

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

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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

Mpox

- **South Africa** has confirmed three new mpox cases in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng, bringing the total to 31 cases since May 2024 (NICD, 2025). The cases include a 38-year-old man presented to the healthcare facility with symptoms of mpox and the other two confirmed mpox were a 14-year old boy and 33-year old woman contacts of the other patient. No recent travel history and indicating local transmission. Affected individuals received treatment, and health officials are tracing contacts in affected areas. [[Full article](#)]
- **Zambia** confirmed its first mpox-related death on March 20, 2025, involving an eight-month-old infant at a health facility in Lusaka (Xinhua, 2025). Health officials conducted a comprehensive review and determined the cause of death was pneumonia complication. [[Full article](#)]

Malaria

- **India** reported 22 malaria cases in Ernakulam from January to March 15, 2025, primarily imported from malaria-endemic states (The Hindu, 2025). Health authorities are urging intensified vector control, follow-up measures, and compliance monitoring among migrant workers to prevent further spread. [[Full article](#)]
- **Taiwan (Province of China)** confirmed its first imported malaria case of 2025 in Hualien County, involving a foreign male in his 30s, bringing the total to six cases as of March 18, 2025 (CNA, 2025). The individual had traveled to a malaria-endemic area and sought treatment after experiencing fever, chills, and fatigue. The Health Bureau implemented mosquito control measures, environmental disinfection, and community awareness campaigns to prevent further spread, and advised to take preventive medication and use protective measures against mosquito bites. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Australia** confirmed its first measles case of 2025 in a traveler returning from Pakistan, bringing the total to 28 cases this year (The West Australian, 2025). The patient, currently recovering in the hospital, was infectious while visiting multiple public locations in Perth, including Fiona Stanley Hospital's pediatric waiting area. Health authorities have issued a health alert for the Perth metro area. [[Full article](#)]



- **South Korea** has confirmed six measles cases in Gwangju on March 19, 2025, marking the first cases since 2019 (Hankyoreh, 2025). The initial infection occurred in a child returning from Vietnam, who later spread the virus to a guardian and hospital staff. The cases include three infants, one person in their 20s, and two in their 30s, all of whom are recovering. Health authorities recommend vaccination, monitoring for symptoms, and limiting outdoor activities for those exposed. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US)** has recorded 321 measles cases across Texas (279), New Mexico (38), and Oklahoma (4) as of March 18, 2025, with two deaths and 38 hospitalizations (CNN, 2025). Most cases occurred in children under 18. Health officials are investigating an unvaccinated, measles-related death and have increased testing capacity in Lubbock. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Bali Province reported 4,226 dengue cases from January to March 19, 2025, with most cases in Buleleng, Badung, Gianyar, and Denpasar (Tribun Bali, 2025). Authorities are promoting preventive measures like draining, covering, recycling, and using repellents and nets, and recommend including the dengue vaccine in the national immunization program. [\[Full article\]](#)

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- The **Philippines** reported 1,081 HFMD cases in Palawan from January 1 to March 8, 2025, with Puerto Princesa City recording the highest number (162), followed by Aborlan (106) and Brooke's Point (103) (Palawan News, 2025). No deaths were reported, and Kalayaan had zero cases. Health authorities emphasize strict hygiene, isolation for 7-10 days, and avoiding sharing personal items. [\[Full article\]](#)

HIV/AIDS

- The **Philippines** reported 17 HIV cases among children aged 0-14 years-old in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan Province as of March 19, 2025 (Palawan News, 2025). This brings the province's total cases to 1,210, driven by increased access to free testing, treatment, and recovery services. Authorities and local NGOs emphasize the need for comprehensive case reporting and intervention efforts. [\[Full article\]](#)

Leptospirosis

- The **Philippines** reported its first leptospirosis-related death in Iloilo province in 2025, involving a 30-year-old farmer from Sara (Daily Guardian, 2025). A total of 25 cases were recorded from January 1 to March 15, 2025, a 24% decrease from the same period in 2024. Most cases involved individuals aged 30 and above, primarily farmers and laborers. Health authorities advise avoiding floodwaters, wearing protective gear, and seeking medical attention if symptoms occur. [\[Full article\]](#)



Measles

- **Viet Nam:** Nghe An city has recorded 1,210 suspected measles cases across 20 of its 21 localities, with hotspots in Ky Son, Tuong Duong, and Vinh City (Bao Moi, 2025). From March 7 to 18, 2025, a total of 420 suspected cases were reported. 68 out of 82 tested samples confirmed positive for measles, 2 cases negative, and 12 cases awaiting results. Health authorities warn of a growing outbreak risk due to low vaccination rates and rising anti-vaccine sentiment. Vaccination efforts are intensified to enhance community awareness. Disease control measures are implemented to curb further spread. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- The **Philippines** has reported two suspected rabies deaths in Negros Occidental in 2025, involving a four-year-old boy from Don Salvador Benedicto and a 72-year-old man from Hinoba-an, both linked to dog bites and dog meat consumption (Manila Bulletin, 2025). [[Full article](#)]

Typhoid

- The **Philippines** has recorded 344 typhoid fever cases in Negros Occidental as of March 15, a 91.11% increase from the same period in 2024 (Digicast Negros, 2025). Three deaths were reported. Kabankalan City had the highest number at 78 cases. Authorities emphasized water safety measures to prevent further spread, citing contaminated water as a potential infection source. [[Full article](#)]

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