

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

January 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

- **Australia:** South Australia has reported 1,642 new COVID-19 cases in the past week, with no new deaths notified (Adelaide, 2024). The total number of cases has been adjusted due to a reconfiguration of data. In the past week, 4,389 people received a PCR test, a 12% decrease from the previous week. [[Full article](#)]
- **Bangladesh** has detected a new COVID-19 sub-variant, JN.1, in a sample test of five individuals. The strain, an omicron strain, is considered a "variant of interest" by the World Health Organization (WHO). Infections of this variant could increase as COVID-19 spreads during winter. Since the first cases were confirmed in March 2020, Bangladesh has reported 18 new cases and plans to start a fresh inoculation campaign in 2024 and 2025. [[Full article](#)]
- **India** experienced a single day rise in COVID-19 cases, with the number of active cases declining to 2,439 (PTI, 2024). Three deaths have been reported in the last 24 hours. The number of daily cases dropped to double-digits until December 5, 2023, but increased after the emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions. Around 92% of active cases are recovering under home isolation. India has experienced three waves of COVID-19, with the peak incidence occurring during the delta wave in April-June 2021. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United Kingdom (UK):** COVID-19 rates in England have been mapped out, with concerns over the emergence of various variants and subvariants and colder weather ideal for virus spread (Dubas & Williams, 2024). Despite the emergence of the highly mutated JN.1 variant, more commonly known as Juno, the virus has not led to a surge in cases. The virus is still potentially deadly, with recent cases involving two young children. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) reported 4,337 new cases in the seven days leading up to January 17, with the South East and East of England having the lowest rates. [[Full article](#)]

#### Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Dengue treatment in Barisal is increasing, with 25 patients under treatment on January 17 (Abdullah, 2024). Since January 1, there were 213 patients have died due to dengue infection in Barisal division, with 171 dying at Sher-e Bangla Medical. [[Full article](#)]



- **India:** Dengue fever in Tamil Nadu has affected 922 people in 17 days, with the Public Health Department predicting it will be under control within three weeks (Dinamalar, 2024). The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which transmits the disease, has already affected 9,121 people last year. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Sri Lanka:** In the last 15 days, there were 5,892 dengue cases have been reported in Sri Lanka, with 1,228 cases from the Western Province and 390 from Colombo city (News H, 2024). Last year, 86,232 cases were reported. A 23-year-old student died from dengue. Dengue checks were conducted in various areas. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Leptospirosis

- **Fiji:** In 2023, the Raiwaqa Health Centre reported 1,200 non-communicable diseases, including one leptospirosis death (Shaw W, 2024). A doctor highlighted the importance of educating the community about health risks and spreading factors, urging them to utilize the services provided, especially in the community where communicable diseases are common. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Measles

- **Kazakhstan:** The Pavlodar region has recorded 750 measles cases since last year, with 74% of cases being children under 14 (Zinchenko, 2024). Most sick people are not vaccinated, with only 15.7% being vaccinated. Over 300 people were not vaccinated due to parental refusal, 71 children were unvaccinated due to medical reasons, and 100 children have not reached the age for vaccination. An additional immunization campaign began in November, resulting in 26.4 thousand vaccinated individuals. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** A case of measles was confirmed in an unvaccinated resident in the Atlanta area of Georgia, who was exposed to the virus while traveling (Herald, 2024). The Department of Public Health is working to identify anyone who may have had contact with the individual. Measles is highly contagious and can stay in the air or on surfaces for up to two hours after an infected person leaves the room. The MMR vaccine, recommended by the Center for Diseases Prevention and Control (CDC), can prevent measles and rubella. The last reported case in Georgia was in 2020. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Pertussis

- **Canada:** A case of whooping cough has been confirmed at a Fort St. John school, with Northern Health advising parents to limit exposure to infants under one year of age due to their high risk of serious cases (Popove, 2024). The highly contagious infection, caused by *Bordetella pertussis*, includes coughing, sneezing, fever, sore eyes, lips, and blue tongues and nailbeds. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Regional Situation

### COVID-19

- **Cambodia** has reported four new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total to 139,061 (Reaseyeam38, 2024). No deaths were reported, with total fatalities remaining at 3,056. Nationally, 135,989 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. Cambodia has already recorded COVID-19 infections with Omicron BA.4, BA.5 sub-variants, and JN.1 variants. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Over the past two weeks, 133 Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) patients have been treated at District General Hospital, South Kalimantan (Aritonang and Ridwan, 2024). The hospital has prepared a spare room to accommodate the surge in patients, with 106 being treated in children's, adult, and intensive rooms. The hospital has also prepared nursing staff to handle the increased number of patients. The transmission of DHF cases in Hulu Sungai Tengah has been transmitted across several sub-districts. The District Health Office has made efforts to prevent the spread of DHF through mosquito nest eradication and health education. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- **Indonesia:** In 2024, 29 rabies cases occurred in Dompus District, with 14 cases in the Woja sub-district area (SUARANTB, 2024). Most of these cases occurred in Saneo and Serakapi villages, where residents often use dogs to protect their fields and houses from attacks by pigs and livestock. The number of bite cases is concerning, especially since it is only mid-January 2024. The Disease Control and Prevention Services Division of the Dompus District Health Office has only received 21 cases of suspected rabies cases, and 6 cases from Woja sub-district. In 2023, 546 cases of bites were recorded, with the District Animal Husbandry and Animal Health Office handling the cases. [[Full article](#)]

## Zika

- **Thailand:** Public health authorities are preparing for a potential Zika virus outbreak after 19 cases were reported in the lower Northeast region between January 1 and 3 (VNA, 2024). The virus has affected at least 758 individuals across 36 provinces, with Chanthaburi, Phetchabun, and Trat experiencing the highest number of infections. [[Full article](#)]

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