# ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION May 20 - 21, 2025

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.

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# **Global Situation**

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- **Liberia** has confirmed four new cases of mpox, raising the total cases to 78 since January 2024 (Liberian Observer, 2025). Of the new cases, two were reported from Montserrado, and one each from Margibi and Sinoe. In response, health authorities are intensifying surveillance, public awareness campaigns, and containment measures to curb the spread of the virus. [Full article]
- **Mexico** reported 36 new confirmed cases of mpox as of epidemiological week 19 (May 4-10, 2025), a tenfold increase from the same period in 2024, bringing the total of 174 confirmed cases with no deaths in 2025 (Informa Oriente, 2025). Mexico City has the majority of cases (117), followed by Jalisco (26). Authorities are closely monitoring the outbreak. [Full article]

# Leptospirosis

• India: Kerala reported 29 deaths of leptospirosis in the first four months of 2025, according to data released by the Health Department (<u>Mathrubhumi.com</u>, 2025). A total of 703 cases were diagnosed as leptospirosis, while 423 cases sought treatment for symptoms without a confirmation diagnosis. The Kerala Health Department is intensifying public awareness campaigns and urging early medical attention to curb the outbreak. Preventive measures include avoiding contact with contaminated environments and taking prophylactic antibiotics like doxycycline. [Full article]

### Dengue

- **Sri Lanka** has declared National Dengue Control Week from May 19-24, 2025, following a total of 3,245 dengue cases recorded in May (Daily News, 2025). This initiative aims to combat a surge in dengue cases. The country has recorded 20,791 cases of dengue and 10 deaths so far this year. [Full article]
- India: Malappuram district has reported 720 confirmed dengue cases between January and May 2025, with 70 cases in the Tirur region (Mathrubhumi English, 2025). Health authorities have urged local authorities to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds and maintain sanitation. Legal action under the Public Health Act has been recommended for households and institutions failing to prevent waste accumulation. [Full article]



## Malaria

• India: Mizoram recorded 873 malaria cases with no deaths from January to March 2025, according to the state health department's National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) (Times of India, 2025). The state has recorded 46 fatalities over the past five years since 2020. [Full article]

# Diphtheria

• **South Africa** has confirmed one new case of toxigenic respiratory diphtheria in Mpumalanga and four asymptomatic carriers of Corynebacterium diphtheriae in KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo on epidemiological week 17 of 2025 (NICD, 2025). These detections are part of ongoing surveillance and contact tracing efforts, and appropriate public health responses have been implemented for all newly identified cases. [Full article]

# **Regional Situation**

# COVID-19

- Indonesia reported an increase in COVID-19 between epidemiological weeks 17 to 19 of 2025, from 8 to 28 confirmed cases (Liputan6.com, 2025). The peak was in week 19, particularly in Banten, Jakarta, and East Java. The Ministry of Health is enhancing surveillance at international entry points via the SatuSehat Health Pass system. Authorities advise the public to monitor the situation in destination countries and postpone non-essential travel if unwell. [Full article]
- **Malaysia:** Selangor recorded 3,807 COVID-19 cases as of mid-May, 2025, a significant decrease compared to 14,542 in the same period last year (Free Malaysia Today, 2025). Weekly cases have remained below 100 since mid-March, attributed to effective preventive measures and strong public compliance. Authorities continue to monitor regional developments and advise high-risk groups to remain cautious. [Full article]
- **Myanmar's** Ministry of Health confirmed one new COVID-19 case from 2,461 laboratory tests between 11 and 18 May 2025, with no deaths reported during the period (Myanmar Ministry of Information, 2025). This finding indicates an infection rate of 0.04%. The Ministry of Health is closely monitoring the situation, with surveillance conducted by the Myanmar Center for Disease Control and Prevention. [Full article]
- **Thailand** recorded 71,067 COVID-19 cases and 19 deaths between January 1 and May 14, 2025, following the Songkran holiday (VnExpress International, 2025). The surge is linked to two major clusters and the emergence of the Omicron XEC variant, which spreads up to 110% faster than other subvariants. Authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant, wear masks, monitor symptoms, and practice hand hygiene. [Full article]



#### Dengue

- Indonesia: The Pasaman Barat Health Office in West Sumatra reported 29 dengue cases from April to May 2025, with 2 still under treatment (ANTARA News, 2025). One case was detected in Luhak Nan Duo sub-district, leading to an epidemiological investigation that discovered two other cases. Another case was identified in Koto Sawah, where one patient with comorbidities died. Eight cases were identified during the investigation. In Sidomulyo, a confirmed case prompted further investigation, revealing 16 additional cases. Authorities responded with mosquito control, clean-ups, public education, RDT screenings, and fogging. [Full article]
- **Singapore** has reported 104 dengue cases in the week ending May 17, 2025, one case fewer than the previous week (Vax-Before-Travel, 2025). There are 16 active Dengue clusters. Dengue virus serotype 2 remains the dominant strain in circulation since September 2023. The National Environment Agency urges community vigilance to prevent further case increases. [Full article]
- The **Philippines** reported 1,897 dengue cases and seven deaths in Negros Occidental as of May 10, 2025, a 322.49% increase compared to the same period in 2024 (Digicast Negros, 2025). The most affected age group was 11-20 years old, with Bago City reported the highest number of cases at 383. The Provincial Health Officer urged public vigilantness, emphasizing the need to eliminate puddles to prevent mosquito breeding. [Full article]

**The Cordillera region** reported 1,973 dengue cases with five deaths as of April 26, 2025, marking a 41% increase compared to the same period in 2024 (PIA, 2025). Benguet and Baguio City have the highest number of infections. In response, the Department of Health-Cordillera is urging public awareness on existing control measure strategies to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and prevent further transmission. Authorities also urge the public to stay alert against other notifiable diseases, advocating for vaccination, hygiene, and adherence to public health measures. [Full article]

 Viet Nam: Hanoi reported 12 new dengue fever cases from May 9 to 16, 2025, bringing the cumulative cases to 251 with no deaths in 2025 (Vietnam.vn, 2025). The Hanoi CDC is monitoring affected areas, spraying chemicals, and launching communication campaigns for ASEAN Dengue Prevention Day. [Full article]

#### Measles

- **Singapore** reported 10 measles cases as of May 10, 2025, with three locally acquired and seven imported, without further transmission to the local population, according to the Communicable Diseases Agency (CDA) (CNA, 2025). The CDA continues to investigate all notified cases and trace contacts, advising unvaccinated individuals to receive the MMR vaccine. [Full article]
- Viet Nam: On May 16, 2025, a child from Dong Nai Province died of measles after experiencing worsening symptoms and a confirmed positive Elisa test on May 6 (Báo Đồng Nai, 2025). The unvaccinated patient had congenital heart disease and missed scheduled vaccinations. Health authorities urge timely immunization, especially for high-risk children, and recommend Tuesday consultations at Dong Nai Children's Hospital. The case highlights the critical need for adherence to vaccination schedules. [Full article]





**Hanoi** reported 181 new measles cases across 30 districts between May 9 and 16, 2025, bringing the city's total to 2,635 cases and one death in 2025, an increase from 2024 (Báo Lao động Thủ đô, 2025). Most cases were among unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated individuals. In response, authorities are intensifying vaccination efforts for children and enhancing surveillance and control measures. [Full article]

# Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- Philippines: The Iloilo Provincial Health Office reported 534 cases of HFMD from January 1 to May 10, 2025, an increase of 100% compared to the same period in 2024 (Bombo Radyo Iloilo, 2025). The cases were primarily affecting children under five in Carles, Concepcion, Barotac Nuevo, Sta. Barbara, and San Dionisio. Authorities emphasized the importance of isolation, handwashing, and alcohol-based sanitizers to prevent further spread. [Full article]
- Viet Nam: Hanoi reported 254 new cases of HFMD from May 9 to 16, 2025, a decrease of 59 cases compared to the previous week (Báo Lao động Thủ đô, 2025). The city has reported 2,277 HFMD cases in 2025, with six active hotspots. Health authorities are intensifying surveillance, sanitation, and disinfection efforts, particularly in kindergartens, and coordinating with the education sector to monitor, prevent, and manage cases. Vaccination campaigns and public awareness efforts are also being strengthened. [Full article]

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