

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

### GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

December 14 – 16, 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

##### *Mpox*

- **Germany:** Four members of a family in the Rheinisch-Bergischer Kreis have been infected with the new variant of the mpox virus, including two children (Rbk, 2024). A case of Mpox of the latest variant clade 1b was initially confirmed over the weekend, probably acquired during the travel activities of a family member with close contacts to the local population in Africa. The health department has identified school and work contacts and informed them about possible symptoms and protective measures. [\[Full article\]](#)

##### *Avian Influenza (H5N1)*

- The **United States (US):** Two human cases of bird flu have been confirmed in California, with farm workers suspected of having exposed to infected animals (TELEMUNDO 33, 2024). Both individuals have mild symptoms and are recovering. There are currently 34 confirmed cases in California, with most detected in the state's Central Valley, where agricultural and livestock production is concentrated. [\[Full article\]](#)

##### *COVID-19*

- **Japan** is experiencing a rise in both influenza and COVID-19 cases, prompting the Ministry of Health to remind people to take preventive measures (Wen, 2024). The number of COVID-19 cases rose to 15,163, with over 3,200 from the previous week. The highest number of new COVID-19 cases was reported in Akita the Prefectures of Tohoku and Hokkaido. The ministry emphasizes the importance of wearing masks, washing hands regularly, and observing coughing etiquette. [\[Full article\]](#)

##### *Dengue*

- **Bangladesh** reported 316 new hospitalizations with three deaths from dengue in a 24-hour period on December 14 (bdnews24.com, 2024). The Directorate General of Health Services reported 161 new patients in the Dhaka metropolitan area during the period. As many as 1,777 patients are undergoing treatment in hospitals across the country. The total number of patients hospitalised is 98,504 so far this year. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Iran** has reported 945 cases of dengue fever, with 746 cases infected inside the country and 197 outside (Tehran Times, 2024). While no specific treatment exists, managing pain symptoms is the primary approach, with most cases treatable at home using pain medicine. Maintaining proper sanitation practices can reduce dengue cases by up to 70%. [[Full article](#)]

### *Leptospirosis*

- **Sri Lanka:** Jaffna district reported 58 cases of leptospirosis with six deaths in (Rubatheesan, 2024). The disease spread after the recent floods and has claimed the lives of six people from Jaffna and one from Mullaitivu who was transferred to Jaffna Teaching Hospital. The country has witnessed a sharp increase in the number of infected persons from 9,000 last year to over 10,000 cases so far this year. The rise in cases is attributed to inter-monsoonal rains and paddy farming activities across the island. [[Full article](#)]

### *Pertussis*

- The **United States (US):** Pertussis, a highly contagious respiratory illness, has been confirmed in 85 individuals in Whitman County (Tribune, 2024). Four cases have been confirmed at school with letters sent to families whose children may have been exposed. In response to the new cases, the health department is also recommending post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) with antibiotics for all household contacts. Parents and guardians are advised to test, treat, and isolate to prevent the spread. [[Full article](#)]

### *Poliomyelitis*

- **Pakistan** has reported 63 cases of polio, with wild poliovirus type 1 identified in sewage samples from eight districts (ANI, 2024). The National Institute of Health (NIH) confirmed cases in areas including Dera Ismail Khan and Rawalpindi. Concerns about a potential outbreak prompted plans for an anti-polio campaign starting December 16 to tackle challenges like refusals, missed targets, and limited local cooperation. [[Full article](#)]

## **Regional Situation**

### *Dengue*

- **Indonesia:** Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases in Kendal District, Central Java Province, have surged in 2024, with 949 cases recorded (Afidah, 2024). Climate change and low public awareness of mosquito nest eradication are contributing factors. Local authorities have been disseminating information, but prevention efforts face ongoing challenges. In 2023, 375 people were infected with the disease, with 29 deaths reported. [[Full article](#)]
- **Malaysia's** Ministry of Health reported 1,342 dengue fever cases and two deaths in the week ending December 7, bringing the total for the year to 118,291, with 111 deaths (Herriman, 2024). The number represents a 3.4% increase from 2023. The health director-general warned that continuous rainfall and flood debris could increase water containers, breeding grounds for *Aedes* mosquitoes. [[Full article](#)]



## HIV/AIDS

- **Indonesia:** In 2024, the Pasuruan City Health Office, East Java Province, reported 34 new HIV/AIDS cases, bringing the total to 582 since 2002 (BeritaSatu.com, 2024). This is attributed to behavioral factors and screenings conducted by the health office and community health centers. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- **Indonesia:** Lahat District, South Sumatra Province, has recorded two cases of rabies causing death from January to December 2024 (Yni & Zaki, 2024). The Head of Disease Prevention and Control, has warned of the potential for death from rabies cases and stressed the need to eliminate cases in areas where animals are common through collaboration with relevant stakeholders. [[Full article](#)]
- **Malaysia:** Three rabies cases have been reported in Sarawak, with one involving a pet dog (BP, 2024). The Kuching South Mayor urged the community to address rabies concerns seriously and emphasized regular rabies vaccinations for pets. He also advised against feeding pigeons in public to reduce the risk of infectious diseases. [[Full article](#)]

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