

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

January 20 – 22, 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 January 2024.

Global Situation

COVID-19

- The **United States (US)**: Wise County reported 50 new COVID-19 cases between January 9 and 16, 2024, bringing the county's total number of cases to 15,736 since spring 2020 (Coalfield Progress, 2024). The total number of COVID-19 deaths increased by one from 256 to 257. Norton's cumulative positive case count increased by five from 1,831 to 1,836, while the city's total number of deaths remained at 22. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh**: A dengue patient died and 32 patients were hospitalized in the last 24 hours, raising the total number of cases to 853 this year (Bss, 2024). Eight patients were hospitalized in Dhaka, while 24 were admitted to hospitals outside the capital city. [[Full article](#)]
- **India**: The Health Department reported 18 confirmed dengue cases across 36 districts in Punjab, with 11 in Lahore, two in Rawalpindi, two in Faisalabad, one in Gujarat, one in Sargodha, and one in Vehari (The news, 2024). [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **India**: A young girl in Bhilwara, Rajasthan, has been diagnosed with leptospirosis, a potentially dangerous disease transmitted through rat-borne sources (Pillai G.S, 2024). The girl, who was initially treated at home, was referred to a private hospital in Bhilwara for further examination and treatment. Despite initial tests failing to identify the ailment, a positive test for leptospirosis was received, and treatment has been administered. Leptospirosis is a common infection during monsoon, especially in areas prone to flooding and waterlogging. It is known to spread to children through contact with rat urine, presenting symptoms similar to dengue. [[Full article](#)]

Malaria

- **India**: Gadchiroli, a malaria-endemic district in Nagpur, has reported fewer malaria cases than Mumbai for the first time in recorded history (Sarfraz Ahmed, 2024). The Nagpur health circle, registered 6,342 cases in 2023, including 5,600 from Gadchiroli, compared to Mumbai's 6,478 cases. [[Full article](#)]



Tuberculosis

- **Nepal:** Baglung district plans to reduce tuberculosis (TB) infection to zero, but the District Health Office faces pressure after 111 cases of TB were reported in Badigad Rural Municipality (TRN Onlien, 2024). 26 patients are suffering from communicable TB. The rural municipality will continue to identify patients and support treatment. An Xpert XDR Machine has been installed in Dhaulagiri Hospital for TB detection, treatment, and effectiveness measurement. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

COVID-19

- **Cambodia:** On Saturday, Cambodia recorded one new COVID-19 case, bringing the total tally to 139,063 (Reaseyeam38, 2024). No death was reported, with total fatalities remaining at 3,056. Nationally, 135,996 COVID-19 patients have recovered. Over 15.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, with over 10 million shots for people aged 18 and above. Cambodia has already recorded COVID-19 infections with Omicron BA.4, BA.5 sub-variants, and JN.1 variant. The kingdom is accelerating the sixth dose among citizens. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** In 2023, 299 residents of Gunung Mas district, central Kalimantan, were infected with dengue hemorrhagic fever, with four deaths (Prokal.co, 2024). The cause of death was due to late medical treatment. The District Health Office (DHO) has conducted epidemiological investigations, fogging or fumigation, and distributed larva powder. They urge residents to eradicate mosquito nests and maintain cleanliness. However, the DHO faces challenges due to poor lifestyles, such as stagnant water and careless waste disposal. To prevent dengue spread, residents are encouraged to follow these activities, such as, draining water reservoirs, closing them, and burying used goods. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Philippines:** A new person died from dengue fever in the Philippines, raising the number of fatalities to 14 (Online Report, 2024). The virus has affected 853 people, with 32 hospitalized and 148 patients undergoing treatment. The country experienced the highest dengue deaths in 2023, with 1,705 deaths in 2023 and 281 fatalities in 2022. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Singapore:** Dengue infections have surged for six consecutive weeks, with 396 cases reported in the week of January 7-13, 2024, the highest weekly figure in over a year (Salma Khalik, 2024). The National Environment Agency (NEA) urges people living in dengue cluster areas to take immediate action to suppress the *Aedes* mosquito population and help break disease transmission. In 2023, nearly 10,000 cases were reported, down from 32,000 in 2022. Experts suggest recent storms could lead to a drop in cases. [\[Full article\]](#)



Measles

- **Malaysia:** Sabah Health Department is now providing targeted immunization to children affected by a measles outbreak, as over 80% of those infected had not been vaccinated (Online T.S, 2024). The outbreak has affected 52 cases, with 65% involving foreigners and 46% of children aged seven to 17 infected. Most cases have recovered, with only one hospital case admitted for further treatment. [[Full article](#)]

MPox

- **Singapore** experienced a surge in mpox cases in 2023, with 25 out of 32 cases diagnosed from September to December (Salma Khalik, 2024). Twenty of the cases were locally transmitted, with the majority of the 12 imported cases being local residents who traveled to South America and South-east Asia. The virus was renamed mpox in February 2023 to avoid stigma. Singapore made the virus a reportable disease in mid-2022 following a global outbreak. The outbreak was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on July 23, 2022. The disease has two clades, with a mortality rate of 10% for Clade I and less than 1% for Clade II. [[Full article](#)]



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