

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

17- 18 December, 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

Mpox

- **Uganda** has reported over 1,000 mpox cases, with six deaths since the outbreak began five months ago (Xinhua, 2024). The Health Ministry reported 17 new cases on December 17, bringing the total to 1,044 cases in 57 districts. The ministry has intensified prevention measures with WHO support, including enhanced surveillance, case management, and community mobilization. [\[Full article\]](#)

COVID-19

- **New Zealand:** Over 1,400 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in the past week, with the overall trend decreasing (RNZ, 2024). As of December 16, there were 1,402 new cases and eight deaths, a decrease from 1,631 new cases and six deaths attributed to COVID-19 the previous week. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh** recorded two new deaths of dengue, bringing the total to 551 this year (UNB, 2024). The Directorate General of Health Services confirmed 331 new hospitalizations, raising this year's total cases to 99,295. Currently, 1,533 patients are receiving treatment nationwide, as Dhaka remains a hotspot for new infections. [\[Full article\]](#)

Leptospirosis

- **Sri Lanka:** Leptospirosis has resulted in eight deaths in Jaffna district, with 39 patients currently hospitalized. (First, 2024). The Ministry of Health has recorded 58 cases in the area, including 28 at Point Pedro Hospital and 11 at Jaffna Hospital. Nationwide, nearly 12,000 cases have been reported in 2024, with 85 infections in December alone. The Epidemiology Unit confirms approximately 200 deaths from the disease this year. [\[Full article\]](#)

Malaria

- **Israel:** A couple from Yokneam have been hospitalized after contracting malaria during a trip to a remote village in Ghana (Klein, 2024). Despite being advised to take anti-malaria pills before traveling, the couple did not follow the recommendation, resulting in the infection. Symptoms began two days before their return flight to Israel. [\[Full article\]](#)



Measles

- **Australia:** A boy, aged 2, has tested positive for measles after passing through multiple Australian airports (Kirk, 2024). The Metro North Public Health Unit confirmed the case in Brisbane. Authorities are working with healthcare facilities and venues to ensure immunity. The child visited Bangkok, Melbourne, and Brisbane airports and attended various events. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Mpox

- **Philippines** has recorded its first death of mpox among 52 cases reported to the Department of Health since August (Cabalza, 2024). The Health Secretary stated that the death was due to a comorbidity, not Mpox itself. Of the reported cases, 28 have recovered and 23 remain in home isolation. The majority of cases were from the National Capital Region. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** As of December 15, 2024, dengue cases in Sumenep District, East Java Province, have risen to 1,243, an increase of 136 over the previous three months (Aziz, 2024). The surge is attributed to increased rainfall, which provides ideal breeding ground for the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. [[Full article](#)]

Hand Foot and Mouth Disease

- **Viet Nam:** Hanoi has seen 2,474 cases of hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD), a significant pressure on public health services and resources (Agaci, 2024). The Center for Disease Control is collaborating with stakeholders to monitor and treat outbreaks. [[Full article](#)]

HIV/AIDS

- **Indonesia:** The Karawang District AIDS Commission, West Java Province, has reported 824 HIV/AIDS cases from January to November 2024, marking a significant increase over the past four years (Khumaini, 2024). The most affected group is individuals aged 25–29, accounting for 474 cases. Men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the majority of cases, followed by the general population and individuals with tuberculosis. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **Indonesia:** Demak District, Central Java Province, have reported five cases of leptospirosis in the last 11 months, with the increasing trend occurring at the beginning of the rainy season (Belarminus & Zaidi, 2024). The District Health Office reported 65 cases during the period. The highest cases were recorded in the sub-districts of Karangawen, Mranggen, and Sayung. The Zoonosis Program Manager stated that leptospirosis can be detected through rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) and routine blood examinations. Treatment is available at all community health centers across the district. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Viet Nam:** The Hanoi Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported 44 measles cases in 20 districts, an increase of 19 cases compared to the previous week (Khue, 2024). The number of cases is expected to rise, particularly among children under 1 year old and those over 5 years old. The CDC is collaborating with stakeholders to monitor and treat outbreaks, encouraging vaccination against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **Singapore** is experiencing a fivefold increase in whooping cough cases, with 108 reported as of early December, compared to the same period last year (CNA, 2024). The surge is attributed to year-end holiday travel and insufficient vaccination updates among adults. Health officials are urging adults to update their vaccinations, noting that national subsidies are available for the whooping cough vaccine. [[Full article](#)]

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