

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

### GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

March 15 - 17, 2025



This report is based on media monitoring of infectious and emerging diseases globally and within ASEAN Member States. To enhance pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response in the ASEAN Region, we publish this report three times a week.

## Global Situation

### Avian Influenza

- The **United States (US)**: California has confirmed the first human case of bird flu (HPAI A(H5N1)) in the Central Valley, traced to infected dairy cows (CBS8, 2025). The cases, a 37 dairy farm workers and one child, have had mild symptoms, including eye irritation, muscle aches, and fever. No hospitalizations or deaths have been reported, and all patients have recovered. Health authorities monitored over 5,000 affected workers and provided isolation guidance and antiviral medication. [[Full article](#)]

### Cholera

- **Ethiopia** has reported over 1,500 cholera cases and at least 31 deaths in the Gambella region over the past month, according to Doctors Without Borders (MSF) (Tribune, 2025). MSF noted that cholera is spreading quickly across western Ethiopia, exacerbated by ongoing outbreaks in South Sudan. [[Full article](#)]
- **South Sudan's** Akobo County, recorded approximately 1,300 cases of cholera, with violence in the Upper Nile region worsening the crisis (Tribune, 2025). MSF is providing emergency care, clean water, and disease awareness campaigns, while urging urgent support for health facilities and vaccination campaigns. [[Full article](#)]

### Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has reported 22 new dengue cases on March 16, 2025, bringing the total to 1,737 cases in 2025 (UNB, 2025). No new fatalities were reported, keeping the death toll at 13. 102 patients were hospitalized. The new cases were recorded across multiple divisions, including Barishal, Chattogram, Dhaka, Khulna, and Mymensingh. [[Full article](#)]
- **Fiji** has declared a dengue fever outbreak in the Western Division, where 1,411 of the country's 2,436 cases have been confirmed as of February 23 (Xinhua, 2025). The surge is linked to heavy rains and flooding from Tropical Cyclone Rae, allowing mosquito breeding. Health authorities are conducting house-to-house surveillance, mosquito spraying, and larvicide application, and enforcing control measures, and urging residents to eliminate standing water. [[Full article](#)]



## Measles

- **Canada** has reported a total of 224 measles cases (173 confirmed, 51 probable) as of March 1, 2025, with 57 new cases identified in Ontario and Quebec (Government of Canada, 2025). Most cases are reported in Ontario and Quebec, with smaller numbers in Manitoba and British Columbia. Of confirmed cases, 77% were unvaccinated, and hospitalizations were 13%. Health authorities are urging residents, especially travelers, to ensure vaccinations to prevent further spread. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States** has reported 294 measles cases in Texas and New Mexico as of March 14, 2025 (Reuters, 2025). In the past three days, cases increased by 38, with Texas confirming 174 cases in Gaines County and New Mexico reporting 35 cases, mostly in Lea County. The outbreak, which began in late January, has resulted in 34 hospitalizations and one confirmed measles-related death in an unvaccinated child. Health officials are urging vaccination, as the majority of cases involve unvaccinated individuals. [[Full article](#)]

## Nipah Virus Infections

- **Bangladesh** has confirmed three deaths of Nipah virus in 2025, involving one woman and two men, in Pabna, Bhola, and Chuadanga districts, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) (Outbreak News Today, 2025). Bangladesh has recorded a total of 341 cases and 241 deaths so far, with a fatality rate of 71%. [[Full article](#)]

## Poliomyelitis

- **Africa** has reported seven new cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Nigeria, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) (CIDRAP, 2025). Global health experts, including the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) and the IHR Emergency Committee on Polio Eradication, are assessing the current polio epidemiology and vaccine strategies. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- **India:** Karachi has reported six rabies deaths in 2025, with over 8,000 dog-bite cases recorded at three major hospitals (The Nation, 2025). Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) and Indus Hospital each confirmed three rabies deaths, while Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK) reported none. Health officials are urging for improved treatment facilities, staff training, and vaccine availability to prevent further deaths. [[Full article](#)]

## Tuberculosis

- The **United States (US):** Cameron County Public Health is investigating a tuberculosis (TB) case linked to Kiddie City Academy in Brownsville and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (Valley Central, 2025). All 90 daycare employees and children have been tested. The infected individual has been treated and remains in isolation per disease prevention protocols. Cameron County is leading contact tracing efforts and working with the university and daycare to identify potential exposures, emphasizing collaboration to contain the spread of TB. [[Full article](#)]



## Regional Situation

### Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Yogyakarta City, Yogyakarta Province, recorded 43 cases of dengue in February, bringing the total to 92, with no deaths reported (Tribun Jogja, 2025). The villages of Kricak, Gedongkiwo, and Wirobrajan recorded the highest number of cases. Health authorities emphasize the need for heightened vigilance, especially in densely populated areas, amid unpredictable weather conditions. [[Full article](#)]
- The **Philippines** reported 942 dengue cases in Iloilo from January 1 to March 8, 2025, an 81% increase from 2024, with a 245% spike in San Joaquin (Tribune, 2025). Seven deaths were recorded in Pototan, Carles, Oton, Tigbauan, and Balasan. Health authorities urge local governments and residents to intensify cleanup efforts, distribute insecticides, and conduct community engagements to strengthen dengue prevention measures. [[Full article](#)]

**The Davao Region** reported 2,966 dengue cases in 2025, with a 0.64% case fatality rate (Mindanao Times, 2025). The Davao Department of Health is collaborating with local governments and encourage community elimination of mosquito breeding sites and self-protection measures. [[Full article](#)]

### Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- **Malaysia:** Terengganu State has reported 533 cases of HFMD between January 1 and March 8, 2025, marking an increase of 100 cases compared to the same period in 2024 (Berita Harian, 2025). Kuala Terengganu recorded the highest number of cases (198), following 9 cases identified in daycare centers and one in a kindergarten. Parents are urged to maintain hygiene and avoid taking infected children to public places to curb the spread. [[Full article](#)]
- The **Philippines** has reported a 29% increase in HFMD cases in Iloilo, with 268 infections recorded from January to March 8, 2025, up from 208 cases during the same period in 2024 (GMA Regional TV, 2025). The majority affected children aged 10 and below. Health authorities emphasized the importance of regular handwashing and hygiene practices to prevent the spread of diseases through direct contact, saliva, and contaminated objects. [[Full article](#)]

### Leptospirosis

- **Indonesia:** Batu City, East Java Province has reported a decrease in leptospirosis cases in 2025, following an increase over the past two years (BeritaSatu, 2025). As of February, one case was reported from Tanjung Pinang. The Health Office has improved prevention and early detection measures, and the Batu City Government issued a Leptospirosis Alert Letter to increase preparedness and awareness. [[Full article](#)]



## Measles

- The **Philippines** has reported 922 measles cases from January to March 2025, a 35% increase from 2024 (SunStar Manila, 2025). Of the cases, 68% were unvaccinated or received incomplete doses against measles. Health authorities will conduct catch-up immunizations for children in Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Soccsksargen, and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in March 2025. [[Full article](#)]
- **Viet Nam** has reported a sharp increase in measles cases, with 3,500 confirmed and 40,000 suspected in early 2025, significantly higher in the same period in 2024 (Thanh Niên, 2025). The Ministry of Health has called for urgent prevention and control measures, including accelerated vaccination campaigns, sufficient funding, and improved treatment preparedness to curb the outbreak. [[Full article](#)]

**Hanoi** has reported 131 new measles cases from March 7 - 14, 2025, bringing the total to 876 cases, the majority affected children >10 years old (25%) and 1-5 years (22%) (Dân Trí, 2025). Most cases involved unvaccinated or those with incompleting doses. Health authorities are urging localities to accelerate the national measles vaccination campaign to curb the outbreak. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- The **Philippines** has recorded 426 rabies-related deaths, with a 100% fatality rate in 2024 (Remate, 2025). A total of 55 cases were reported as of March 2025, a 39% decrease from the 90 cases in the previous year. Health authorities emphasize preventive measures like vaccination and urge the public to take necessary precautions to ensure safety. [[Full article](#)]

## Tuberculosis (TB)

- **Indonesia:** Pamekasan District has recorded 262 cases of tuberculosis in the past three months, with 200 recovered (Kabarmadura, 2025). Health authorities are focusing on early detection, screenings, and urging healthcare facilities to robust diagnostic testings and treatment, while public awareness campaigns emphasize hygiene and timely medical intervention. [[Full article](#)]

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