

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

15 – 16 August, 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** has reported 908 new COVID-19 cases and two deaths between June and July this year, according to a World Health Organization (WHO) report (Ians, 2024). Several states are seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases, according to the Union Health Ministry COVID-19 Dashboard. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, are experiencing a positivity rate of over 5%. The highly transmissible KP.1 and KP.2 strains, which evolved from the JN.1 omicron variant, are responsible for the surge in COVID-19 cases in India. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US)**: Ohio has reported a significant increase in new COVID-19 cases, rising from 6,660 to 7,347 for the 11th consecutive week (Washington, 2024). This week's total is the highest since February, with 1,383,860 Ohio residents receiving the updated one-dose vaccine, representing 11.8% of the state's population. The total COVID-19 case count since early 2020 in Ohio has reached 3,788,722. The state health department reported an additional 20 deaths from COVID-19, bringing the total to 44,093. The total number of hospitalizations and ICU admissions has also increased. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh**: Three dengue patients died and 228 were hospitalized in the last 24 hours, with 104 in Dhaka city and 124 in other hospitals (Bss, 2024). The total number of cases for the year reached 8,930, with 74 deaths reported. A total of 205 hospitalized patients were discharged in the last 24 hours, bringing the total to 7,975. Eighteen wards under two city corporations in Dhaka are at high risk for dengue. [[Full article](#)]
- **Nepal**: Dengue control in Koshi Province is a challenge, with 582 people infected in the last four months (Republica, 2024). A program on dengue control was organized by the provincial health ministry, with the participation of the local governments and stakeholders. A total of 334 people were infected from July 16 to August 13. Currently, Letang Municipality has 310 case. [[Full article](#)]



Melioidosis

- **Taiwan:** Taiwan's CDC reported 19 new cases of melioidosis, including three deaths, in Kaohsiung City, Tainan City, and Taichung City (Fundación iO, 2024). The cases ranged in age from 20 to 90 years, 17 had chronic diseases and seven had been exposed to sewage and soil. All died from melioidosis complicated by pneumonia or septic shock. Surveillance data shows 37 confirmed cases this year, the highest number since 2006. People should take personal protective measures to reduce the risk of infection. [[Full article](#)]

Mpox

- **Africa:** The WHO has declared an outbreak of monkeypox in Africa a public health emergency, similar to the early days of HIV (The Guardian, 2024). The outbreak has resulted to 38,465 cases and 1,456 deaths in Africa since January 2022, with over 14,000 cases and 524 deaths in the Democratic Republic of the Congo alone this year. [[Full article](#)]
- **Sweden** has confirmed a new, more contagious variant of mpox, marking the first case discovered outside the African continent (Amini, 2024). The case, treated in Stockholm, is the first discovered outside Africa. Despite its higher contagiousness, no further infection control measures implemented. Sweden has reported 300 cases of clade 2, the milder variant, while the newly identified clade 1 is associated with a higher risk of severe illness and death. The government has tasked the Foreign Ministry of Health (FHM) with ensuring vaccine availability, which has been accomplished. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Sri Lanka:** Eleven people died from rabies in 2024 due to delays in seeking immediate medical treatment (Xinhua, 2024). The country made significant progress in rabies control by providing free anti-venom in 300 hospitals. One million dogs were vaccinated, and 40,000 female dogs were sterilized in 2022, reducing human rabies deaths from 377 in the 1970s to just 38. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Malaysia:** Dengue fever cases in Malaysia declined to 2,515 during the 31st Epidemiological Week from July 28 to August 3, with five deaths due to complications (Journal, 2024). The cumulative number of cases was 88,255, compared with 71,193 in the same period last year. The Ministry of Health reported 95 hotspot localities in with 63 recorded cases. [[Full article](#)]
- The **Philippines:** Dengue cases in Iloilo province have reached 4,595, marking a significant increase from the 1,095 cases reported in 2023 (Oladive, 2024). Since January, the province has recorded 10 deaths. Between August 4 and 10, 994 new cases were reported, with 241 patients currently hospitalized. Passi City had the highest number of cases at 89. The Governor assured the public that the province has transitioned to disaster response mode and is expanding healthcare capacities. [[Full article](#)]



Leptospirosis

- The **Philippines**: Hospitals in Manila have reported a significant increase in leptospirosis cases in the past 10 days, following heavy flooding in Metro Manila caused by Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon (Naval, 2024). The hospital's medical director noted that most cases occurred in individuals who were submerged in floodwaters. The hospital is prepared to manage the surge in leptospirosis cases. [Full article]

Malaria

- **Indonesia**: Malaria spread across South Nias District, South Sumatra Province, from January to July 2024 (Saudale, 2024). At least seven sub-districts were affected, with approximately 562 residents infected and eight deaths. The South Nias District Government declared an emergency response status for non-natural Disasters for extraordinary malaria for 14 days, until August 23, 2024. [Full article]

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