

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

24– 26 August, 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

Mpox

- **Burundi** is reporting the highest number of infections, with children and adolescents below 20 years of age constituting nearly 60% of cases (Promed Post, 2024). The country faces a number of challenges such as a shortage of diagnostic test kits and medicines, low community awareness, high operational costs, and disruptions to essential healthcare services. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**: Kinshasa is facing a rapidly evolving mpox epidemic, with 111 suspected cases, 21 confirmed cases, and 2 deaths (Sante, 2024). The disease has affected seven health zones in Kinshasa, with 548 deaths recorded nationwide. In response, the central executive is mobilizing resources and securing 215,000 doses of vaccines, with support from Africa CDC and the European Union. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Gabon**: On August 22, 2024, the first case of mpox was confirmed in Gabon, with six additional cases identified and isolated for treatment (ANINF, 2024). A 30-year-old man from Uganda tested positive for Mpox, prompting the government to urge vigilance and hygiene practices. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Malawi** has started screening for mpox at all ports of entry to prevent the spread and potential outbreak of the virus (Bastillepost, 2024). The screening is mandatory, including at international airports, as part of a comprehensive strategy to prevent the spread of the virus. Two individuals, a 31-year-old male currently hospitalized and a 17-year-old boy receiving care at home, are undergoing laboratory testing to confirm whether they have been infected. The country is planning for a worst-case scenario and has set up a mobile diagnostic unit at a hospital in Lilongwe. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Pakistan**: A new mpox case has been identified at Peshawar Airport in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan (Rahmawati, F., 2024) The individual, who had traveled from Gulf countries to Pakistan, was identified by health teams and transferred to a hospital. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Republic of Congo**: The mpox epidemic in Congo-Brazzaville has seen 158 suspected cases and 21 confirmed cases since the beginning of the year (Rfi, 2024). The disease affects five of the fifteen departments, particularly the forest regions of Sangha and Likouala in the north. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **South Korea** has reported 11 mpox cases this year, all of which were the less deadly Clade II variant (Yonhap, 2024). The latest case was reported last month, and health authorities have bolstered screening at borders to cope with the deadly new variant. The majority of patients were males aged 20-40 in the greater Seoul area, with close skin contact being the primary route of infection. The KDCA believes the outbreak can be managed stably under the current system. [\[Full article\]](#)

COVID-19

- **Japan:** Japan's health ministry reported a three-week decrease in new coronavirus cases at designated hospitals, with an average of 8.50 cases per hospital (News, 2024). The total number of patients has decreased to 39,295, representing a 20% reduction from the previous week. Additionally, the number of newly hospitalized patients has decreased by 15% compared to the previous week, with 3,619 individuals admitted. [\[Full article\]](#)

Chandipura Virus

- **India:** Between June and August 2024, India reported 245 cases of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES), including 82 deaths, with 64 confirmed cases of Chandipura virus (CHPV) infection (WHO, 2024). The WHO recommends vector control and protection against sandflies, mosquitoes, and tick bites to prevent further spread. A declining trend in new cases has been observed daily since July 2024. No human-to-human transmission has been reported. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **India:** Nashik city has experienced a significant increase in dengue cases, with 178 new infections reported between August 15 and 22 (Pawar, 2024). The surge began in June and persisted throughout July, with 434 cases marking the highest monthly total of 2024. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **France:** France has reported 10 cases of dengue fever in Sainte-Cecile-les-Vignes, with the first case detected by a healthcare worker on August 14 (Ertürk, 2024). Larviciding operations were conducted by the relevant authorities with the objective of eliminating infected mosquitoes. The total number of autochthonous dengue fever cases in metropolitan France has increased to 16 this year, with 1,031 imported cases identified between May 1 and August 13. [\[Full article\]](#)

Leptospirosis

- **India:** An unparalleled surge in leptospirosis cases has been observed in Kerala, with 121 confirmed deaths and 102 suspected cases (Fundación iO, 2024). This year, 1,916 cases have been reported, the highest ever. Insufficient prevention and surveillance, along with concerns about doxycycline effectiveness, are contributing to the crisis. Early detection remains crucial to prevent severe complications. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- The **United States (US):** Georgia Department of Public Health confirms new measles case in Atlanta, linked to unvaccinated individual exposed abroad (GC, 2024). An investigation is currently underway to identify and monitor potential contacts in order to prevent further transmission. [\[Full article\]](#)



Oropouche Virus

- **Region of the Americas:** As of 20 July 2024, there are 8,078 Oropouche cases confirmed, including two deaths, have been reported across five countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, and Peru (WHO, 2024). Brazil has reported one fetal death and one miscarriage in Pernambuco, as well as four cases of newborns with microcephaly possibly related to OROV infection. The WHO assesses the overall public health risk posed by this virus to be high at the regional level and low at the global level. As of 30 July 2024, five cases of possible vertical transmission have been identified in Brazil, including four cases of stillbirth and one spontaneous abortion. [\[Full article\]](#)

Swine Flu

- The **United States (US):** Ohio and Pennsylvania have reported new human infections with novel influenza A "variant" viruses (Herriman, R., 2024). In Ohio, an infection with an influenza A (H1N1) variant occurred due to swine exposure at an agricultural event. In Pennsylvania, a patient contracted influenza A (H1N2) variant due to occupational exposure to swine. Both patients, aged 18 and above, were hospitalized but have since recovered. No human-to-human transmission has been identified. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

Mpox

- The **Philippines:** Tacloban City has reported its first case of suspected mpox at a public hospital in northern Samar (Reyes, R., 2024). A 24-year-old male patient is suffering from fever, body weakness, and vesicular rashes. The patient has no travel history and is currently receiving care at Northern Samar Provincial Hospital. The Catarman Municipal Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit is also conducting contact tracing efforts. This marks the second instance of mpox reported in the Philippines this year, subsequent to the World Health Organization's classification of mpox as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Singapore** has detected 13 cases of mpox Clade 2 infections this year, with all cases in the city state being "less severe" cases which Clade 2 Strain (Britcham, 2024). Singapore is monitoring the global situation and will screen temperatures of travelers at Changi and Seletar airports. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Bayu Asih Hospital in West Java has treated 818 dengue fever patients from January to August, 2024, with ten reported deaths (Borneonews, 2024). The hospital's director noted that the number of patients treated was relatively high, with a peak in February. The majority of patients diagnosed with dengue fever were adults, with 419 individuals aged 18 or above. The prevalence of male patients is greater than that of female patients. [\[Full article\]](#)



- A **Philippines** senator has filed a resolution to investigate the alarming rise in reported dengue cases this year, citing a 39% increase in cases nationwide (Business World, 2024). As of August 10, 2024, the Department of Health has reported a total of 150,354 cases since the beginning of the year, with 396 deaths thus far. The agency attributes this increase to the rainy season. The Health Secretary is set to declare a dengue outbreak after cases reach outbreak levels. Provinces like Iloilo, Capiz, and Ormoc City have already declared outbreaks due to the significant rise in cases. [[Full article](#)]

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