

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

24 – 25 December, 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

Mpox

- **Australia:** Australian health officials have identified 15 Mpox cases in Western Australia between October 1 and December 20, 2024, all linked to clade II infections (Crisis24, 2024). Health officials encourage vaccination for those at higher risk, warning of potential additional cases in the region. [[Full article](#)]
- **Argentina** has reported 102 Mpox cases nationwide, including two recent confirmations in Córdoba province involving patients aged 46 and 28 (Sociedad, 2024). The province has accumulated four confirmed cases since September, and 21 suspected cases have been analyzed this year, ruling out 17 due to lack of epidemiological history or negative PCR tests. [[Full article](#)]
- **Belgium** has confirmed a clade 1b Mpox case, marking it as the eighth non-African country to detect this variant (Beusekom, M.V., 2024). The case occurred in an adult traveler returning from an African country. The case involves an adult traveler with recent exposure in Africa who self-isolated before diagnosis. No high-risk contacts have been identified, and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) assesses the public risk as low. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Dengue has claimed 565 lives in Bangladesh so far this year, with 125 patients recently hospitalized (UNB, 2024). The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reports 100,491 cases to date, following last year's record of 321,179 cases and 318,749 recoveries. Currently, 946 patients are under treatment as the outbreak persists. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **Greece:** A 56-year-old man from South Corfu has died of leptospirosis after ten days in intensive care (Basaeus, 2024). This is the second fatality linked to the zoonotic disease in recent years, with three cases and one death reported last year. [[Full article](#)]



Poliomyelitis

- **Pakistan** has reported a new case of polio in Balochistan, raising the polio case count to 65 for the current year (App, 2024). The case was discovered as the nationwide anti-polio campaign targeting over 44 million children under five across 143 districts ended. The Pakistan Polio Programme conducts mass vaccination drives and provides free vaccinations against 12 childhood diseases. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

COVID-19

- **Malaysia:** Malaysia's Health Ministry reports that COVID-19 cases remain under control (Bernama, 2024). The variants are limited to Omicron and its subvariants, with no new variants of concern or fatalities since April with a cumulative total of 58 deaths. Cases dropped by 14.23% in Epidemiological Week 51 to 1,477, with non-critical bed occupancy at 0.13% and intensive care unit bed occupancy at 0.10%. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** South Sumatra Province has reported a sharp increase in dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases, with 5,728 cases and 37 deaths in 2024, a significant increase from 2023 (Toriq, 2024). Palembang, the hardest-hit area, accounted for 1,225 cases, including 14 deaths. Health officials warn that the DHF cases may rise in January 2025, as December marks the peak of transmission. [[Full article](#)]

Diphtheria

- **Indonesia:** A six-year-old boy from Majalengka District, West Java Province, is suspected of having diphtheria and is receiving intensive care at hospital (Lukihardianti, 2024). The West Java Provincial Health Office has conducted surveillance following the initial report. The patient showed symptoms of diphtheria, including fever, cough, flu, sore throat, shortness of breath, enlarged lymph nodes, and a white membrane in the throat cavity. After being treated in isolation, his condition has improved. [[Full article](#)]

HIV/AIDS

- **Indonesia:** In 2024, six HIV cases were detected in Barito Kuala District, South Kalimantan Province (Ikhsan, 2024). The health office is working to prevent the disease, with five currently undergoing antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. Prevention efforts include screening, counseling, and condom distribution has been initiated. Men, especially those with high mobility, are identified as particularly vulnerable to the virus. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **Viet Nam:** A 62-year-old woman in Van Quan, Lang Son, survived severe septic shock due to a leptospirosis infection (Ha Anh, 2024). Despite suffering from foot blisters for three years, she sought no medical attention. After four days of escalating pain and immobility, she was hospitalized, where she was found to be infected with an unidentified bacterium. She was in a serious condition with septic shock, respiratory failure, liver failure, kidney failure, and required cardiovascular support drugs and oxygen. [[Full article](#)]



Measles

- **Viet Nam:** The Hà Nội City has reported 50 new measles cases across 24 districts from December 13 to 20, a six-fold increase from the previous week, bringing the total to 259 cases this year across all 30 districts (VN, 2024). Over 40% of those affected were children under one-year-old, many of whom were too young to receive their vaccinations. The Hà Nội Centre for Disease Control has observed the rapid increase. [[Full article](#)]

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