

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

June 22 - 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 January 2024.

Global Situation

COVID-19

- The **United Kingdom (UK)**: Hospital admissions in the UK have increased due to the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant, KP. 3, which belongs to the FLiRT group (Khan, 2024). As of April 2024, three FLiRT variants, KP.1.1, KP.3, and KP.2, have been responsible for 40% of all COVID-19 cases in the UK. The highest rate of hospital admissions for confirmed COVID-19 is among those aged over 85 years, with increases among those aged 65-74, 75-84, and younger age groups. The receding immunity among the public raises concerns about a potential summer surge of COVID-19. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US)**: Hawaii is experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases, with the state Health Department reporting an average of 175 new cases per day over the week (Honolulu, N.W., 2024). The average positivity rate in Hawaii has risen to 16.7%, up from 15.9% the previous week. The number of residents visiting emergency departments and landing in hospitals has also increased. The average number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Hawaii reached 126 per day this week, the highest level since the summer surge last August. The percentage of patients visiting emergency departments with COVID-19 in Hawaii rose to an average of 5.0%, with the highest rate among residents ages 75 and older. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh**: Dengue has seen 28 new cases hospital admissions in the last day, with no deaths (Bdnews24, 2024). The Department of Health reported seven cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the total to 3,343. Forty one of these patients have died. 148 patients were treated in various hospitals, with 75 in Dhaka and 73 outside the city. Dengue has been a significant health concern since 2000, with a maximum of 1,705 deaths in 2023. [[Full article](#)]

Malaria

- **India**: The prevalence of malaria in Pune is increasing due to polluted water and an increasing mosquito infestation (Bhonde, 2024). The number of patients is around the same as last year, and the disease is causing fevers from children to adults. The incidence of malaria is also increasing due to contaminated water. [[Full article](#)]



Measles

- **India:** Punjab reported 220 suspected measles cases in children within 24 hours, with no child dying in the past 24 hours (Qadir, 2024). This year, 14,809 cases have been reported, In the past 24 hours, 27 cases were reported in Lahore, 20 in Multan, 23 in Faisalabad, 10 in Rawalpindi, and 14 in Sheikhpura. [[Full article](#)]

Mpox

- The **United Kingdom (UK):** Mpox cases in the UK have reached almost 800, with the majority in London among men aged in their 30s (Burrell, M., 2024). From 624 cases in England, 80% are known to be residents in the capital. There have been 766 confirmed cases in England, with 37% found in South East England, 26 in the North West, and 20 in the East of England. The virus has spread rapidly since initial infections were confirmed in England from May 6 this year. The outbreak has mainly been in gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men without a documented history of travel to endemic countries. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is investigating the possibility of mpox being sexually transmitted, with reports of viral DNA in the semen of several mpox patients in Italy and Germany. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **South Korea:** Pertussis cases in South Korea have tripled in the past four weeks, with 1,784 cases reported in the past four weeks (Herriman, 2024). The current number of cases is 2.5 times higher than the annual number reported in 2018, a year when whooping cough was prevalent before the COVID-19 pandemic. The pertussis vaccination rate for infants and young children is high at over 95%. [[Full article](#)]

Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS)

- **Japan** has seen Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS) cases surpass 1,000 in 2024, according to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) (Muiz, W.A. and Shahirah, S., 2024). The preliminary number of cases since the beginning of this year reached 1,019, a significant increase from previous years. STSS, a sudden-onset disease caused by "Group A *Streptococcus*", can lead to soft tissue damage, respiratory failure, liver failure, kidney failure, and multi-organ failure, with a mortality rate exceeding 30%. Tokyo has the highest number of confirmed cases this year, followed by Aichi and Saitama. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Avian Influenza

- **Thailand:** The Department of Disease Control reported a surge in influenza cases, resulting in 14 deaths and affecting over 180,000 individuals in Thailand (Webfact, 2024). The Director-General emphasized the severity of the circulating strains, stating that while influenza is typically treatable, it can lead to serious intercurrent infections, increasing fatal outcomes. A comprehensive report is expected next week. [[Full article](#)]

COVID-19

- **Singapore:** COVID-19 cases have dropped for three weeks, but daily ICU cases are up by one to four (CNA, 2024). Around 12,600 infections were recorded from June 9 to June 16. The Health Ministry urges booster jabs and increases vaccination site locations. [[Full article](#)]



Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Deaths from dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) in 2024 are projected to reach half of the year's total, nearly equaling the number of deaths in 2023 (Nur, 2024). Up to the 23rd week of this year, the Ministry of Health reported 131,501 cases and 799 deaths. The total number of dengue fever cases in 2024 is expected to surpass 114,720, potentially exceeding last year's total due to the current higher case numbers. The highest number of dengue fever deaths this year has been reported in Bandung, Klaten, Subang, Kendal, and Jepara. [[Full article](#)]

In Medan City Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases reached 325 cases in June 2024, with two deaths (Widyastuti, 2024). The number is expected to reach 965 by the end of 2023, with four deaths. The most cases were in Medan Johor District, followed by Medan Tuntungan and Medan Selayang. To reduce cases, the Medan Health Office has implemented measures such as coordinating with community health centers, implementing mosquito nest eradication, and distributing annual larvicide supplies. [[Full article](#)]

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