

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

March 18 – 19, 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

- **Bangladesh** reported one more COVID-19-linked death and 16 new cases in 24 hours, increasing its total fatalities to 29,494 and caseload to 2,049,800 (UNB News, 2024). The daily case test positivity rate was 4.15 percent. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Australia** reported 908 new COVID-19 cases in the past week, with 3,596 people receiving a PCR test, a 23% increase from the previous week (Mirage News, 2024). Rapid Antigen Tests are available for low-risk individuals with symptoms, and PCR testing is not necessary for confirmation. South Australia (SA) Health encourages everyone to be up-to-date with vaccinations and to have a plan with their General Practitioners (GP) for PCR testing and antiviral treatments if symptoms develop. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US)**: Ohio's COVID-19 cases have dropped for the ninth consecutive week, dropping from 1,877 to 1,407, marking the lowest level since early July (Kroen, Gretchen Cuda, 2024). [\[Full article\]](#)

#### Dengue

- **Bangladesh**: Dengue has reached 24 fatalities in 2024, with 23 more patients hospitalized with viral fever (UNB, 2024). The disease has affected 96 patients across the country, with 1,939 cases reported since January 1, 2024. Last year, 1,705 people lost their lives due to dengue, making it the deadliest year on record. September was the deadliest month. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US)**: The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has confirmed over 5.2 million dengue cases across the Americas this year, a 48% increase from the 3.5 million reported last month (O'Boyle et al., 2024). Over 1,800 people have died from the mosquito-borne viral illness, up from over 1,000 deaths reported last month. Argentina and Brazil have been hit the hardest, but recent weeks have seen a stabilization or reduction in cases. The current dengue vaccine supply is limited, and widespread vaccination will not immediately interrupt the outbreak. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Measles

- **Canada** has seen a significant increase in measles cases in the first months of 2024, with over three times the number recorded in 2022 (Staff, 2024). Public health leaders are expecting more measles infections in the coming months, urging people to ensure full vaccination to combat the highly infectious disease. [[Full article](#)]
- **Iraq:** The Iraqi Ministry of Health has urged citizens to vaccinate their children to protect their lives from measles (NBA News, 2024). The Ministry recorded over 27,000 cases, with 96% of them being unvaccinated. The number of deaths reached 43, with 42 unvaccinated. The Ministry aims for schools to record high approval rates within ten days of the vaccine campaign. The measles vaccine, originating from international companies, is approved within health centers' schedules. A comprehensive campaign targeting 7 million students is being launched to combat the rapid spread of the disease. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United Kingdom (UK):** Measles outbreaks have been reported in various countries, with a focus on Chicago and London (Hackett, 2024). The UK Health Security Agency reported 86 measles cases in England, bringing the total to 1,109. London has seen 39% of the cases. The MMR jab offers the best protection against measles. [[Full article](#)]

## Malaria

- **India:** A 20-year-old guest worker died of malaria in Idukki's Nedunkandam (Kumari, 2024). Patient who had come to work in the palm grove of Nedunkandam Sanyasioda with her husband, was admitted to a private hospital in Hangkupalam. After a post-mortem the body will be cremated at Mundayeruma public cemetery. [[Full article](#)]

## Mpox

- **Canada:** Mpox cases in Ontario are increasing, with 26 reported in 2024 (CBC, 2024). The rare viral disease, typically endemic in Africa, has been identified in Canada and other countries. Transmission can occur through sexual contact, cuts, respiratory tracts, and mucous membranes. Symptoms include a painful rash, fever, and swollen lymph nodes. Most cases occur in individuals who have not been vaccinated or received only one dose. The province recommends a two-dose series for eligible individuals. [[Full article](#)]



## Pertussis

- The **United Kingdom (UK)**: The Public Health Agency (PHA) in Northern Ireland has reported a significant rise in cases of the "100-day cough," a highly contagious and sometimes serious bacterial infection (McDaid, 2024). Since January 1, 2024, there have been over 460 cases of "clinically suspected" whooping cough, also known as pertussis, notified to the PHA. Of those, 352 were laboratory confirmed, a massive increase from previous years. The PHA has advised that parents and pregnant women should get vaccinated against whooping cough as part of the childhood vaccination program, as it can protect their babies from getting the disease in the weeks after birth. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- **India**: A man died of rabies from a stray dog in Adoor. Patient died in Adoor Vellakulangara Paravoor Kala (Mangalam, 2024). He died at Kottayam Medical College Hospital. He was bitten by a stray. No rabies vaccine. [[Full article](#)]

## Regional Situation

### Chikungunya

- **Indonesia**: Chikungunya is increasing in Banyuwangi, with the Health Service identifying residents in Singotrunan and Kertosari Villages (Hujaini, 2024). The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which transmits the *alphavirus*, is responsible for the disease. In the last two months, 58 Bondowoso residents have been infected by chikungunya. The Health Service and local health center are monitoring the progress of infected residents, and those infected have received treatment. Nine residents in Singonegaran Village have improved their condition, but not completely recovered. [[Full article](#)]

### Dengue

- **Indonesia**: Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases in Tasikmalaya City have increased again after Eid, reaching 394 cases as of April 18, 2024 (Saefuloh, 2024). One case died, and nine other cases are still receiving treatment at various hospitals. [[Full article](#)]

### HFMD

- **Vietnam**: Ho Chi Minh City has seen an 87% increase in hand-foot-mouth disease cases, with 2,289 cases recorded in the city from the beginning of the year to the current time (An & Huong, 2024). The city's Center for Disease Control (HCDC) urges residents to follow preventive measures during the current peak period to prevent the spread of hand, foot, and mouth disease. The city also warns of high incidence rates for other diseases like acute diarrhea, pneumonia, and bronchiolitis. [[Full article](#)]

### Leptospirosis

- **Indonesia**: Leptospirosis, a disease caused by leptospira bacteria, has caused two deaths in Probolinggo City from January to mid-April 2024 (Rozani, 2024). The disease, which can spread through rat urine, pets, or livestock, is spread through contaminated water puddles. The head of Disease Prevention and Control, urges the public to maintain a clean environment and wash their hands with soap after activities to prevent further spread. [[Full article](#)]



## Pertussis

- The **Philippines**: Eastern Visayas has reported seven confirmed cases of pertussis, bringing the total to 48 as of April 6 (Desacada, 2024). 35 of the cases are babies up to one year old, with 24 in Leyte. [[Full article](#)]

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