

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

### GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

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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

- The **United States (US)**: Virginia's COVID-19 cases have increased by 54% from the previous week, with 6,727 cases tested positive and a 9% increase in hospitalizations (Englander, 2024). However, most cases in children are asymptomatic and mild, reducing the likelihood of hospitalization. The new COVID-19 vaccine is expected to help protect against new strains. Although cases are on the rise, no deaths from COVID-19 have been reported recently in Virginia, with two deaths reported in each of the last two reporting periods. [[Full article](#)]

### Dengue

- **India**: Residents of Sirmaur district are beginning to feel relief from the dengue outbreak, with a significant decline in new cases (The Tribune, 2024). However, the Health Department continues to deploy nearly 20 special teams to curb the spread. The total number of cases in the district has surpassed 1,200, with over 700 reported in August. [[Full article](#)]
- **Pakistan**: A significant increase in dengue fever cases has been reported in Rawalpindi, with 10 individuals testing positive in the past week (Qasim, M., 2024). The total number of confirmed cases from Rawalpindi is 47, with 21 are from the federal capital. Of the 47 patients, 42 have been discharged after treatment, while five are undergoing treatment at public hospitals. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US)**: The US Virgin Islands is urging residents and visitors to take precautions to prevent dengue transmission (Shong, 2024). Health Commissioner reported 82 cases in the St. Thomas and St. John District, urging residents to remove standing water, repair window screens, and use mosquito repellent. The VI Department of Health's Territorial Epidemiologist, revealed that 63 of the reported cases are on St. Thomas, 18 on St. John, and one on St. Croix. [[Full article](#)]



## *Melioidosis*

- **Taiwan's** CDC reported 17 new cases of indigenous melioidosis last week, the highest since 2006 (Herriman, 2024). The majority of these cases were after Typhoon Kemi, with residences in Kaohsiung City, Tainan City, Taichung City, Pingtung County, and Chiayi County. The number of new local cases decreased from 19 in the previous week, but cases are expected to continue until the end of August. The majority of cases were fatalities. [[Full article](#)]

## *Pertussis*

- **Canada:** In the first seven months of 2024, public health reported 16 confirmed or probable cases of the highly contagious bacterial respiratory infection, also known as whooping cough (The Sun Times, 2024). Three to four cases of the infection are reported in Grey-Bruce annually. Across Ontario, there were 431 probable or confirmed cases of pertussis reported in the first six months of 2024, compared to 369 cases in the same period in 2023 and 162 cases over the same period in 2022. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a significant increase in pertussis cases in the US, with over 10,800 documented as of June 1 (Writer, 2024). Infants and young children are at higher risk for complications due to the severity of the illness. Healthcare providers are encouraged to remain vigilant for pertussis cases, as public awareness of the disease has diminished. [[Full article](#)]

## **Regional Situation**

### *Avian Influenza A (H5N1)*

- **Cambodia:** A 15-year-old girl in Prey Veng province, Cambodia, died of H5N1 avian influenza (Xinhua, 2024). Health experts are investigating the source and examining suspected cases to prevent an outbreak. This year, 10 human cases of H5N1 bird flu have been recorded. [[Full article](#)]

### *Dengue*

- **Indonesia:** Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases in West Aceh District reached 15 cases in 2024, primarily in Johan Pahlawan Sub-district (Firmansyah, 2024). Epidemiological Investigations were conducted around 327 houses to determine potential transmission and mitigation measures. First aid should be given at home, and victims should be taken to the nearest health service center. [[Full article](#)]
- **Philippines:** Health officials in Pangasinan province are battling a surge in dengue cases, which have claimed the lives of 17 people, mostly children (Cardinoza, G.L., 2024). The Provincial Health Officer reported the situation to the provincial council, who invited the Health Officer to discuss the situation in provincial government-run hospitals and how dengue cases are being managed. The province has seen a 98% increase in dengue cases compared to the same period last year. [[Full article](#)]



## Mpox

- The **Philippines** reported its first case of mpox just days after the World Health Organization declared it a global health emergency (Sampson, E., 2024). The Philippines Department of Health did not specify whether the patient was infected with Clade 1b, the newer strain dominant in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [[Full article](#)]
- **Thailand** has confirmed 191 Mpox cases of the clade 2 strain, with 85.34% being the C.1 subvariant (The Nation, 2024). Unlike Africa's more severe clade 1b strain, C.1 in Thailand has a mortality rate of less than 1% and causes mild symptoms in individuals with normal immunity. [[Full article](#)]

Thailand has reported its first suspected case of clade 1 mpox (Agence France Presse, 2024). The patient, a European traveler who had been in an African country, is believed to be carrying this severe strain after tests ruled out clade 2. Thai authorities are closely monitoring the situation. [[Full article](#)]

- **Viet Nam:** Mpox infects 199 people since 2023, claiming 8 lives in southern Viet Nam (Tuoi Tre News, 2024). Of the cases, 150 were reported in 2023, with 49 emerge since early 2024. All eight deaths occurred in 2024. Ho Chi Minh City accounted for 156 cases and six deaths. All patients were men aged 18 to 53, with 84% identifying as part of the men who have sex with men (MSM) community. [[Full article](#)]

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