

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

Avian Influenza (H5N6)

- **China** has reported its third fatal human infection involving H5N6 avian flu, with a 41-year-old man from Fujian province dying from severe pneumonia (Schnirring, 2024). The virus, known to circulate in poultry in China and a few other Asian countries, has caused 92 cases and 37 fatalities, with the man's illness raising the total to 37. [\[Full article\]](#)

COVID-19

- The **United States (US)**: The Hawaii Department of Health reported an average positivity rate of 16.7% for COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, up from 15.9% the previous week (Wu, 2024). The virus is still in the high category, with 127 COVID patients per day in Hawaii's hospitals, the highest level since August's surge. The DOH urges the public to stay home, wear masks, stay in well-ventilated areas, and test if symptomatic to seek timely treatment. The proportion of immune-evasive "FLiRT" variants in the isles has also increased. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh**: 27 people were hospitalized with dengue fever (DF) in Dhaka, with 64 receiving treatment (UNB, 2024). Since January 1, 2024, 3,304 cases have been reported, with 1,705 deaths in 2020. The DGHS recorded 321,179 cases and 3, 18,749 recoveries last year. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **France**: DF cases in mainland France have increased to 601 in the last six weeks, all imported (Lilley, 2024). The majority of cases are from people returning from overseas French departments of Guadeloupe and Martinique, which have tropical climates more susceptible to dengue. No native cases have been recorded in mainland France this year. The risk of dengue fever is rising due to tiger mosquitoes, which carry the disease. Authorities are also concerned that an influx of travelers entering France for the 2024 Olympic Games may bring more cases. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United State (US)**: Dengue cases in the Americas region have surpassed yearly maximums in the first half of 2024, with over 9.3 million reported by 43 countries and territories (Schnirring, 2024). Six countries, mainly Brazil, accounted for nearly all deaths. The Caribbean region saw the most sharp increase, followed by the Southern Cone, Central America, Mexico, and Andean-region countries. The Pan American Health Organization urges countries to continue surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, and vector control activities. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Sri Lanka:** The National Dengue Control Unit reported a significant increase in dengue cases in Sri Lanka, with 2,044 cases reported in the past 20 days, compared to 2,647 in May 2024 (Staff Writer, 2024). The highest number of cases was reported in the Western Province, and nine dengue-related deaths were also reported this year. [\[Full article\]](#)

Leptospirosis

- **Sri Lanka:** The Ministry of Health reports 5,000 Leptospirosis cases in the first six months of the year, with around 100 fatalities reported annually (AdaDerana, 2024). Rat fever, primarily found in rat urine, can also be found in cattle, dogs, and pigs' feces and urine. The disease is more susceptible to individuals with cuts or injuries and can be cured through contaminated water. The risk is highest among farmers, gem miners, and workers cleaning waste or drainages, with cases frequently reported in districts like Ratnapura, Galle, Kegalle, Matara, Kalutara, Monaragala, and Kurunegala. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- **Russia:** A measles outbreak has been reported in Ufa's KBSMP hospital, where a highly contagious infection was diagnosed in a department nurse (Kinzikeeva, 2024). The nurse, who was vaccinated twice in childhood and worked in a medical institution, is preparing for discharge and a quarantine has been introduced, transferring new patients to other Ufa hospitals. [\[Full article\]](#)

Mpox

- **South Australia** has reported three cases of mpox in the state, marking the first locally acquired cases since 2022 (Melzer, 2024). The virus is highly infectious and can be spread through prolonged skin-to-skin contact or contaminated surfaces. Symptoms can last up to 21 days and can be severe. Vaccines are available for free to eligible groups and sexually active men. The WHO reported 87,000 cases in 2022. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- **Canada:** Whooping cough, a highly contagious disease, is circulating in schools across Quebec, with 2,465 cases reported since the start of the year (Agence QMI, 2024). Regions like Chaudière-Appalaches are more affected, with 620 cases in the first six months of 2024. Public health specialists emphasize the risk for babies under one year old, who can suffer severe illnesses. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

Measles

- **Vietnam:** Children's Hospital 1 in Ho Chi Minh City is treating five measles cases, mainly in children aged 24 months and not fully vaccinated (Herriman, 2024). The Department of Health of Ho Chi Minh City has issued an urgent dispatch to ensure measles treatment, prevention, and monitoring. The city area aims to be proactive in treatment, early detection, and prevention of infection risks, and limit epidemic outbreaks. Hospitals must review resources, consolidate activities, plan for drugs, medical equipment, and supplies, and coordinate with the city's treatment expert team. [\[Full article\]](#)



Pertussis

- **Vietnam:** The Ho Chi Minh City Department of Health reported an increase in whooping cough cases since 2024, with most infected children not yet of vaccination age or fully vaccinated (PHƯƠNG, 2024). The majority of cases are in children under 3 months old, with 75.7% not yet vaccinated. As of June 12, the city recorded 30 cases, with 90% in children under 5 years old and 40% in children under 2 months old. [Full article]

Rabies

- **Vietnam:** A 7-year-old boy in Tuyen Quang province died of rabies after being bitten by his family dog without being vaccinated (Gerome, 2024). The boy's condition deteriorated rapidly, and his family requested permission to take him home. A 72-year-old woman in Hoa Binh was diagnosed with rabies, tetanus, and septic shock after being bitten by a 3-month-old puppy. Since 2024, Vietnam has recorded 44 human deaths from rabies in 23 provinces and cities, an increase of 30% from the previous year. 146 rabies outbreaks have been detected in 34 provinces and cities, leading to the eradication of 395 sick dogs and cats. The increasing number of rabies cases is attributed to a low vaccination rate of 48.35%, lack of dog management, and a lack of muzzles for dogs. [Full article]

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