

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

March 21 – 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 from January 2024.

Global Situation

COVID-19

- **Australia:** South Australia (SA) reported 1,165 new COVID-19 cases in the past week, with 3,614 people receiving a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test (Mirage News, 2024). The number of cases has been readjusted due to data reconfiguration. SA Health encourages everyone to get the last vaccinations and to plan with their general practitioner (GP) for PCR testing and antiviral treatments if symptoms develop. [[Full article](#)]
- **Bangladesh** reported 29 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 482 samples tested, a 6.02% positivity rate (EM, 2024). The country's total deaths remained at 29,493, with 2,049,287 cases and 2,016,518 recoveries. The first case was reported in March 2020. [[Full article](#)]
- **Canada:** Ottawa Public Health reports steady respiratory disease levels, with influenza being a major concern (Staff Reporter, 2024). There were 13 more hospitalizations in the seven days ending March 16, and 14 new COVID-19 hospitalizations. There were 45 more confirmed COVID-19 cases, with half in patients 65 and older. Wastewater surveillance showed high flu levels, and no new flu outbreaks in healthcare settings. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh** reported no new dengue deaths in 24 hours, but 11 more patients were hospitalized with viral fever (UNB News, 2024). Since January 1, 2024, 1,610 cases have been reported, with September, 2023 being the deadliest month with 396 deaths and 79,598 cases. Last year, 1,705 people lost their lives due to dengue. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Canada:** As of March 20, 29 cases of measles were confirmed in Quebec, with less than five cases in the city (Plourde, 2024). A case was found at the Saint-Jean Garrison Clinic on March 11, and another person was found at Salon Chasse et Pêche in Saint-Hyacinthe on March 10. Those present are encouraged to monitor their symptoms until March 31. [[Full article](#)]



- **Spain:** Measles has returned to Spain, with over 20 confirmed cases and four under investigation since January (Iglesias, 2024). The outbreak has caused chaos in seven autonomous communities, double the number registered in 2023. The virus was eradicated in 2017, but the new wave of infections is believed to be from other European countries. Nine people have died in recent months due to the disease, including a two-year-old girl in Caspe who received only one dose of the vaccine. The regional government has closed daycare classrooms until after Easter. Seven autonomous communities have registered at least one contagion of the virus this year. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United Kingdom (UK):** Health chiefs are warning of measles outbreaks in two new cluster areas in Britain, as parents are urged to vaccinate their children (Hanlon, 2024). The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) reports that 59 laboratory confirmed measles cases have been found in England, bringing the total since October 1 last year to 789. New clusters have emerged in areas like London and the North West. The West Midlands has been the most affected, with 59% of cases reported in the region. The UKHSA also noted that small clusters of cases have emerged in other regions. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** A second measles case has been identified in Washtenaw County, with potential exposure locations including Ann Arbor pharmacies, medical offices, a hospital, an urgent care facility, and the University of Michigan dormitory (Larson, 2024). The adult without prior immunity to measles was exposed to the first local case on March 3. The Washtenaw County Health Department has issued a list of exposure locations and timeframes for the second case, which can live for up to two hours in the air. Anyone at the exposure sites during the timeframes listed may have been exposed. [\[Full article\]](#)

Mpox

- **Canada:** Toronto Public Health has confirmed 21 cases of mpox since the start of 2023, with 27 cases recorded in the city (Entin, 2024). The virus is circulating among local residents and can be spread through close contact with biological fluids or skin, including sexual contact. Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, enlarged lymph nodes, and rashes. The virus is particularly pronounced among men who have sex with men. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- **Canada:** Estrie province has seen the highest number of whooping cough cases, with 242 cases reported since the start of the year (M105, 2024). Public health has identified 37 probable cases, with 19-38 diagnosed over the past six weeks. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Spain:** The Institute of Public and Occupational Health of Navarra reported a high incidence of whooping cough in 2024, with 44 confirmed cases, seven in children under one year of age (Efe, 2024). Despite this, good vaccination coverage in pregnant women prevents serious cases in newborns. *Bordetella pertussis* also circulated, with 44 confirmed cases in 2024. The disease's presentation varies with age and vaccination history. Acute respiratory infections in primary care reached 592 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, with 19 cases of flu syndrome and 2 cases of COVID-19. [\[Full article\]](#)



Polio

- **Pakistan:** A child in Dera Bugti district of Balochistan has been paralyzed by wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), marking the first polio case in 2024 (Herriman, 2024). The virus was detected in stool samples from a 30-month-old child and a 52-month-old child in Chaman district. The Polio Programme has conducted two nationwide polio vaccination drives since 2024 to vaccinate over 45 million children and boost immunity. In 2023, Pakistan reported six WPV1 cases and nine sewage samples tested positive for WPV1. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Avian Influenza

- **Vietnam:** A 21-year-old student at Nha Trang University in Ninh Hoa town has been infected with influenza A H5 (Chien, 2024). The disease began on March 11 and has since worsened, requiring treatment at local medical facilities. The patient was transferred to Khanh Hoa Provincial General Hospital, where he was treated at the department of general internal medicine - neurology. On March 19, the patient was tested at the Pasteur Institute of Nha Trang, and the results showed he was infected with the virus. The patient is currently in serious condition and is being quarantined and treated at the Provincial Hospital of Tropical Diseases. The first case of influenza A H5 infection in Khanh Hoa province has been reported, but the source of the infection remains unknown. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases in Bandung City have reached 1,741 cases in three months, from January to March 2024 (Anggana, 2024). The high number of cases has led to eight deaths from intensive treatment at Bandung City hospitals. [[Full article](#)]

Indonesia: DHF cases in Bogor City reached 1,289 incidents from January to March 2024, with 348 cases found from March 1-9 2024 (Carina, 2024). The number of deaths in dengue cases has also increased, from four to nine. The highest daily dengue fever case reported occurred on March 13 with 49 cases. In 2021-2023, the number of cases were 526, 1531, and 1474 cases respectively, with 7 deaths in 2021, 9 in 2022, and 9 deaths in 2023. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **Indonesia:** A 57-year-old man in Nogosari District, Boyolali, died from leptospirosis, a zoonotic disease caused by bacteria spread through rat urine (Jarmaji, 2024). The patient was undergoing treatment at Fatmawati Soekarno Hospital, Solo, when he was declared dead. The leptospirosis rate in Boyolali was high last year, with 15 cases and four deaths. In 2022, there will be 17 cases with a death toll of three. There are 125 variants of leptospira bacteria, with deadly variants causing symptoms like hepatitis B and kidney failure. [[Full article](#)]



Mpox

- **Cambodia** has reported two more cases of mpox, raising the total number of infections to 14 (Huaxia, 2024). All 14 cases have been male, aged 20-39, and are currently receiving treatment at a hospital. The Ministry of Health urges people to be extra vigilant in order to prevent the cluster or large-scale transmission of the mpox. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **Philippines:** Iloilo City's disaster risk reduction and management council will declare a pertussis outbreak in Molo and Jaro districts before the end of the month (Lena, 2024). At least 10 cases of respiratory illness were reported as of March 16, with five confirmed cases, two negative, and three pending polymerase chain reaction test results. The most affected age group is from zero to four months. The health and sanitation cluster will respond to the situation, contacting barangay officials to help locate children with missed vaccinations and spread awareness on preventing pertussis. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Indonesia:** North Timor Tengah District Health Office reported four deaths from rabies, with the most recent being an 11-year-old boy (Hartik, 2024). He was bitten by a dog in January 2024 and was advised to seek treatment at the local Public Health Center, including an anti-rabies vaccine. However, the anti-rabies vaccine officer was not present, and he did not receive the vaccine until his death. The Patient, another victim, also suffered from rabies symptoms and died after being treated at the community health center and Kefamenanu District Hospital. North Timor Tengah District Health Office Head urged the community to be more proactive in seeking health services, especially for rabies, and to vaccinate all animal bites that transmit rabies. [[Full article](#)]

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