

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

16 – 17 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

- **South Australia (SA)** reported 1,528 new COVID-19 cases and 27 deaths in the past week, with 4,781 people receiving a PCR test (Mirage News, 2024). Rapid Antigen Tests are available for low-risk individuals with symptoms, and PCR testing is not required for confirmation. SA Health advises vaccination up-dateness and GP plans for PCR testing and antiviral treatments for vulnerable individuals. [[Full article](#)]
- **United Kingdom (UK):** COVID-19 cases in the UK have risen for the fourth week in a row due to the spread of highly contagious FLiRT variants (Bawden, 2024). The latest data shows that positivity rates from the virus via the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) surveillance system increased to 9.8% in a week, compared to 8.2% in the previous week. However, the increase is less than the 26% rise seen a week earlier, suggesting the surge may soon peak. The FLiRT variants, KP.2 and KP.3, have reached 67% of UK Covid cases and involve two key mutations from the JN.1 virus, making them more easily spreadable. Despite the rise in cases, COVID-19 hospitalisations remain stable at 3.13 per 100,000. [[Full article](#)]

#### Dengue

- **France** identified 98 imported cases in mainland France since May 1, 2024. The virus, transmitted by tiger mosquitoes, is increasing significantly (Trébert, 2024). The origin of these cases is unclear, with 46 returning from Martinique, 28 from Guadeloupe, six from Mauritius, or even four from Brazil and three from Indonesia. [[Full article](#)]
- **Italy:** The Higher Institute of Health reported 197 confirmed dengue virus infections from January to May 2024, with no deaths reported (Agenzia Nova, 2024). Most cases were contracted during travel abroad and notified in Italy. The epidemic has been most affected in Brazil and the Maldives. In Q1 2024, the number of confirmed cases increased about 6-fold compared to 2023, consistent with global increases in dengue transmission. Local transmission is rare, but climatic conditions and mosquitoes can cause transmission in some months. Italy is closely monitoring cases and advises travelers to take necessary precautions. [[Full article](#)]



## Leptospirosis

- **Russia:** A child from a Buryatia farming family has been hospitalized with leptospirosis, suspected to have been infected from cows, rats, or mice (ProMED, 2024). The child's mother is now investigating the cause and the farm owner plans to contact the prosecutor's office. Leptospirosis is an acute infectious disease transmitted from animals. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Measles

- **United Kingdom (UK):** London has the highest number of measles cases in the UK, with over 74 detected last month (Hooper, S., 2024). The disease is highly contagious, and babies under 12 months are at higher risk. Since October, over 29% of measles cases in England have been in London alone. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** A 13-month-old boy in El Cajon County has been confirmed as the third measles case in the county this year, following two previous cases (Jenkins, 2024). The situation is growing due to no cases since 2019. Health authorities have identified potential exposure zones and are urging people to check vaccination statuses. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Pertussis

- **Germany:** In Baden-Württemberg, whooping cough cases among children up to 14 have significantly increased this year, according to the state Ministry of Health (Spöcker, 2024). Despite a decrease in reportable childhood illnesses during the corona pandemic, the number of cases has risen significantly, with 484 cases reported this year, almost five times the pre-pandemic year. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** Lane County has declared a pertussis outbreak after 40 suspected or confirmed cases of whooping cough (Hansen-White, 2024). The majority of infections are in the greater Eugene Springfield area, with one known case in Junction City. Infants are at the highest risk of life-threatening complications. Lane County Senior Health Officer, urges parents to get their TDAP vaccine and ensure others have it. The disease is more contagious than many other respiratory illnesses and causes a painful, long-lasting cough. There have been 120 cases statewide in Oregon this year, compared to 17 last year. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Regional Situation

### Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases in Indramayu District, West Java have increased by 600% compared to last year, according to patient data from the Indramayu General Hospital (Rahman, 2024). In 2024, the Indramayu General Hospital recorded 64 cases of dengue fever from January to May and one death. The majority of cases treated at the hospital are dominated by toddlers and children. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Malaria

- **Vietnam** recorded 141 malaria cases in the first five months of 2024, a 107.4% increase over the same period in 2023 (News, V.N., 2024). The highest number of cases was in Khánh Hòa Province, accounting for 66.7% of the total. Followed by Nghệ An Province with eight cases and Hà Tĩnh Province with seven. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Pertussis

- **Vietnam:** Northern region localities have reported cases of whooping cough, with two pediatric patients aged 3 and 17 months in Lao Cai Province (Van & Quan, 2024). The children were hospitalized in critical condition with acute respiratory failure and paroxysmal cough. After receiving positive diagnosis, they were treated at the Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital. The Provincial Center for Disease Control has requested healthcare establishments to strengthen monitoring and implement preventative measures against the disease. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- **Indonesia:** Two residents in Sikka, East Nusa Tenggara, have been bitten by dogs infected with rabies (Bria, 2024). The two victims have not yet received the anti rabies vaccine due to the temporary empty stock in the area. The victims are currently not showing symptoms but have been taken to Larantuka, East Flores District to receive the vaccine. The newly received stock of rabies vaccines amounts to 10,700 doses, compared to the previous 2,500 doses imported from Ngada District. The number of rabid dog bites in Sikka District reached 905 people from January to mid-April 2024, with four of them dying. [[Full article](#)]

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