

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

February 17 – 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 January 2024.

Global Situation

COVID-19

- **Bangladesh:** The Bangladesh government reported zero COVID-19 deaths and 43 cases in 17 February, 2024, with the total death toll at 29,486 and cases at 2,047,887 (Jago News Desk, 2024). New cases were discovered after testing 526 samples in the past day. [[Full article](#)]
- **India** reported two new deaths in 16 February, 2024, with 144 COVID-19 cases and 840 active cases (Pti, 2024). The number of daily cases dropped to double-digits until December 5, 2023, but began to increase due to a new variant and cold weather conditions. India has experienced three waves of COVID-19, with the peak incidence during the Delta wave in April-June 2021. [[Full article](#)]
- **New Zealand** has reported 6,312 new COVID-19 cases and 14 deaths, with 996 probable cases and 4,077 reinfections (RNZ News, 2024). There were 205 hospital cases, with the latest intensive care. The seven-day rolling average of new cases was 901 per day, with 205 cases in the hospital. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has recorded 10 new cases of dengue fever daily, increasing the number of infections since January to 1,271 (Desk, 2024). The death toll remains unchanged, with no death. The outbreak, which began in 2023, is attributed to rising temperatures and inadequate mosquito control measures. Experts predict dengue may continue to affect Bangladesh throughout the year. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **France:** Public Health France Indian Ocean reported that bronchiolitis, leptospirosis, and dengue fever are still prevalent on Reunion Island (Admin, 2024). The Regional Health Agency (ARS) called for vigilance due to the persistent bacteria in water and humid environments during the rainy season. The first case was detected after Cyclone Belal, and 40 cases of leptospirosis were reported in January. Reunion Island is currently in an epidemic of bronchiolitis, with an increase in emergency room visits for children under 2 years. [[Full article](#)]



Measles

- **Austria:** Tyrol has reported 44 measles cases this year, with most recovering or no longer contagious. Ten people are still considered ill (Wächter, 2024). One affected person was found in a shopping center in Innsbruck without knowing about the illness. Customers in market shops are asked to check their vaccination status and monitor their health. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** A South Florida elementary school has confirmed three new cases of measles, bringing the total to four (Sloan, 2024). The Broward County Public School confirmed the cases, stating that the health, safety, and welfare of students and staff remain their priority. The district is working closely with the Florida Department of Health – Broward and is keeping families informed. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **Belgium:** 163 cases of pertussis have been reported since January 1, 2024, in Wallonia. This respiratory infection can be very serious in young children, especially babies under 6 months of age (Desorbay, C.,2024). The figures given to us by the Walloon agency are up from 2023 when only 113 cases were reported from January to August, for an annual total of 363 cases. [[Full article](#)]
- **Canada:** Estrie has reported 80 cases of whooping cough since the start of the epidemic in December 2023, 28 more than the 52 recorded two weeks ago (Casandra, 2024). The annual average of whooping cough cases in Estrie is around a dozen. The cases are still limited to around ten primary and secondary schools in the Sherbrooke and Magog sectors. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Hawaii has reported five confirmed cases of visitor whooping cough, resulting in one child being hospitalized and 150 passengers being sickened on the Cunard Line's Queen Victoria cruise ship (Beat of Hawaii, 2024). The disease is highly contagious and can linger for months. The last case was nearly a year ago, and between 2019 and 2023, the state reported 89 cases. [[Full article](#)]

Typhoid

- **India:** 24 people have been diagnosed with typhoid in Kunduthod of Kavalumpara Panchayat, Kozhikode (Manorama, 2024). The infection was discovered when the blood samples of those treated with similar symptoms were tested. The health department has issued a warning in Kundu and surrounding areas. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

COVID-19

- **Cambodia** has reported no new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total to 139,091. The country has reported no deaths, with the total deaths remaining at 3,056 (Tharith, 2024). Nationally, 136,031 COVID-19 patients have recovered. Over 15.3 million doses of vaccines have been administered, with over 10 million shots for people aged 18 and above. [[Full article](#)]



Dengue

- **Indonesia:** From January to February 2024, South Lampung District experienced 27 cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) (Yudestika, 2024). The head of the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Division, reported that as of February 18, 2024, there were 9 cases. Preventive measures, including observing mosquito larvae development, epidemiological investigations, and eradicating mosquito nests, have been taken to control the situation. [[Full article](#)]
- **Malaysia:** Dengue cases in Klang, Malaysia, primarily involve youths, with one-third of the cases involving them (Rajendra, 2024). From January to February, there were 1,597 cases with one death, with 562 cases being youths aged 15-40. In 2023, there were 1,099 cases with no deaths, and 9,164 cases with three deaths. An average of 266 dengue cases were reported weekly in Klang. More men below 39 years old were affected, fewer than women. [[Full article](#)]
- **Thailand:** Dengue fever has increased by 2.2 times this year, with 13,126 cases reported, including 12 deaths, according to the Director General of the Disease Control Department (Webfact, 2024). The majority of cases were children aged 5-14, followed by 15-24 and 25-34 age groups. Most deaths cases were over 65 years old. [[Full article](#)]

Hand Foot and Mouth Disease

- **Philippines:** The Iloilo province has 55 cases of hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD), a mild viral infection common in young children (Sornito, 2024). The most cases were in Lambunao town, with 15 cases. The province experienced fast transmission, with 12 new cases recorded from January 27 to February 3. [[Full article](#)]
- **Vietnam:** On February 17, the Ministry of Health reported 225 cases of HFMD (Quoc, N.Q., 2024). Provincial health departments have been advised to take measures to prevent and control disease outbreaks among livestock and poultry while animal outbreaks should be promptly identified and addressed to prevent the transmission of diseases from animals and food to humans. [[Full article](#)]

Mpox

- **Cambodia** has reported another case of mpox, raising the total number of infections to 12 (Online, T.S., 2024). The Ministry of Health reported that another man tested positive for the disease, bringing the total confirmed cases to 12 since last December. The virus is transmitted through sexual contact, direct contact with wounds, body fluids, saliva, and equipment contaminated with the virus. The ministry urges individuals with symptoms to visit a health center or hospital for consultation or test. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Vietnam** has reported one death from rabies (Quoc, N.Q., 2024). The Ministry of Health advises provincial health departments to intensify the implementation of disease prevention and control plans for 2024 and continue to deploy effective measures such as maintaining cleanliness and awareness of disease prevention in educational settings. [[Full article](#)]



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