

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

February 20 – 21, 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

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** As of February 21, 2025, Bangladesh has reported 1,464 dengue cases in 2025, with six new cases in a 24 hours period (UNB, 2025). Currently, 86 patients are hospitalized, with no new deaths recorded, keeping the total fatalities at 13. Authorities continue monitoring and treatment efforts to manage the outbreak. Last year, the country saw 575 deaths and over 101,000 cases. [[Full article](#)]

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- **South Africa:** At least 195 cases of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) have been confirmed in KwaZulu-Natal, mainly from primary schools and daycare centres since February 6, 2025 (Ntini, N., 2025). The disease, caused by enteroviruses, typically starts three to seven days after infection and lasts seven to 10 days. Symptoms include fever, sore throat, tiredness, loss of appetite, and small blisters on the mouth, tongue, palms, and feet. The disease is spread through direct contact, droplets, and contaminated objects. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Canada:** Grand Erie Public Health (GEPH) is investigating five additional confirmed cases of measles in Norfolk County, bringing the total to 53 cases, eight adults and 45 children (Stamou, 2025). The newly confirmed cases are recovering at home, and officials are conducting contact tracing. Potential exposure may have occurred at Norfolk General Hospital in Simcoe on February 14-18, 2025. Authorities urge anyone who was present at these times to monitor for symptoms and seek medical attention if necessary. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** As of February 16, 2025, Indonesia has recorded 10,752 dengue fever cases and 48 deaths, with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 0.8% (Azzahra & Adji, 2025). The Health Ministry predicts the outbreak to peak from January to March, following past trends. Authorities urge public vigilance and early treatment to reduce fatalities, as delayed care increases mortality risks. In 2024, the country saw nearly 250,000 cases and 1,418 deaths. [[Full article](#)]

- **Philippines:** Dengue cases in Lapu-Lapu City surged by 173.4% in early 2025, with 175 cases reported compared to 64 in the same period last year, although no deaths have been recorded (Codis, 2025). Authorities attributed the rise to high population density and poor environmental hygiene, prompting intensified prevention efforts such as fogging, clean-up drives, and a dedicated fast lane for dengue patients. [[Full article](#)]

Philippines: As of February 15, 2025, Negros Occidental has recorded 849 dengue cases, a 387.93% increase from 174 cases in the same period last year, with six reported deaths (Gomez, 2025). Bago City has the highest number of cases at 186, followed by Kabankalan City (66) and San Carlos City (61). The most affected age group is 11 to 20 years old. Authorities continue efforts to curb the spread of dengue, which is transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes. [[Full article](#)]

- **Malaysia:** Melaka State Health Department conducted an operation in identified dengue hotspots (Bernama, 2025). As of the seventh week, Melaka recorded 230 dengue cases, a 38.34% decrease from last year. The State Health Department launched operations in dengue hotspots, while the government plans to enhance communal effort programs collaborating with four local authorities to curb *Aedes* mosquito breeding. [[Full article](#)]

Malaria

- **Indonesia:** In early 2025, Blitar Municipality Health Office, Central Java Province, detected three imported malaria cases from endemic areas outside Java (Yonavilbia, 2025). Two of the three patients had migrated and worked in endemic areas, while the other was attending school in eastern Indonesia. Epidemiological investigations confirmed no local transmission and all patients recovered. Residents returning from endemic areas are urged to undergo malaria screening to prevent further spread. [[Full article](#)]

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