

# ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

### GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

May 24 - 26, 2025



This report is based on media monitoring of infectious and emerging diseases globally and within ASEAN Member States. To enhance pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response in the ASEAN Region, we publish this report three times a week.

## Global Situation

### *Mpox*

- **Ethiopia** has confirmed its first two mpox cases since the outbreak began in Africa last year (Xinhua, 2025). A 21-day-old infant in Moyale town, near the Kenyan border, tested positive, and subsequent testing confirmed the child's mother is also infected. Both are in stable condition and under quarantine as health authorities work to trace the source of infection. The Ministry of Health has activated an emergency coordination center and urges the public to remain calm while following safety protocols. [[Full article](#)]
- **Sierra Leone:** As of late May 2025, Sierra Leone has reported 3,011 mpox cases and 14 deaths, with all regions of the country affected (Presse, 2025). This marks a nearly 50% increase from 10 days earlier. In response, authorities have converted a police training center in Freetown into a 400-bed treatment facility. Preventive efforts follow the WHO's 2024 highest-level alert on Mpox, which continues to spread across several African nations. [[Full article](#)]
- **North Macedonia** has reported its first two mpox cases, both in men from the capital, Skopje, with no recent travel history and no connection between the cases (Presse, 2025). The infections were confirmed through three separate laboratory tests. Authorities have activated existing treatment protocols and are coordinating with relevant institutions to plan further response measures. The WHO declared mpox a global health alert in 2024. [[Full article](#)]

### *COVID-19*

- The **United States (US)** COVID-19 continues to cause concern, with an average of 350 deaths reported weekly last month, primarily affecting high-risk groups such as those aged 75 and older (Kukreti, 2025). Although the situation has improved since peak pandemic periods, low vaccination rates and waning immunity contribute to ongoing fatalities. Authorities, including the CDC, recommend that individuals aged 65 and above receive two doses of the updated COVID-19 vaccine six months apart. Public health experts stress the need for improved vaccination coverage and access to treatments to reduce preventable deaths. [[Full article](#)]



- **India:** Kerala recorded 182 new COVID-19 cases in May, with the highest numbers reported in Kottayam (57), Ernakulam (34), and Thiruvananthapuram (30) (Yousuf, 2025). The Health Minister urged increased public vigilance due to rising infections in Southeast Asia driven by Omicron JN.1 sub-variants. A high-level meeting with the State Rapid Response Team resulted in decisions to increase testing, enforce hospital masking, and ensure availability of RTPCR kits and safety gear. The public, especially vulnerable groups, was advised to wear masks and exercise caution in crowded areas. [\[Full article\]](#)

### *Dengue*

- **Bangladesh** reported 90 new dengue cases in the 24 hours on May 23, bringing the total to 3,857 cases and 23 deaths so far this year (UNB, 2025). Most new cases were from Barishal Division, followed by Dhaka and Chattogram. Currently, 332 patients are hospitalized across the country. Health authorities continue monitoring and treatment efforts, as the country saw a severe outbreak last year with over 100,000 cases and 575 deaths. [\[Full article\]](#)

### *Measles*

- **Canada:** Alberta has confirmed 560 cases of measles, with 73% of which are in the southern part of the province (Tipper, 2025). This has led the Health Services to issue a measles exposure advisory for the entire southern health zone. This advisory replaces site-specific warnings as unlinked cases indicate widespread transmission and underreporting across the region. Authorities urge individuals born in or after 1970 with fewer than two measles vaccine doses to review their immunization status and monitor for symptoms. In response, Alberta has launched efforts to boost vaccination rates, particularly in southern areas where coverage remains below 50%. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Taiwan (Province of China):** New Taipei City has reported two measles cases: a 35-year-old man with recent international travel and a 3-year-old girl with no travel history (Wanyi, 2025). Six household contacts have been identified, all asymptomatic, while workplace contacts are being monitored until early June. The Health Bureau has issued exposure alerts for public locations and transportation used between May 15–19 and urges the public to self-monitor and seek medical attention if symptoms appear. Authorities stress the importance of MMR vaccination and have advised heightened hygiene and caution during the upcoming holiday. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** Texas has reported 728 cases, 408 of which are in Gaines County, marking the state's worst outbreak in years (Reuters, 2025). Nationally, the U.S. has seen 1,046 confirmed cases across 31 jurisdictions, resulting in three deaths,. 96% of cases involved unvaccinated or unknown-status individuals. The outbreak has also spread to nearby states like New Mexico, which now reports 78 cases. In response, health officials are urging vaccinations, noting the measles vaccine is 97% effective after two doses. [\[Full article\]](#)

### *Pertussis*

- **Australia:** Queensland is facing a significant whooping cough outbreak, with 2,384 cases reported in early 2025, over triple the average for recent years (Jones , 2025) The disease, which caused one child's death in 2024, is spreading rapidly due to declining vaccination rates and a decline in hygiene practices since COVID-19 pandemic. Weekly cases remain high, prompting calls for increased public awareness and booster campaigns. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Japan** is currently experiencing a major whooping cough outbreak, with over 14,000 cases reported so far in 2025, 54 times over the same period last year (Nikkan Gendai, 2025). This is the worst pace since reporting began in 2018. Recent data show a rise in cases among teens and adults, with over 10% of cases occurring in those aged 30 and above. [\[Full article\]](#)

### *Poliomyelitis*

- **Pakistan:** Two cases of wild poliovirus were confirmed in the Lakki Marwat and Bannu districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, raising the total number of cases in 2025 to 10 (Junaidi, 2025). The affected children are a 26-month-old girl from Lakki Marwat and a 40-month-old boy from the Wazir tribe in Bannu. Despite ongoing high-quality vaccination efforts, southern KP faces access and operational challenges that hinder house-to-house campaigns. As a result, many children, particularly in areas missed immunization opportunities, creating immunity gaps. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Regional Situation

### *Mpox*

- **The Philippines:** Three residents in Sultan Kudarat province have tested positive for mpox, and are in stable condition (PNA, 2025). Two cases were recorded in Tacurong City and one in Bagumbayan town. Containment measures are being implemented. [\[Full article\]](#)

The **Zamboanga Sibugay** Provincial Health Office confirmed the first case of mpox, involving a three-year-old girl in Tungawan town (Agonoy, 2025). The patient is currently recovering after receiving medical care at the Medical Center. Since May 5, the patient and her family have been placed under home quarantine, with contact tracing initiated to limit further transmission. Health surveillance and response measures are in effect. [\[Full article\]](#)

### *Dengue*

- **Indonesia:** Dengue fever has spread in eight villages in Yahukimo District, Papua Pegunungan, with 50 people are suspected to have died from dengue fever (Faturahman, 2025). The surge of cases began in April and continued into May. The Yahukimo Regency Government and the Papua Pegunungan Provincial Government have been urged to form an emergency response team to handle the crisis. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Singapore:** The National Environment Agency (NEA) reported nearly 2,000 cases recorded so far this year (Abdullah, 2025). This is significantly lower than the 3,000 cases reported in 2023 and 10,000 in the first half of 2024. The NEA warns that Singapore's low population immunity and global dengue cases could potentially lead to an increase in cases. Community vigilance and innovations like Project Wolbachia have helped prevent large outbreaks. [\[Full article\]](#)

### *Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)*

- **Viet Nam:** The Vietnam Ministry of Health has urged households and early education centers to emphasize regular hand hygiene among children (Tho, 2025). Nearly 15,000 HFMD cases were reported nationwide in the first four months of 2025, with 96.6% being children under 10 years-old. [\[Full article\]](#)



**Ho Chi Minh City** has reported over 6,700 HFMD cases so far with no deaths in 2025, a 49% increase from the same period last year, with a 40% weekly surge and rising hospitalisations (VNS, 2025). Children's hospitals are seeing more severe cases, including those requiring mechanical ventilation. [\[Full article\]](#)

## HIV/AIDS

- **The Philippines:** The Department of Health-Davao Region reported 177 cases of HIV from January to February 2025, with four deaths (Patumbon, 2025). Since 1993, there have been 8,222 cases and 400 deaths due to HIV. DOH-Davao provides free antiretroviral drugs, support groups, testing services, and pre-exposure prophylaxis. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Rabies

- **Malaysia:** Sarawak has reported its first human rabies case of 2025, involving a 13-year-old boy who tested positive for the virus (Toyat, 2025). Health authorities are urging the public to seek immediate medical attention after any animal bites or scratches and to ensure pets are vaccinated against rabies. Efforts are being intensified to control the spread of the disease and prevent further cases. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The Philippines:** A 31-year-old factory worker died of rabies nine months after being bitten by a dog and failing to complete the required post-exposure vaccination (Magadia, 2025). He received only the first of three recommended anti-rabies shots following an incident in Cavite in August 2024. He missed the remaining doses due to work-related concerns. [\[Full article\]](#)

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