

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

March 16 – 18, 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

#### COVID-19

- **Bangladesh** reported 34 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 453 samples tested, a positivity rate of 7.51% (EM, 2024). The country's total deaths remained at 29,492, with 2,049,155 cases and 2,016,292 recoveries. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India:** The number of active COVID-19 cases in Jaipur has nearly doubled in 12 days, with 231 cases as of Sunday evening (TNN, 2024). Symptoms are milder and complications are less compared to previous waves. Health department officials report that many patients are reporting influenza-like illness, and some have tested positive for COVID-19. The health department has increased sampling for COVID-19 testing, with 710 samples taken across the state and 158 in Jaipur. Two people have been declared recovered from COVID-19. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Italy** recorded 738 Covid-19 cases from March 7-13, a 26.1% decrease from the previous week, but 41 deaths (Prensa Latina, 2024). The positivity rate decreased to 0.6%, while the transmissibility index rose to 0.84. Bed occupancy in general hospital wards fell from 1.8% to 1.4%. The most widespread variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is Omicron JN.1, infecting 61.5% of patients. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **New Zealand (NZ):** New COVID-19 cases have been reported in New Zealand, with 3,865 probable cases and 3,012 reinfections (Rnz, 2024). The seven-day rolling average of new cases is 667 per day. Health NZ no longer recommends daily testing for asymptomatic household contacts. A new vaccine is available for those aged 30 and over, pregnant individuals, and those at higher risk of severe illness. Free rapid antigen tests (RAT) are also available until June. [\[Full article\]](#)

#### Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has reported no new dengue cases in the past 24 hours, but nine more patients were hospitalized with viral fever, with one in Dhaka and the rest outside (New Age, 2024). Since January 1, there are 1,546 dengue cases have been reported. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Measles

- **Canada:** Measles has entered Canada this year, with seven active cases, including one in Saskatchewan (Knight, 2024). The virus is highly contagious, with over 90% of people who are not immune to it infected. The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised concerns about the surge in measles cases worldwide due to low immunization rates. [[Full article](#)]
- **Hong Kong:** The Center for Health Protection in the Department of Health is investigating two measles cases in Hong Kong (Hong Kong Government Press Release, 2024). The first case involved a 14-month-old baby girl who was diagnosed with measles-related symptoms. The second case involved a previously healthy sister who also developed symptoms. The Center is investigating the source of infection and initiating contact tracing of the affected areas. [[Full article](#)]
- **Sweden:** A measles case has been discovered in Skåne for the first time since 2019 (Aftonbladet, 2024). The case is likely at a children's intensive care unit in Lund, according to a confirmed case from the infectious disease prevention doctor. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- **India:** One person died of rabies after being hospitalized after being bitten by his dog (Bureau, 2024). He was discharged after doctors had no hope for recovery. The death toll of rabies in Manipur has reached four, with no patient leaving the hospital alive. [[Full article](#)]

## Regional Situation

### Dengue

- **Indonesia:** On March 17, the Wonosobo District Health Office reported 64 cases of dengue fever since the beginning of the year, attributed to the peak of rainfall since January-February (Rahmanto, 2024). [[Full article](#)]

In Ponorogo District, dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) outbreak has killed two children over the past two months (Sujarwoko, D.H. and Arfani F, 2024). The head of the Ponorogo District Health Office reported the death on March 12. The Health Office has recorded 13 cases, but the actual number is estimated to be higher due to differences in dengue case determination methods between the Health Office and hospitals. The Ponorogo District Health Office is tracing one child who died. [[Full article](#)]

Other cases reported in Pringsewu District, Lampung, have increased rapidly, with 297 confirmed cases and two deaths (Siregar I, 2024). [[Full article](#)]

- **Vietnam:** Dengue fever cases in Hanoi have tripled since the beginning of 2024, with an average of 17-24 cases per week (Ngan, D., 2024). Thus, from the beginning of 2024 until March 15, Hanoi has recorded 513 cases of dengue fever, an increase of 3 times compared to the same period in 2023. The disease typically occurs in August, September, and October, with peak outbreaks in October and November. [[Full article](#)]



## Pertussis

- **Vietnam:** Hanoi has recorded two more cases of whooping cough, a dangerous disease that is more contagious than the flu (Baomoi, 2024). The first case was a one-month-old boy in Bac Son commune, not yet old enough to be vaccinated. The second case was a four-week-old boy in Canh Nau commune. Medical experts warn that if a child presents with symptoms like drooping cough, fits, poor appetite, vomiting, sleep disturbances, and rapid breathing, they should be taken to the hospital for an early examination. [Full article]

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