

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

21 – 22 May, 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

- **India** has recorded 324 COVID-19 cases, including 290 cases of KP.2 and 34 cases of KP.1, sub-variants of JN1 (Upadhyay, 2024). The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) has traced nearly 290 cases of KP.2 across the country, with Maharashtra being the highest among the states reporting KP.2 cases. The INSACOG is able to detect any new variants and samples are collected from hospitals in a structured manner to detect any change in the severity of disease due to the virus. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** In the last 24 hours, no one has died from dengue in the country, but 21 more people have been admitted to hospitals (Pratidin, 2024). 33 people have died this year, with nine infected in different divisions. In the last 24 hours, 25 dengue patients were discharged from hospitals, bringing the total to 2,676 affected as of May 21. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **Canada:** Quebec has reported over 900 cases of whooping cough since 2024, with the Eastern Townships and Chaudière-Appalaches regions being the most affected (Staff, 2024). Children under three months of age are most susceptible, accounting for nearly half of hospitalizations, intensive care admissions, and deaths due to pertussis. Vaccination is recommended for protection. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **India:** The city of Guwahati has seen a surge in rabies cases among stray dogs, raising concerns about public safety (Malakar, 2024). Dog bite victims are also concerned about contracting the fatal virus. To control the situation, the Guwahati Municipal Corporation has been conducting anti-rabies vaccination drives. In the past five months, 20 stray dogs have been detected with rabies, and over 50 dog bite cases have been reported in the city. [[Full article](#)]



- The **United States (US)**: Two people were exposed to a bat with rabies in Englewood, Colorado, marking the fourth case confirmed this year and the first in Arapahoe County (Langford, 2024). Most cases of rabies in Colorado are found in bats, with 47 of 55 reported statewide in 2023. The bat was found near Quincy Avenue and Santa Fe Drive, and those in direct contact should contact Arapahoe County Public Health and their doctor. Preventing rabies exposure involves vaccinations, keeping pets and livestock away from wildlife, and not feeding or touching wild animals. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

COVID-19

- **Singapore**: Singapore's health ministry is monitoring a rise in COVID-19 infections, with hospitalizations increasing but ICU admissions remaining low (Schnirring, 2024). Two JN.1 sub-lineages, KP.1 and KP.2, make up over two-thirds of Singapore's cases. The ministry warns that population immunity may have waned over time, and urges people to stay updated with their COVID-19 vaccines, especially those at greatest risk for severe disease. Scientists are tracking a steady rise in JN.1 offshoots with FLIRT mutations. [[Full article](#)]
- The **Philippines**: The Department of Health in the Philippines reported a slight increase in COVID-19 cases, but stressed that all regions remained at low risk for transmission (Cabico, 2024). The agency reported 877 new infections from May 7 to 13, with an average of 125 cases per day. Only 116 severe and critical cases were admitted to hospitals. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Indonesia**: The Minister of Health has highlighted the increase in Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases in the country (Rahmadania, 2024). In the 18th epidemiological week of 2024, there were 91,269 cases, with 641 deaths, attributed to climate change. However, dengue fever cases in Indonesia are still relatively small compared to other countries like Brazil. The country's dengue fever cases are influenced by climate cycles, such as El Nino, which could increase. [[Full article](#)]

Indonesia: DHF cases in Klaten District, Central Java have increased from 159 cases in 2023 to 512 this year (Fitrat, 2024). The majority of deaths are experienced by children under eleven years of age. [[Full article](#)]

- **Vietnam**: Hanoi City has recorded 41 more cases of dengue fever, marking the second consecutive week of increased cases (Báo Lao động thủ đô, 2024). The number of dengue fever cases has risen by over 2.5 times since January 2024, with 669 cases recorded from the beginning of 2024. The Hanoi Center for Disease Control is working with organizations to monitor disease vectors and mosquitoes in these outbreaks. The Ministry of Health has licensed and extended the circulation registration for 40 types of biological vaccines, including the dengue fever vaccine. [[Full article](#)]



Malaria

- **Indonesia:** Malaria cases in the Pohuwato district, Gorontalo province have decreased from 718 in the first four months of 2024 to 313 currently, thanks to joint efforts by the government, health services, and the community (Akuba, 2024). The reduction is attributed to a decrease in illegal mining activities and intensive preventive measures taken by community health centers. Despite the decline, vigilance must be maintained, with four sub-districts being the main focus of monitoring and prevention. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Indonesia:** A 7-year-old girl in Banjar Tengah, Jembrana District, suffered serious facial injuries after being attacked by a dog (Budiastrawan, 2024). She was rushed to General Hospital in Denpasar for operations. Hospital medical officers administered anti-rabies vaccine and anti-rabies serum due to the high-risk wound. Laboratory tests on brain samples from dogs attacking a 5-year-old child in Banjar Kebebeng, Mendoyo Daging Tukad Village, Jembrana, showed positive results for rabies. The dog's brain sample was sent to the Denpasar Veterinary Center and tested positive for rabies. As of May 2024, the number of positive rabies cases in Jembrana has reached 18. [[Full article](#)]

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