# ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION May 22 - 23, 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**

## Mpox

- Malawi confirmed 10 mpox cases between April and May 2025, with 8 reported in Lilongwe District (Malawi News Agency, 2025). Four patients have recovered, while four remain under observation. Health authorities, supported by UNICEF, are intensifying surveillance and public awareness campaigns to curb further transmission. [Full article]
- The Ghana Health Service confirmed four new mpox cases, bringing the national total to nine (3News, 2025). The latest cases, reported from the Western and Greater Accra Regions, are not epidemiologically linked. Health authorities have intensified surveillance and reactivated response protocols, including contact tracing and monitoring of exposed individuals. Despite the rising case numbers, officials maintain there is no cause for public alarm. [Full article]

# Dengue

India: Karnataka reported 1,403 dengue cases from January 1 to May 18, 2025, with over 600 in Bengaluru alone (The Times of India, 2025). In response, authorities have launched the "Check, Clean, Cover" campaign and are deploying 700 volunteers and 240 health inspectors to reduce mosquito breeding sites. The Ministry of Health urged community participation and emphasized preventive action, especially as ongoing rains heighten the risk. Experts warn the next two weeks will be critical in assessing the outbreak's progression. [Full article]

### Measles

• **Canada:** Ontario confirmed 173 new measles cases on May 15, 2025, bringing the total to 1,795 since the outbreak began in October 2024 (CBC News, 2025). Health officials emphasize the importance of immunization as a key preventive measure to curb further transmission across the province. [Full article]



### **Pertussis**

• **The United States (US):** The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) has reported 108 pertussis cases as of May, 2025, an increase compared to 84 total cases in 2024 (Honolulu Star-Advertiser, 2025). The DOH emphasizes the importance of DTaP and Tdap vaccinations. [Full article]

# **Regional Situation**

### Mpox

• The **Philippines** confirmed two mpox cases in Maguindanao del Norte on May 21, 2025 involving a woman from Sultan Kudarat and a woman from Datu Odin Sinsuat, according to the Bangsamoro Health Ministry Autonomous Region (SunStar, 2025). The patients have recovered, while six other suspected cases in Cotabato City, Sultan Kudarat, Parang, and Datu Montawal are under investigation. Contact tracing efforts are ongoing, with early symptom reporting emphasized to prevent further transmission. [Full article]

**South Cotabato** has confirmed ten cases of mpox across six towns, all patients are isolated and under medical supervision (The Philippine Star, 2025). Four cases were in T'boli; two were in Surallah; and one each was in Banga, Koronadal, Lake Sebu, and Tantangan. The Department of Health in Region 12 is intensifying monitoring and containment measures to prevent the virus from spreading further. As part of its response strategy, the South Cotabato government is closely observing all 11 localities in the province. [Full article]

### COVID-19

- **Thailand** reported 49,065 new COVID-19 cases from May 11 to 17, 2025, and 12,524 additional cases since May 18, 2025 (VnExpress, 2025). Bangkok leads in case numbers, followed by Nakhon Ratchasima, Chonburi, Ubon Ratchathani and Chiang Mai. The Omicron XEC variant is believed to be driving this surge, but the death rate has dropped to 0.02% due to effective antiviral treatments and vaccines. Health authorities are emphasizing protecting high-risk groups, especially the elderly and immunocompromised, and warning of potential co-infection during the rainy season. [Full article]
- Viet Nam: Ho Chi Minh City recorded 51 COVID-19 cases this year, as of May 16, 2025, an 83% decline from the same period in 2024, with no patients requiring respiratory support (Vietnam News, 2025). Bình Dương Province reported six cases during the same period. Authorities in both localities affirmed their commitment to containing COVID-19, maintaining the hard-earned results of previous efforts, and safeguarding public health amid evolving global risks. [Full article]

# Dengue

• **Indonesia:** Kudus District Health Office in Central Java Province reported 251 cases of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) with no fatalities from January to May, 2025 (Tribun Jateng, 2025). To improve early detection, NS1 diagnostic tools were distributed to public



health centers and hospitals for free. The Health Office also initiated a cross-sector dengue response task force to develop strategic solutions for controlling case growth. These efforts aim to accelerate treatment and strengthen community-level dengue prevention. [Full article]

- **Myanmar:** Myanmar reported over 860 cases and four deaths from dengue fever between January 1 and May 10, 2025, with a decrease compared to 2024 (Xinhua, 2025). The disease typically surges during the rainy season, and the Ministry of Health is implementing preventive measures. [Full article]
- **The Philippines** reported 1,742 dengue cases and nine deaths from January 1 to May 17, 2025, a 77% increase compared from 983 cases and three deaths in 2024 (Daily Guardian, 2025). Most cases involved children aged 1 to 9 years old, with clustering identified in 11 barangays across 11 municipalities. The provincial government launched a prevention campaign, urging residents to clean their surroundings and support the campaign. [Full article]
- **Viet Nam:** Ho Chi Minh City reported 265 dengue cases in week 20 of 2025, a 2.8% decrease from the previous average (VTV.vn, 2025). However, the total cases reached 7,690, indicating silent transmission. High-inflicted areas include Can Gio, Cu Chi, and Thu Duc. The Health Department urges the public to maintain environmental sanitation to prevent outbreaks. [Full article]

# Leptospirosis

• **Indonesia:** The Gunungkidul District Health Office in the Special Region of Yogyakarta Province reported eight cases of leptospirosis as of mid of May 2025 with no deaths, a decline from last year (Harian Jogja, 2025). The decline is attributed to improved early detection and treatment, increased worker awareness, environmental hygiene promotion, and community education on clean living. The public is urged to remain vigilant, especially during the rainy season, to prevent further transmission. [Full article]

**Tulungagung District, East Java Province** has reported nine cases of leptospirosis so far this year, with five deaths as of May 2025, and case fatality rate of 56% (Radar Tulungagung, 2025). The Health Office urges heightened vigilance, particularly among agricultural and plantation workers, and emphasizes early symptom recognition and the use of protective gear. Public education campaigns are ongoing to raise awareness about the disease and its prevention. [Full article]

# Measles

• **Viet Nam:** Ho Chi Minh City reported 100 measles cases between May 12 to 18, 2025, a 24.5% decrease from the four-week average (VTV.vn, 2025). The cumulative cases reached 5,337 for the year and 9,383 since the start of the epidemic season. High-incidence areas including Thu Duc City, Binh Tan, and Binh Chanh have suboptimal vaccination rates. The Health Department urges parents to ensure children receive two scheduled doses of the measles vaccine to prevent severe complications and contain further spread. [Full article]



# Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

• **Viet Nam:** Ho Chi Minh City reported 916 cases of HFMD between May 12 to 18, 2025, with a total of 6,711 cases in 2025 (VTV.vn, 2025). Hot spots were detected in Binh Tan district, Nha Be district, and District 11. This raises concerns about potential outbreaks in schools and children's groups. [Full article]

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