

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION



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

Avian Influenza

- **China:** A 63-year-old farmer in Anhui province died after contracting avian influenza A(H10) subtype viruses, which are classified as "low pathogenic" in both domestic and wild species (Linden J, 2024) . The virus was found in a duck meal, which tested positive for H10N5 virus. Despite being rare in humans, these infections are concerning. [[Full article](#)]

COVID-19

- **Australia** has reported 1,418 new COVID-19 cases in the past week, with no new deaths notified to the Department for Health and Wellbeing. The total number of cases has been readjusted due to a reconfiguration of data. In the past week, 3,732 people received a PCR test, a nine percent increase from the previous week. South Australia Health encourages everyone to stay updated with vaccinations and to have a plan with their general practitioner for PCR testing and antiviral treatments if symptoms develop. [[Full article](#)]
- **Canada:** Ottawa Public Health reported 130 new confirmed cases and two new deaths during the period ending February 12, bringing the total number of cases to 98,089 since the pandemic began in 2020 (Staff Reporter, 2024). The report also showed 14 new hospitalizations for flu patients, 38 new hospitalizations for COVID-19, and two more hospitalizations for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The COVID-19 and RSV results were described as "moderate and decreasing from last week." Water surveillance levels for flu were very high, while COVID-19 levels were low. There were three new outbreaks of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities, eight ongoing outbreaks, one new outbreak of RSV, and no new outbreaks for flu. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Public Health in Los Angeles County has ended its weekly COVID-19 news release, revealing a decline in indicators (Public Health LA County, 2024). The county reported 187 average daily COVID-19 cases this week, with many indicators approaching pre-surge levels. Wastewater concentrations of SARS CoV-2 were at 30% of the 2022-2023 winter peak, with 376 COVID-positive hospitalized patients and 3.6 daily average COVID-19 deaths reported for the week ending January 30, a decrease from the previous week. [[Full article](#)]



Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has seen a rise in dengue cases, with 16 new cases admitted daily since January, bringing the total to 1,316 (Desk N, 2024). The death toll has risen to 17, with one fatality reported. The virus's cause is believed to be rising temperatures and inadequate mosquito control measures. Experts predict dengue may continue to affect Bangladesh throughout the year. [[Full article](#)]
- **Italy** Health Minister reported 48 dengue cases in 2024, all imported (ANSA R, 2024). In 2023, 362 cases were confirmed, with 84 are local transmission. The Italy Health Minister praised Italy for being the first European country to implement measures against the disease at its borders, allowing the use of two dengue vaccines. The *Aedes albopictus* mosquito also transmits the disease. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- The **United States (US)**: Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) has identified two new cases of measles following an exposure announcement earlier this month (Maricopa County, 2024) . The department has identified five public locations where people may have been exposed to measles, and individuals should watch for symptoms for 21 days following their exposure. The measles vaccine is safe and highly protective, providing about 97% protection. Assistant medical director for MCDPH, emphasizes the importance of spreading vaccination with a safe and highly effective measles vaccine to keep measles from returning to its pre-vaccination state. Measles typically begins with a high fever, cough, runny nose, and red or watery eyes, with a rash appearing three to five days later. Symptoms consistent with measles include fever, cough, white spots in the throat, runny nose, red and/or watery eyes, and rash. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **Spain**: The Health Department in Terrassa, Vallès Occidental, has confirmed 205 cases of whooping cough in educational centers (Acn, 2024). The Territorial Epidemiological Surveillance Service is making a great control effort, prioritizing addressing vulnerable people. The disease is not serious and has effective treatment. An outbreak has affected 124 people in Madrid and Guadalajara, mostly children. Control measures include isolation, treatment, antibiotic chemoprophylaxis, and vaccination of contacts. Children and teachers with suspicious symptoms should begin antibiotic treatment and avoid educational centers for five days. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Avian Influenza

- **Cambodia** has reported two human infections with the avian influenza A (H5N1) virus, bringing the country's total cases to nine in less than 12 months (Linden J, 2024). The virus has been linked to the 2.3.2.1c clade, an older form that circulated before the current dominant clade, 2.3.4.4b. The cases have also led to the temporary closure of a live bird market in Lao PDR, following the detection of H5N1 and H9N2 viruses in chicken, duck, and environmental samples. [[Full article](#)]



Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases in Jombang District, East Java Province, have increased significantly since October 2023, with four deaths in February 2024 (Budianto E.E, 2024). The number of patients treated at Jombang District Hospital has increased every month, with 21 patients still being treated. The spike in cases has forced the hospital to increase the number of beds, from 48 to 60, and provide 40 ICU beds for patients with dengue shock syndrome (DSS) conditions. Acting Head of the Jombang District Health Office, stated that at the beginning of this year, 331 people had contracted dengue virus infection. The Jombang District Government has not yet determined the status of an extraordinary event related to the spike in cases nationwide. The public is urged to pay attention to a clean and healthy lifestyle. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Lao PDR** has reported 1,053 dengue fever cases, including one death, since the start of the year (KPL, 2024). Sekong province reported the highest number of cases at 296 cases, followed by Vientiane and Luang Namtha. Last year, 35,317 cases and 20 deaths were reported. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Singapore:** The Singapore National Environment Agency (NEA) has reported 2,970 cumulative dengue fever cases from the beginning of the year to February 22, with the weekly number of cases more than double the number reported in December 2023 (Herriman, 2024). The NEA announced the expansion of Project Wolbachia to five additional sites in February 2024, covering 130,000 more households and bringing total coverage to 35% of all Singapore households. Results indicate a more than 90% reduction in the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population and up to 77% are less likely to get dengue at release areas. This will increase *Wolbachia* coverage from 350,000 to 480,000 households, from 26% to 35% of all households in Singapore. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **Vietnam:** A 4-year-old girl in Binh Thuan province died from rabies after being bitten by a neighbor's dog (Linh, 2024). The girl was treated using traditional methods without soap or rabies vaccine. She showed signs of lethargy and vomiting by February 13. The baby was hospitalized at La Gi Regional General Hospital and transferred to Ho Chi Minh City Tropical Diseases Hospital. He died on February 15. This is the first case of rabies death in the area since 2024. The Provincial Center for Disease Control notified the outbreak to the Provincial Department of Animal Health. [\[Full article\]](#)

Typhoid

- **Philippines:** Typhoid fever has claimed the lives of two people, including a nine-year-old girl, and affected 16 others in remote villages of Magcaraguit and G. Aliño Island (Barcia R.B,2024). The disease, caused by *Salmonella typhi* bacteria, is spread through ingestion of food and water contaminated with human waste. The outbreak originated in Magcaraguit and escalated in Barangay G. Aliño, a neighboring area. Village chieftain reported the incident to the Dimasalang rural health unit. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Regional Director confirmed the typhoid outbreak took place in Dimasalang town early this month and is coordinating with the local government to monitor the situation and provide further interventions. The DSWD is prepared to supplement resources and encourage the public to take preventive measures, such as boiling water, chlorinating, and cooking food thoroughly to prevent contamination. [\[Full article\]](#)



Zika

- Singapore:** The Ministry of Health (MOH) and National Environment Agency (NEA) are monitoring Zika transmission in Boon Lay Place, Singapore, following mosquito and wastewater testing (ANG QING, 2024). A single Zika case was reported in December 2023, but no cases have been detected since then. The MOH has alerted doctors to test patients with Zika-related symptoms, especially those living or working in the area. Pregnant women are advised to seek medical attention if unwell with Zika virus infection symptoms. The virus is mainly transmitted by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito and can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus or through sex. Since November 2023, NEA has been conducting intensive mosquito-control operations in the area. Residents can prevent mosquito bites by spraying insecticides, applying insect repellent, wearing long-sleeve tops and pants, and enclosing rooms or installing mosquito screens. [\[Full article\]](#)

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