

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

April 23 – 24, 2024



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

COVID-19

- **Bangladesh** reported 23 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 506 samples tested, a 4.55 percent positivity rate (The Daily Observer, 2024). The country's total fatalities remained at 29,494, with 2,049,897 cases and 2,017,343 recoveries. The first case was on March 8, 2020. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **New Zealand:** New Covid-19 cases have been reported in Canterbury and Waitematā, with 167 in hospital as of midnight (RNZ, 2024). The seven-day rolling average of new cases is 340, with 2,618 new cases and eight deaths last week. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Netherlands:** A 72-year-old man in Amsterdam died after a record 613-day infection with COVID-19, according to researchers (Riet, 2024). The man, who had a history of blood disorders and stem cell transplants, was immunocompromised and had received multiple vaccinations. The virus became a highly mutated variant within his body, causing numerous problems. This is believed to be the longest COVID-19 infection to date, highlighting the risk of long-term infections leading to increased mutations. The case will be presented at the ESCMID Global Congress in Barcelona. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** Michigan reported 854 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases, down 20% from last week, and 23 additional deaths, a 44% increase from April 2 (Bridge Michigan, 2024). The number of confirmed COVID-19-positive hospital patients fell 27% to 147. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Dengue, a mosquito-borne disease, has seen a significant increase in hospital admissions and deaths since 2000 (bdnews24, 2024). 321,179 people were admitted to hospitals with the disease in 2023, with the highest number of 1,705 deaths. The number of patients admitted to the hospital reached 251, with 24 dying. The Directorate of Health reported 120 patients receiving treatment in different hospitals, with 65 in Dhaka and 55 outside. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **France** has seen a record number of imported cases of dengue fever since January 1, compared to 131 in 2023 (AFP, 2024). The majority of these cases have been people returning from the French West Indies, reflecting the endemic region of dengue fever in the Antilles and Latin America and Caribbean. The Director General of Health warns that the increased vigilance is necessary to prevent the establishment of indigenous chains of transmission. The Director General of Health urges increased vigilance and actions to limit the proliferation of the tiger mosquito. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- The **United States(US)**: West Virginia has reported its first measles case since 2009, involving an unvaccinated patient who recently traveled internationally (CIDRAP, 2024). The case is part of a global and national increase in measles activity this year. In its latest update, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said it has received reports of 125 cases this year from 18 jurisdictions, up sharply from 2023. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

Covid-19

- **Thailand's** Department of Disease Control reported a surge in COVID-19 cases following the Songkran celebrations (Fasaisirinan, T, (2024). There's 1,004 new inpatients admitted, resulting in an average of 143 daily cases and three deaths in the week ending 20 April. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** The Banyuwangi District Health Service in East Java recorded 205 cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) from January to April 2024, with four deaths (Husdinariyanto, 2024). The most affected sub-districts are Muncar, Srono, Bangorejo, and Rogojampi. The Banyuwangi Health Office recorded 1,025 cases of dengue virus infection, causing three diseases: dengue fever (DF), DHF, and dengue shock syndrome (DSS). [\[Full article\]](#)

Seven residents of Blitar, East Java, died in the last three months from February to April 2024 due to DHF, primarily caused by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito (Hartik, 2024). The Blitar District Health Service reported a spike in death cases in April, with five patients, primarily children, dying. The peak of dengue virus infection cases occurred in March 2024, with 670 cases reported. [\[Full article\]](#)

- **Singapore** recorded 343 new dengue cases from April 14-20, bringing the total number of infections to 6,232 this year, with weekly reported cases above 300 (Xinhua, 2024). The first quarter saw a doubled number of cases and seven deaths. [\[Full article\]](#)



Malaria

- **Indonesia:** Malaria cases in Simuk Island, South Nias, North Sumatra, have reached 64 people, with six deaths, up from the previous Sunday (Tarigan, 2024). The outbreak has been exacerbated by the presence of the Tello and Simuk islands, which have seen 126 cases detected and two deaths. The provincial health service team has deployed to carry out malaria elimination simultaneously in five districts by 2023. However, cases of malaria remain in South, West, and North Nias. The review aims to identify the index case, provide treatment, and control the vector. Malaria cases remain high in Nias due to the presence of the vector. Other areas in North Sumatra, such as Asahan, Labura, Batubara, Labuhan Batu, and Serdangbedagai, are also facing high malaria cases. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- The **Philippines** has recorded 1,817 measles cases from January 1 to April 13, a five-fold increase from the same period last year, according to the Department of Health's Epidemiology Bureau (Montemayor, T, (2024). The rise in cases is attributed to the measles virus, which can occur any time of the year, particularly during summer. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Indonesia:** A 2-year-old boy in Rokirole Village, Palue District, was bitten by a neighbor's dog, suspected to be infected with rabies (Gomez, 2024). The victim was taken to the Palue Community Health Center for first aid. The family planned to refer the victim to the TC Hillers Maumere District Hospital, but this plan was canceled due to the limited availability of the Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) at the Palue Health Center. In the last month, three Palue residents have died due to rabies. Hundreds of child victims of dog bites have sought ARV at the Palue Community Health Center, but not all are served due to ARV limitations. Rabies in Sikka District has been declared an outbreak, with at least four deaths this year, three from Palue. [[Full article](#)]
- The **Philippines:** A 13-year-old girl in the Philippines died from rabies after a dog bite. She received just months before her death. [[Full article](#)]
- **Vietnam** has recorded 29 rabies deaths since the start of the year, a double compared to last year. The disease, which caused 82 deaths, affected over 675,000 people. The sudden increase in rabies cases in the first four months of the year may be linked to a general increase in animal rabies cases since 2023. [[Full article](#)]



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