

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

March 19 – 20, 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

- **Bangladesh:** The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported a 5.15 % positivity rate in 602 samples tested across the country, resulting in a total of 2,049,219 coronavirus cases and 2,016,414 recoveries, with one more person dying from COVID-19 in the last 24 hours (EM, 2024). [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Michigan reported 1,369 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases, down from 1,848 last week, and 35 additional deaths (Bridge Michigan, 2024). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services discontinued reporting confirmed and probable cases, bringing the state's reported case total to 3.3 million. The number of confirmed COVID-19-positive hospital patients fell to 331, the lowest since 289 in September 2023. Experts believe state reported cases are likely a vast undercount due to people not testing or relying on home tests. [[Full article](#)]

#### Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** In the last 24 hours, no one died from dengue in Bangladesh, but 19 more people were admitted to hospitals (Online Desk, 2024). This year, 20 people have died due to dengue. Six of the new patients are Dhaka city residents, while 13 are from various districts outside Dhaka. [[Full article](#)]

#### H9N2

- **China** has reported three more H9N2 avian flu infections, all involving children, raising the country's number to four this year (Schnirring, 2024). The infections occurred in Guangxi province, Jiangxi province, and Guangdong province. H9N2 infections are typically mild and affect children, with most earlier cases linked to contact with poultry or their environments. The virus is known to circulate in China and other Asian countries. [[Full article](#)]



## Leptospirosis

- **India:** Three leptospirosis patients were found in a Manpur district, with two children dying during treatment (Pandey, 2024). A young man is still affected and is being treated at Jabalpur Medical College. Epidemiologist reported that a girl from village Navaganwa was first affected, followed by a 13-year-old child from Semra village. Both children were sent to Jabalpur Medical College for treatment, where they died. [[Full article](#)]

## Measles

- **Canada:** Quebec has reported 28 confirmed measles cases, an increase of seven from Friday (Patterson, 2024). The cases are believed to be in the Mauricie et Centre-du-Québec, Laurentides, Montérégie, or Lanaudière regions. There are now five confirmed cases in Laval. Exposure locations include hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, and grocery stores. [[Full article](#)]
- **Japan:** Measles cases have been increasing in Japan, with at least 14 confirmed cases this year (Kyodo News, 2024). The infection spreads among travelers who boarded the same plane. Experts urge high-risk travelers to get vaccinated to prevent further spread. A 20 years old man was infected in Higashiosaka City, and women on the same flight were also found to be infected. [[Full article](#)]
- **Netherlands:** The GGD Brabant-Zuidoost (Public Health Department) has reported six new measles infections since last week, bringing the total to 21 (RTL News, 2024). All cases are children, aged five and above, and all are unvaccinated. The outbreak is currently limited to Eindhoven and the surrounding area. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that vaccinating more children is crucial to prevent further measles outbreaks. The disease is on the rise worldwide, with the WHO stating that vaccinating more children is crucial to prevent further increase. In the Netherlands, 1 in 10,000 cases of measles are fatal, with young children at a higher risk of death. [[Full article](#)]

## Pertussis

- **Taiwan:** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported the first local cases of pertussis and meningococcal meningitis in Taiwan this year (I-chia, 2024). The first case was a one-month-old boy, who was not old enough to receive the government-funded whooping cough vaccine for newborns. The second case was a four-year-old girl, who had severe inflammation and abnormal coagulation. The CDC states that the cases were reported each year from 2015 to last year, with 33% of the cases aged 25 to 64 years. [[Full article](#)]

## Regional Situation

### COVID-19

- **Cambodia** reported a total of 139,097 COVID-19 cases, with 136,040 recovered patients, and 3,056 fatalities, with 136,040 patients recovered as of 19 March 2024 (Pheakdey, 2024). [[Full article](#)]



## Anthrax

- **Laos:** Over a dozen people have been infected with anthrax in two districts of southern Champassak province, leading to restrictions on the movement and slaughtering of farm animals (RFA Lao, 2024). Anthrax, a rare infectious disease, was found in the carcasses of 97 cows, buffaloes, and goats. The 14 patients, all suffering from large, dark scabs, are receiving treatment. Authorities believe they contracted the disease by eating meat from infected cows or buffaloes. The health department has issued a notice urging local medical centers to report new cases and to see a doctor if they develop black bumps. [[Full article](#)]

## Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases in Bali have risen again in 2024, with the initial number of cases being 2,131 (Febriani, 2024). The trend in the last three months of 2023 is that cases continue to increase. However, cases in January and February 2024 increased sharply, reaching 709 and 885 cases respectively. The pattern of dengue fever usually increases in December, with the peak occurring in April-May following the rainy season pattern. The total number of cases in 2023 was 7,099, with 19 deaths. [[Full article](#)]
- **Malaysia:** Dengue cases in Malaysia decreased to 3,238 in the 10<sup>th</sup> Epidemiology Week, with two deaths due to complications (Malay Mail, 2024). The cumulative number of cases was 35,619, compared to 21,602 in 2023. [[Full article](#)]

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