

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.

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Viet Nam:** From March 9 to 15, 2026, Ho Chi Minh City recorded 582 dengue cases, bringing the cumulative total to 12,202 cases this year (Z News, 2026). Despite the decline, health authorities warn of continued epidemic risk due to favorable weather conditions for mosquito transmission and emphasize ongoing vigilance and preventive measures. [\[Full article\]](#)

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- **Viet Nam:** On March 20, 2026, Ho Chi Minh City reported 837 new HFMD cases in the past week, a 97% increase over the four-week average, bringing the cumulative total to 7,294 cases this year (Tuoi Tre, 2026). Local health authorities warn of rapid transmission, especially in schools, and emphasize hygiene, early detection, and preventive measures to reduce complications. [\[Full article\]](#)

Tay Ninh Province has reported 918 HFMD cases in 2026, 2.8 times higher than the same period in 2025, with 24 hotspots detected (Báo Tây Ninh, 2026). Most cases involve children in preschools and daycare facilities. Authorities are strengthening surveillance, outbreak response, and hygiene measures, while urging early care-seeking to reduce transmission. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- **Indonesia's** Ministry of Health reported 10,301 confirmed measles cases from 13,046 suspected cases, with eight deaths as of mid-March 2026 (Radar Palu, 2026). Authorities urge continued vigilance and emphasize complete childhood vaccination to prevent further spread. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **Malaysia:** On March 18, 2026, Sarawak reported its third rabies death of the year, in a 10-year-old boy from Kuching bitten by a stray dog on February 11 (The Borneo Post, 2026). Health authorities emphasize immediate wound washing, prompt medical care, vaccination of pets, and avoidance of stray animals. Since July 2017, 93 cases and 86 deaths (92.5% CFR) have been reported. [\[Full article\]](#)



Tuberculosis (TB)

- The **Philippines**: As of March 2026, the Department of Health–Metro Manila Center for Health Development (DOH-MMCHD) reported 101,807 cases of tuberculosis in the National Capital Region (Manila Times, 2026). Authorities emphasize intensified early detection through screening and urge care-seeking for symptoms to reduce transmission and improve outcomes. [[Full article](#)]

Global Situation

Dengue

- **Italy**: Between March 19–21, 2026, Friuli Venezia Giulia reported three imported dengue cases; two confirmed in Trieste and one under investigation in Gradisca d’Isonzo (Il Piccolo, 2026). All patients had recently returned from travel to endemic regions, with no epidemiological links between cases. Local health authorities activated surveillance protocols with no vector control initiated, citing low mosquito activity. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Pakistan**: A measles outbreak in Khanewal District, Punjab, resulted in deaths of seven children aged 2–9 years (24 News HD, 2026). Residents have appealed for urgent government intervention, including health team deployment and immediate control measures. Authorities are urged to strengthen surveillance and response to protect vulnerable populations. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US)**: On March 21, 2026, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 125 new measles cases, bringing the total to 1,487 nationwide (CIDRAP, 2026). Most cases (94%) are linked to 14 outbreaks across 31 states and New York City, primarily affecting individuals under 19 years. About 92% are unvaccinated or have unknown status. Seventy-four patients were hospitalized and no deaths have been reported. [[Full article](#)]

Texas has reported 147 measles cases, mostly in federal detention facilities (Diario MX, 2026). The largest outbreak involves 108 cases in Hudspeth County, primarily at the West Texas Detention Facility. Additional cases occurred in Frio and El Paso counties, including immigration detention centers. Authorities are implementing isolation, treatment, and CDC-aligned preventive measures. [[Full article](#)]

Melioidosis

- **Hong Kong (SAR)**: Between March 13–19, 2026, one melioidosis case was reported in a 69-year-old man with chronic illness from Sham Shui Po (HKCD, 2026). The patient, diagnosed with sepsis and confirmed with *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, is in stable condition. Three cases have been recorded in 2026 to date. Investigations found no epidemiological links, indicating a sporadic case. Authorities recommend good hygiene, flood precautions, and early medical care for high-risk individuals. [[Full article](#)]



Meningococcal Meningitis

- **France:** On March 20, 2026, a male employee at the Orano La Hague nuclear reprocessing site in Manche died from meningococcal meningitis (Doctissimo, 2026). About 50 close contacts received antibiotic prophylaxis and were temporarily isolated. Authorities assessed the transmission risk as low, limited to prolonged close contact, and provided psychological support to colleagues. [[Full article](#)]
- **Hong Kong (SAR):** A 3-year-old boy from Sham Shui Po was hospitalized in serious condition, diagnosed with meningococcal meningitis (Outbreak News Today, 2026). His household contacts have remained asymptomatic so far. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) has prescribed preventive drugs to them, and the investigation is ongoing. Initial findings suggest that this is a sporadic case. [[Full article](#)]

Malaria

- **Russia:** Lipetsk Oblast reported three imported malaria cases in March 2026 among travelers returning from Cameroon and North-East Africa (RuNews24, 2026). One severe case was identified on March 10, while two additional patients were hospitalized on March 18. Authorities urge travelers to seek prompt care if fever or flu-like symptoms develop after returning from endemic areas. [[Full article](#)]

Mpox

- **France:** Reunion reported a new mpox case on March 18, 2026, bringing the total to seven, including three imported from Madagascar and four locally acquired (Imaz Press, 2026). The Regional Health Agency urges prompt reporting of suspected cases and continues vaccination for high-risk groups. A two-dose schedule is used for prevention, with reactive vaccination for close contacts when indicated. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** On March 20, 2026, the Missouri Department of Health confirmed two unrelated cases of clade I mpox in residents with recent international travel, marking the state's first cases and the 13th and 14th nationally. Authorities note clade I mpox carries higher risk of severe illness and urge at-risk populations to complete the twodose vaccination series to reduce infection risk. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **Italy:** On March 21, 2026, Sassuolo Calcio football club reported one pertussis case and five symptomatic players, leading to isolation of six team members ahead of a Serie A match (Quotidiano.net, 2026). Asymptomatic contacts received prophylaxis, while symptomatic players are under medical monitoring. The club is implementing health protocols with public health officials to limit transmission. [[Full article](#)]

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