

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

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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

- **New Zealand:** Health NZ has confirmed six more cases of mpox linked to Queentown's Winter Pride Festival, bringing the total to 11 (RNZ News, 2024). Cases were first reported at the festival earlier this month, including one involving a person who contracted the disease abroad. Health NZ advises anyone with symptoms, particularly a rash, to seek medical advice. [[Full article](#)]
- **Rwanda:** Rwanda has reported two new cases of mpox, raising the total confirmed cases to six since July 27 (Mbabazi, 2024). Officials from the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) confirmed these cases as vaccination efforts begin, prioritizing healthcare workers and cross-border traders for immunization. The RBC has also renewed public education efforts, emphasizing the importance of caution, particularly concerning sexual contact, which is a key driver of mpox transmission. [[Full article](#)]

Chikungunya

- **India:** A new variant of Chikungunya, identified by the National Institute of Virology, is causing concern due to its rapid spread and increased severity (Nagpur Trends, 2024). Hospitals in Nagpur are filled with patients suffering from chikungunya and other mosquito-borne illnesses. Since January 2024, Nagpur has recorded 3,556 chikungunya cases. The disease is causing severe joint pain, heart problems, and encephalitis. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Six people died of dengue from September 21-22, while 926 people were admitted to the hospital (Ikra, 2024). The Department of Health reported that 131 people have died this year, out of a total of 24,000 patients admitted since January. The virus has affected 172 people in Dhaka North City, 144 in Dhaka South City, and 101 in Khulna Division. [[Full article](#)]



- **Pakistan's** eastern Punjab province has reported 86 new dengue fever cases, with the latest from nine districts (Xinhua, 2024). The province has now recorded a total of 1,047 cases this year. The healthcare department has implemented measures to contain the spread of the disease, keeping public hospitals on high alert. The department urges public vigilance and strict adherence to guidelines to prevent the transmission of the virus. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- The **United States (US)**: WHO reported that whooping cough cases are increasing rapidly as students return to school in the US (Foster, 2024). The CDC reported 291 cases for the week ending Sept. 14, with New York having the most cases. This year, a total of 14,569 cases have been reported, more than four times higher than last year. Health officials warn about a resurgence in breakthrough infections in older children and adults. [\[Full article\]](#)

Poliomyelitis

- **Pakistan** has confirmed three new poliovirus cases, raising the total to 21, in southern Sindh, southwestern Balochistan, and northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces (Sajid, 2024). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported its first polio case of the year, paralyzing a nine-month-old girl. In 2023, Pakistan reported six cases, with four in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Polio is a highly infectious disease affecting children under five, and anti-polio campaigns in Pakistan often face violence. [\[Full article\]](#)

Swine Flu (H3N2)

- **The United States (US)**: Two human infections with the influenza A (H3N2) variant virus have been reported in Minnesota (Herriman, 2024). Both patients, aged under 18, were not hospitalized and have recovered. The first patient had indirect contact with swine, while the second had direct contact. A household member of the first patient developed symptoms, and the second patient tested positive for influenza A. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia**: Dengue fever remains a significant health issue in Indonesia, with the highest death rate in Southeast Asia (Prasetyo, D.A., 2024). The country recorded 190,561 cases and 1,141 deaths by the 36th week of 2024. The case fatality rate (CFR) is 0.6 percent, significantly higher than neighboring countries like Singapore, the Philippines, and Thailand. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Philippines**: The Apayao Provincial Health Office (PHO) reported a 175% increase in dengue cases in the province, with 1,079 cases reported this year (Hent, 2024). The most affected municipalities are Conner, Santa Marcela, Flora, Luna, Pudtol, Calanasan, and Kabugao. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Thailand:** Phuket has issued a dengue fever advisory due to heavy rainfall, flash floods, and landslides (Tantivangphaisal, 2024). Stagnant water across the island poses a breeding ground for mosquitoes, potentially increasing infections. Phuket has the highest infection rate per 100,000 people among seven southern provinces, with 5,853 cases reported in the first half of the year. Children aged 10-14 are at the greatest risk, followed by those aged five to nine and teenagers. Other provinces, including Surat Thani, Phang Nga, and Krabi, also report high infection rates. [Full article]
- **Malaysia:** Dengue cases in Malaysia decreased to 1,794 during epidemiological week 37, compared to 1,870 cases the previous week (Journal, 2024). The Health director-general reported no deaths from dengue fever complications during the period. The cumulative number of cases through week 37 is 100,236, compared with 84,865 during the same period in 2023. The number of reported hotspot localities was 43, with 32 in Selangor, three in Kuala Lumpur, and one in Kelantan. [Full article]

Leptospirosis

- **Philippines:** Western Visayas has recorded 317 cases of leptospirosis, including 19 deaths, as of September 7 (Castor, R.Z., 2024). The number of cases is 56% lower than the 718 cases and 58 deaths recorded last year. Iloilo province has the highest number of cases, followed by Negros Occidental, Antique, and Iloilo City. The most affected age group is 21-30 years old. [Full article]

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