

ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

September 20 - 22, 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.

Global Situation

Dengue

- **Taiwan (Province of China):** Kaohsiung City reported three new imported dengue cases, including a Taiwanese man returning from abroad and two foreigners currently staying in Taiwan, all of whom are hospitalized (Weiqi, 2025). So far in 2025, Taiwan has recorded 171 imported cases, with 21 detected in Kaohsiung, including seven in September. Authorities warned that increasing international travel poses heightened epidemic challenges. [[Full article](#)]

Melioidosis

- **Hong Kong (SAR):** The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) reported two new melioidosis cases involving a 92-year-old man from Sham Shui Po and a 76-year-old man from Kowloon City, both with chronic illnesses and currently hospitalized in stable condition (RTHK, 2025). Authorities urged the public, especially high-risk groups, to maintain hygiene and avoid contact with soil or muddy water after typhoons or heavy rains to reduce the risk of infection. [[Full article](#)]

Mpox

- The **United States (US):** California confirmed its first case of the more severe clade I mpox strain in a Riverside County resident who recently returned from the Middle East and has since recovered (Ventura County Star, 2025). An earlier clade I case was reported in San Mateo County, linked to travel to Africa. Health officials emphasized that the public risk remains low, with no evidence of local transmission. [[Full article](#)]

West Nile

- **Italy:** A 60-year-old resident of Jesolo's East Beach was hospitalized after testing positive for West Nile virus (Cagnassi, 2025). The case was not life-threatening, and the patient was admitted to the medical ward, where he is under close monitoring and isolated. Residents have called on authorities to implement large-scale mosquito control measures. [[Full article](#)]



- The **United States (US)**: Massachusetts reported two new West Nile virus cases in men in their 60s, bringing the season's total to six (Rotondo, 2025). Both patients were likely exposed in Worcester County, where 15 communities are now classified as high risk. Statewide, 43 municipalities are under elevated risk, while 201 additional cities and towns across multiple counties remain at moderate risk. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

COVID-19

- **Malaysia's** Health Minister recorded 43,087 cases of COVID-19 with one death in the 35th epidemiological week, with the new XFG variant accounts for 8.2% of cases, alongside NB.1.8.1 (34%), JN.1 (18.1%), and XEC (13.3%) (The Straits Times, 2025). This brings the 2025 cumulative death toll to three. The Health Ministry continues genomic surveillance, while the WHO has classified XFG as a "variant under monitoring" due to its transmissibility and immune evasion. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Indonesia**: In 2025, Klaten District recorded 455 dengue cases with three deaths by week 37, a sharp decline from 1,101 cases and 31 deaths in the same period in 2024 (Sardjono, 2025). The Health Office attributes this drop to improved public awareness and prevention efforts like the mosquito breeding eradication campaign. [\[Full article\]](#)

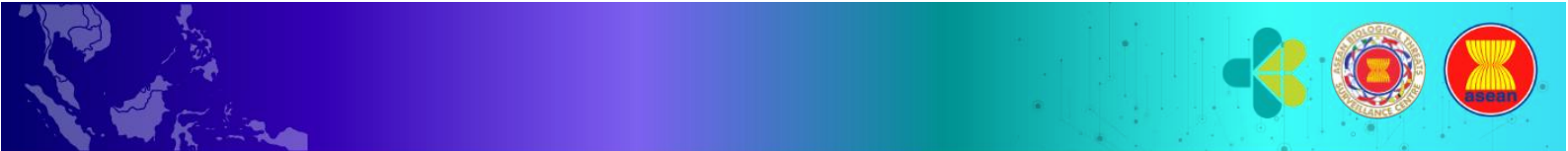
As of September 19, 2025, **East Kalimantan** Province recorded 11 dengue fever deaths across eight regions, including Samarinda, Balikpapan, Bontang, and West Kutai (Setya, 2025). The provincial health office held coordination meetings with local health authorities, addressing treatment delays, lack of early testing, and other risk factors. [\[Full article\]](#)

Leptospirosis

- **The Philippines** Department of Health reported two new leptospirosis cases from September 14 to 18, far lower than the spike of 1,199 cases recorded after recent typhoons (Remate Online, 2025). From June 8 to September 18, a total of 5,430 cases has been logged. With Typhoon Nando expected to impact Luzon, Metro Manila, and parts of the Visayas, DOH urges the public to prepare go bags, follow LGU advisories, avoid floodwaters, and seek medical care at leptospirosis fast lanes or health centers if exposed. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **Malaysia**: Two women died from rabies in Kuching, Sarawak, raising the state's total to four deaths in 2025 and 87 cases since the 2017 outbreak, with 80 deaths recorded (FMT Reporters, 2025). The recent cases involved a 22-year-old woman scratched by a stray cat and a 67-year-old woman bitten by a stray dog, both of whom developed symptoms before dying on September 19. Authorities urged the public to avoid contact with stray animals, wash wounds immediately, seek prompt medical care, and ensure pets are vaccinated annually. [\[Full article\]](#)



Typhoid

- **The Philippines:** As of September 20, 2025, Palawan had reported 1,133 typhoid fever cases and eight deaths, with Brooke's Point, Roxas, Narra, and El Nido among the most affected areas (Badilla, 2025). Across the Mimaropa region, a total of 1,401 cases and 11 deaths have been recorded. Health authorities are responding by urging safe water consumption, proper hygiene, food safety practices, and advising local governments to intensify surveillance and provide medical support. [\[Full article\]](#)

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