

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

14 – 15 May, 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

- **India:** The new COVID-19 Omicron subvariant KP.2 has been reported in Maharashtra, with 91 cases reported in the state since January (Panda, 2024). The variant has outpaced the previously circulating JN.1 variant and is now driving cases in several countries. Pune has reported 51 cases and Thane has reported 20 cases. The state's genome sequencing coordinator, states that there hasn't been a proportionate increase in hospitalizations or serious cases. KP.2 is part of the larger group known as the FLiRT variants, which are off-shoots of Omicron and get their name from spike protein mutations. The new FLiRT variants including KP 0.2 and KP 1.1, which have been reported to be more contagious than the previous omicron sub-variants. Symptoms of the FLiRT variant include cough, cold, sore throat, nasal congestion, body aches and easy fatigue, headache, fever with chills, and loss of appetite. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **New Zealand:** New COVID-19 cases have been reported in New Zealand, with 3,922 reported in the past week and 13 deaths (News, 2024). The seven-day rolling average of cases increased to 477, with 2,470 reinfections. Canterbury recorded the highest number of new cases, followed by Waitematā, Manukau, Auckland, and Capital and Coast. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Dengue cases in Bangladesh have reached 2,524 since January 1, 2024, with 1,705 deaths in the deadliest year on record (UBN News, 2024). Ten patients were admitted to Dhaka city hospitals, while 138 are currently receiving treatment. September was the deadliest month, with 396 fatalities and 79,598 cases. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Nepal:** Nepal's recent rainfall has led to a rise in dengue cases, with 57 districts reporting infection, and over 50 cases reported in a single week (The Kathmandu Post, 2024). Despite the virus's devastating impact, it remains the most neglected virus in the country. [\[Full article\]](#)



Measles

- **Canada:** Peel Public Health (PPH) is investigating a confirmed measles case in an adult in Mississauga, Ontario (Casaletto, 2024). The case occurred at Silver Creek Convenience, Health Care Medical Clinic, and Trillium Health Partners Mississauga Site emergency room. Public contacts are being contacted if they have an infant under twelve months, are pregnant, or are immunocompromised. Measles is highly contagious, affecting about 90% of susceptible individuals. [[Full article](#)]
- **South Africa:** The World Health Organization (WHO) reported 39 deaths from measles in South Sudan since January, with a 1.7% case fatality rate (Xinhua, 2024). The agency reported 2,271 suspected cases and 146 lab-confirmed cases. The high discrepancy between suspected and confirmed cases highlights the need for improved sample collection and laboratory testing. The WHO is intensifying case management, surveillance, and risk communication in counties experiencing an epidemic, while eight counties reporting suspected cases have not reached the outbreak threshold. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- The **United States (US):** Whooping cough cases are increasing in the Charlotte area and western North Carolina, prompting local Public Health officials to emphasize the importance of vaccination (Neyra, 2024). The highly contagious respiratory disease can cause severe coughing fits, especially for babies and young children, and can be fatal for unvaccinated individuals, immunocompromised individuals, or pregnant women. Since 2024, nine confirmed cases and one suspected case have been reported in Mecklenburg County, with most under 17 years old and not fully vaccinated. Symptoms include severe coughing fits, vomiting, nasal congestion, and a mild fever. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases in Lebak District, Banten Province, reached 1,536 people until April 2024, with six deaths (suryana, 2024). [[Full article](#)]

From January to mid-May 2024, Banyumas, Central Java, recorded 580 cases of DHF, with nine deaths (Buana, 2024). This figure has increased significantly compared to 2023, with the highest increase occurring in March and April 2024. The highest number of cases was recorded in April 2024, with only around 270 people expected to be infected in 2023. [[Full article](#)]

- **Malaysia:** Dengue fever cases in Malaysia increased to 1,995 during epidemiological week 18 from April 28 to May 4, 2024, compared to 2,237 cases in the previous week (Bernama, 2024). No deaths due to dengue fever complications were reported in epidemiological week 18, and the cumulative number of reported cases is 54,882. The number of hotspot localities in epidemiological week 18 was 70, with 55 in Selangor, six in Kuala Lumpur, and three in Perak. No chikungunya cases were recorded in epidemiological week 18, and all Zika surveillance results were negative. [[Full article](#)]



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