

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

23 – 24 May, 2024



With Support by:

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

#### Avian Influenza (H5N1)

- **Australia** has reported its first human case of bird flu, affecting a child who had recently traveled from India (Sagita, 2024). Health authorities in Victoria have conducted contact tracing, and no relatives or close environment have been identified as having contracted bird flu. The case involves the H5N1 virus, which is not the same as the virus that caused the bird flu outbreak in the United States. A highly pathogenic strain of bird flu was detected at an egg farm near Melbourne, likely originating from wild bird populations and having been seen in Australia before. Restrictions are imposed on movement around the farm and birds will be culled. The outbreak is not believed to pose any further health risks to humans. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US)**: US health authorities have confirmed a second case of bird flu in a human, less than two months after the first case. Both cases were dairy farm workers who recovered from minor symptoms (Borneo Bulletin, 2024). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expects more cases due to high levels of the virus in raw milk from infected cows. [\[Full article\]](#)

#### COVID-19

- **Bangladesh** reported 12 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 259 samples tested, a positivity rate of 4.63% (The Daily Observer, 2024). The country's total fatalities remained at 29,495, with 2,050,303 cases and 2,017,781 recoveries. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **New Zealand**: A new subvariant of COVID-19, called FLiRT, is circulating in New Zealand, causing a "significant" wave of the virus as the country heads into winter (News, 2024). Professor from the University of Canterbury warns that FLiRT, also known as FLip, is driving COVID-19 numbers up internationally and is starting to occur in Aotearoa. There has been a rapid increase in COVID-19 hospitalisations, with around 240 people in hospital with the virus, up from 120 a couple of weeks ago. FLiRT is closely related to the JN.1 subvariant, which caused the wave that hit New Zealand over Christmas. The timing of the wave is concerning as New Zealand heads into flu season, with the wave likely to peak in June or July. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 31 dengue patients hospitalized in the last 24 hours, with 33 deaths reported (BSS, 2024). The total number of cases increased to 2,714 this year, with 2,550 patients released. The country recorded 1,705 dengue-related deaths and 321,179 cases last year. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** The CDC has identified New York City and Florida as leaders in dengue outbreaks, with 114 confirmed cases and 173 confirmed cases, mainly from Brazil and Cuba (Hackett, 2024). The US has reported 6,090 travel-associated cases and 186 local cases in 2023, with 7,327,521 suspected cases and 1,700 deaths registered in 2024. [[Full article](#)]

## Measles

- **Pakistan:** Six children have died in a measles and chickenpox outbreak in Syedaan near Kabirwala (Desk, W., 2024). The child infected with measles was identified and transferred to a hospital. The outbreak has sparked concern among local residents, WHO have called for urgent action to deal with the outbreak. [[Full article](#)]

## Pertussis

- **Italy** experienced 110 hospitalizations from January to May 2024, with 15 in intensive care for younger children (Breaking Latest, 2024). The Italian Society of Pediatrics warns of a contagious whooping cough epidemic affecting unvaccinated newborns and infants, with three deaths since the start of the year. Experts believe the number of hospitalizations could be underreported. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United Kingdom (UK):** A five-week-old baby in Rugby has died from whooping cough, a surge in cases reported by the UK Health Security Agency (Warwickshire World, 2024). The county's health and wellbeing board confirmed the fatality, with five infant deaths this year, with the highest infection rate in babies under three months old. [[Full article](#)]

## Regional Situation

### Dengue

- Indonesia's DHF cases have increased by three times in 2024, reaching 91,269 cases and 641 deaths, according to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia . The Ministry of Health presented the data during a meeting with the Indonesian House of Representatives on May 21, 2024. [[Full article](#)]



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