

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

21 December – 23 December, 2024



With Support by:



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

Mpox

- **Nepal** has confirmed a second mpox case, with a 36-year-old man from Tanahun testing positive for the deadly disease after returning from Saudi Arabia (The Kathmandu Post, 2024). The patient was sent to a hospital soon after arrival. Authorities have initiated contact tracing from the flight to the hospital to contain the spread, according to the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division. [[Full article](#)]
- **Pakistan** reported its eighth case of mpox this year, involving a 30-year-old laborer returning from Saudi Arabia (ETHealthworld, 2024). The passenger was transferred to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) where tests confirmed the diagnosis. Health officials are tracing contacts among passengers and in Saudi Arabia. All cases in Pakistan involve travelers from abroad, with no local transmission reported. [[Full article](#)]

Avian Influenza (H5N1)

- The **United States (US)**: Iowa has confirmed its first human case of avian influenza A(H5), linked to prolonged exposure to infected flocks and herds (Iowa Health & Human Services, 2024). This brings the U.S. total to 64 cases across nine states with most exposures linked to infected poultry or dairy cows, with no evidence of human-to-human transmission. Authorities emphasize proper handling and cooking of poultry, eggs, and pasteurized dairy products to prevent infection. Iowa has been monitoring avian influenza closely since its initial detection in poultry in 2022. [[Full article](#)]

COVID-19

- **India**: Gujarat reported 2,502 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total to 12,05,652 as the state surpassed 10 million vaccine doses (ETHealthworld, 2024). Recoveries outpaced new infections, with 7,487 patients discharged, raising total recoveries to 11,61,305. The death toll climbed to 10,716 with 28 new fatalities, leaving 33,631 active cases, including 199 on ventilators. Ahmedabad reported the highest new cases (894), followed by Vadodara (586) and Rajkot (173). [[Full article](#)]



Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** On December 22, Bangladesh reported two dengue-related deaths and 165 hospitalizations, bringing the year's total infections to 1,00,194 and fatalities to 563. (BSS, 2024). This year, the total number of infection cases increased to 1,00,194 and 563 deaths from dengue disease were reported. This marks a significant drop from last year's 1,705 deaths and 3,21,179 cases [[Full article](#)]
- **Sri Lanka:** A total of 47,599 dengue patients have been reported across the country this year, with the highest number of cases recorded in the Western Province (Hiru News, 2024). The province has reported 20,519 cases, with 12,030 of these from the Colombo District alone. The Ministry of Health has confirmed 23 dengue-related deaths so far in 2024. [[Full article](#)]

Diphtheria

- **South Africa:** The South African Correctional Services Department has confirmed seven cases of diphtheria at Pollsmoor Correctional Centre (Isilow, 2024). Authorities are tracing potential contacts of the infected individuals, while 44 affected inmates are currently in isolation. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Canada:** Ontario reported at least 37 measles cases linked to an outbreak in New Brunswick, with nine new cases in the last two weeks (Staff, 2024). The majority of the 37 cases were not vaccinated, with 28 in children and teens. Most cases were reported in three public health units, with the majority in Southwestern Public Health Unit. New Brunswick has seen at least 50 measles cases since October 18. Alberta Health Services has also confirmed a case related to international travel. Canada has recorded at least 172 measles cases this year, the highest number in nearly a decade. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Cholera

- **Myanmar:** A cholera outbreak in Shwe Kokko town, Myanmar, has killed two people and infected 300 others, prompting local agencies in Tak province, Thailand, to take swift action (Nationthailand, 2024). The outbreak has led to 56 hospitalizations, with Mae Ramat Hospital in Tak providing medical supplies to Shwe Kokko Hospital to contain the spread. To prevent further transmission, local agencies have been instructed to monitor the situation closely, inspect food outlets, and promote hygiene practices. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue fever cases in Bantul District, Yogyakarta Province, have surged, with 582 cases reported this year, compared to 136 in 2023 (Indrastuti, 2024). The spike in cases is linked to densely populated areas, where *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes breed in stagnant water. [[Full article](#)]



HIV AIDS

- **Lao PDR:** The Lao Ministry of Health has reported 1,896 new HIV cases nationwide from January to November 2024, bringing the total to 22,584 since 1990 (The Star, 2024). Currently, the country operates 196 testing facilities and a growing network of treatment centres across its 18 provinces. The government is actively implementing efforts to combat the epidemic, including strengthening services, increasing public awareness, and expanding preventive measures to protect vulnerable groups. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **Indonesia:** Leptospirosis cases in Bantul District, Yogyakarta Province, have decreased from 147 in 2023 to 56 in 2024 (Daruwaskita, H., 2024). However, the reduction in deaths was minimal, with six fatalities reported this year compared to seven in 2023. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Cambodia's** Ministry of Health has reported a significant resurgence of measles, with at least 375 cases detected in 2024 (Xinhua, 2024). The Ministry of Health urges parents to vaccinate children aged nine to 59 months with the measles-rubella vaccine, available for free at all health centers. [[Full article](#)]
- **Viet Nam:** The Hanoi Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported an increase in measles cases, with 44 cases recorded last week, compared to 19 cases in the previous week and the same period in 2023 (VnExpress, 2024). A total of 87 cases have been recorded in the first 11 months of 2024, with no fatalities. Hanoi Children's Hospital has treated over 40 cases, including patients from neighboring provinces. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Malaysia:** Two rabies cases have been reported in Sarawak, one involving a rabid cat and the other involving a pet dog (Malay Mail, 2024). Kuching South mayor urged the community to stay vigilant, minimize the risk of being bitten by stray animals, and ensure that pet dogs are vaccinated. [[Full article](#)]
- **Viet Nam:** A 33-year-old man in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu province has died from rabies after being diagnosed on December 17 (VN, 2024). The man, who worked in a slaughterhouse and ran a meat restaurant, was transferred to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases but died from severe symptoms despite sedative treatment. The provincial health department has disinfected the patient's residence and areas where animals were kept, urging the public to monitor their health and follow rabies vaccination schedules. [[Full article](#)]



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