30 per day to around 25 to 30 per day. The Philippines has moved past the worst of the pandemic, with only 115 (10%) ICU beds occupied and 1,119 (11%) dedicated non-ICU beds in use. Only 156 severe and critical cases were admitted to hospitals, and seven deaths were recorded. The Department of Health is prepared to handle another pandemic, citing lessons learned from COVID-19. The Philippines lifted the State of Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19 in July 2021. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Six residents of Bandung died from dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) between January and March 2024, with 615 reported cases (Ramadhan, 2024). Head of Disease Prevention and Control, reported an increase in cases compared to 2023, with 615 cases in January compared to 321 in January. Although February saw a decrease of 251 cases, not all reports have been collected. [\[Full article\]](#)

From January to mid-March 2024, 173 residents of Sikka Regency, East Nusa Tenggara were affected by DHF, with two reported deaths (Hartik, 2024). The high intensity of rain is believed to be a contributing factor to the high number of cases. As of March 14, 2024, there were 173 cases of DHF in Sikka, with 22 people undergoing treatment. [\[Full article\]](#)

- **Malaysia:** The state Health Department has reported 42 dengue fever cases as of the 11th week ending on March 12, with a cumulative total of 135 cases (Moroter, 2024). The department identified four hotspots in central Seberang Perai district, four localities in northeast, five in south, and one in southwest. The Desa Mawar neighborhood in northeast has been identified as a hotspot for dengue cases. [\[Full article\]](#)



- The **Philippines**: Dengue fever cases in Iloilo City, Western Visayas, increased by 1% from March 3 to March 9, with three deaths (Sornito, I., 2024). The virus, transmitted by mosquitoes, causes severe flu-like symptoms. The provinces and highly urbanized cities with the highest new cases include Iloilo province, Aklan, and Capiz and Iloilo City. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Malaysia**: Four cases of measles have been detected in Bintulu, involving one child and three adults that are epidemiologically linked around the division (Malay Mail, 2024). All cases have never been vaccinated or have incomplete vaccination histories. The infection is suspected to be due to missed vaccinations, delay or refusal in seeking treatment, and factors associated with foreigners. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Vietnam** experienced 22 rabies-related deaths in the first two months of this year, two times higher than last year, with five deaths in the Central Highlands region (Bernama, 2024). The Ministry of Health warns about increased risk due to poor vaccination rates among dogs and cats, with nearly 50% of the population vaccinated. People with dogs and cats are advised to be fully vaccinated and re-vaccinated annually. [[Full article](#)]

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