

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

### GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

March 18 - 19, 2025



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This report is based on media monitoring of infectious and emerging diseases globally and within ASEAN Member States. To enhance pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response in the ASEAN Region, we publish this report three times a week.

## Global Situation

### *Mpox*

- **Uganda** has reported 4,342 confirmed mpox cases and 31 deaths as of March 18, 2025 (MENAFN, 2025). In the past 24 hours, 25 new cases were recorded, with Kampala being the epicenter, reporting 12 cases. Health authorities, with WHO support, are intensifying surveillance, case management, risk communication, and public awareness efforts. [[Full article](#)]

### *Dengue*

- **Bangladesh** has reported eight new dengue cases with no new deaths in the 24 hours on March 18, 2025, bringing the total to 1,767, including 13 deaths in 2025 (UNB, 2025). The cases were reported in Chattogram Division, Dhaka Division, and Dhaka North City Corporation. The country has seen 101,214 cases and 575 deaths in 2024. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US)**: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports a global dengue outbreak with over 760,000 cases in 2025, a 15% increase from the previous five-year average (CDC, 2025). Puerto Rico has remained above the outbreak threshold since February 2024, and reported 936 cases on March 17, 2025, a 113% rise from the same period in 2024. The Virgin Islands recorded 30 cases in 2025. Authorities warn that increased travel in spring and summer may heighten local transmission risks in the continental U.S. [[Full article](#)]

### *Measles*

- **Australia** health authorities reported a second measles case in New South Wales, a traveler from Viet Nam who arrived in Sydney on March 9, 2025 (Daily Mail, 2025). The case visited multiple locations, including Sydney Airport, Maroubra, Randwick, and Matraville, while infectious. Authorities urge those exposed to monitor symptoms until April 2 and call ahead before seeking medical care. [[Full article](#)]
- **Canada**: Alberta health officials have confirmed 11 measles cases in 2025, with eight in the North Health Zone, two in the Edmonton Zone, and one in the Calgary Zone (CTV News, 2025). Health authorities advisory warning was issued, fully endorsed the two-dose measles vaccine, and will begin providing daily case updates starting Tuesday. [[Full article](#)]



- **Taiwan, province of China:** The Chiayi City Government Health Bureau confirmed a new imported measles case, involving a woman who traveled to Viet Nam (Central News Agency, 2025). She developed a fever and was confirmed to have a measles. The Health Bureau has identified 57 contacts and advised them to monitor their health until March 31 if they were in overlapping locations with the case. [[Full article](#)]

### *Melioidosis*

- **Australia:** Queensland's melioidosis outbreak has caused 20 deaths, with 125 cases reported across the state in 2025, primarily in Cairns and Townsville, with additional cases in Mackay, Torres Strait, Wide Bay, and central Queensland (ABC News, 2025). Authorities warn that continued flooding increases infection risk and urge vulnerable individuals to avoid mud and keep wounds clean to prevent exposure. [[Full article](#)]

## **Regional Situation**

### *Dengue*

- **Indonesia:** Bima City, West Nusa Tenggara Province, has reported 96 cases of dengue, with two deaths among children (Detik Bali, 2025). Local health authorities urge mosquito breeding prevention and promote clean living habits, instruct to mobilize weekly community clean-up efforts because fogging alone is insufficient. [[Full article](#)]
- The **Philippines** recorded a total of 1,004 dengue cases from January 1 to March 8, 2025 in South Cotabato, a 17% increase from 800 cases in the same period in 2024 (Philippine News Agency, 2025). Koronadal City recorded the highest number of cases (260), followed by Polomolok (193) and Surallah (121). One death was reported, involving a seven-year-old child from Polomolok. Health authorities intensified preventive measures, urging residents to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and conduct daily clean-up drives at 4 p.m. [[Full article](#)]
- **Viet Nam:** Ho Chi Minh City experienced a 127.6% increase in dengue fever cases from January to March 17, 2025, with 7,707 cases recorded (Thanh Niên, 2025). In week 11, the city recorded 408 cases, including seven severe cases, with DENV-2 identified as the dominant strain. [[Full article](#)]

### *Leptospirosis*

- **Indonesia:** Kulon Progo District, Yogyakarta Province, has reported eight cases of leptospirosis from January to March 2025, with two deaths in Nanggulan and Wates (Tribun Jogja, 2025). The highest cases occurred in Nanggulan (3), followed by Girimulyo (2), and one case in Kokap, Wates, and Kalibawang. Health authorities warn that farmers and residents in flood-prone areas are at higher risk, especially during the rainy season. They also urge the public to take preventive measures and enhance preparedness and public awareness efforts. [[Full article](#)]



## Measles

- The **Philippines** has confirmed three measles cases in 2025 in Iloilo Province, including a 31-year-old male from Ajuy, a 16-year-old male from Pototan, and an 11-month-old infant from Cabatuan (Panay News, 2025). All patients have recovered. Health authorities continue to enhance vaccination advocacy, urging parents to bring children to health centers for free immunization, with midwives providing services in remote areas. [[Full article](#)]
- **Viet Nam:** As of last week, Ho Chi Minh City has reported 270 measles cases, including 146 outpatients, with no respiratory support needed (Thanh Niên, 2025). Despite a nearly 100% vaccination campaign for children aged 1-10, cases persist, especially among those aged 1-5 due to population fluctuations. A nationwide online meeting was held to reinforce prevention efforts. The Prime Minister issued an urgent telegram to remind people about vaccination and end the campaign in March 2025. [[Full article](#)]

**Bảo Lạc District**, Cao Bằng Province, has reported the death of a two-year-old child on March 10, 2025, suspected to be related to measles (Vietnam News, 2025). The child was hospitalized late in critical condition with severe pneumonia, acute respiratory failure, and dehydration. Health authorities have intensified epidemiological investigations, conducted disinfection, and requested additional vaccines for an immunization campaign. Residents are urged to seek medical attention promptly to prevent severe complications. [[Full article](#)]

## Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- **Viet Nam:** Ho Chi Minh City has experienced a significant increase in HFMD cases, with 1,555 reported since March 17, 2025, an 86.7% increase from the same period in 2022 to 2024 (Thanh Niên, 2025). In week 11, 105 cases were reported, a 105% increase from the previous four weeks. Health authorities are intensifying epidemiological investigations and monitoring, especially in schools. The Ho Chi Minh City Center for Disease Control (HCDC) advises hospitals to collect 22 weekly samples from level 1 and 2b cases for surveillance. [[Full article](#)]

## Tuberculosis (TB)

- **Indonesia:** Seluma district, Bengkulu province, recorded 23 cases of tuberculosis between January and March 2025, across 22 community health centers (Radar Bengkulu, 2025). This number may increase as TB diagnosis requires a series of examinations, including skin tests, sputum tests, X-rays, and blood tests. Health authorities emphasize raising public awareness about TB symptoms and transmission. [[Full article](#)]

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