

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

March 26 – 27, 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

COVID-19

- **Bangladesh** reported 24 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 426 samples tested, a 5.63% positivity rate (The Daily Observer, 2024). The country's total fatalities remained at 29,493, with 2,049,435 cases and 2,016,694 recoveries. The first case was on March 8, 2020. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Canada:** Three more residents of New Brunswick have died from COVID-19, while no new influenza deaths have been reported (MacKinnon, 2024). Hospitalizations for both viruses have decreased, with some indicators decreasing slightly during the reporting period. The province's pandemic death toll has risen to at least 1,022, with 15 people hospitalized and testing positive. Six lab-confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks have been declared, with 40 new cases confirmed through PCR lab tests. The positivity rate is 3%, down from 5%. About 400 New Brunswickers have received a COVID-19 vaccine in the past week, with a total of 147,677 XBB.1.5 vaccines administered since October 4, 2023. Spring COVID-19 vaccine boosters will be available from April 2 through June 15 for those considered most at. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Dengue has not caused any deaths in March 26 in Bangladesh, but four more patients have been admitted to hospitals (Online Desk, 2024). This year, 22 people have died due to dengue, with three in Dhaka and one in Chittagong divisions. Currently, 67 patients are receiving treatment in various hospitals. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- **Canada** has seen a rise in measles cases in the first months of 2024 (Toronto Star, 2024). By the third week of March, the country had already recorded more than three times the number of cases as all of last year. Canada had just 12 cases of measles in 2023, up from three in 2022. Public health leaders are expecting more cases in the coming months, urging people to be fully vaccinated. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Netherlands:** Eindhoven and the surrounding area have measles cases slightly increased from March 21 to 28, with all cases traced back to the local outbreak (ANP, 2024). Unvaccinated children, particularly those aged 5 years and two adults, have contracted the virus. Most have recovered, but no one is in serious condition. [\[Full article\]](#)



- The **United States (US)**: Chicago health officials have announced that residents at a Pilsen migrant shelter should receive a second dose of the measles vaccine 28 days after the first shot (Hernandez, 2024). The policy was necessary due to the continued increase in measles cases among young children at the Halsted Street shelter. The city has reported 26 measles cases, 19 of which have been in children under 5. Medical advocates say that healthcare services at the Pilsen migrant shelter fall short of promises. The policy was extended to include children between 1 and 5 years old, and families with children between 1 and 5 are asked to keep them home until 21 days after receiving the second dose of the vaccine or 21 days after last exposure if they cannot be vaccinated. [[Full article](#)]

Mpox

- The **United States (US)**: Virginia is experiencing a resurgence of mpox infections in 2024, matching the total cases recorded in 2023 (Latin Time, 2024). The Virginia Department of Health reported 12 cases so far, indicating a worrying expansion of the outbreak. The Department of Health's surveillance and research division warns that the public may underestimate the risk of a resurgence when cases decline, leading to sporadic but continuous transmission of the virus. Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, can affect anyone and can spread through contact with contaminated objects. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- The **United States (US)**: A whooping cough outbreak has affected southern Marin, including Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley (Brenner, K., 2024). The Marin public health division reported 93 cases since mid-December, with 65 at the high school. Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable bacterial respiratory infection that spreads through droplets in the air. Symptoms can start like a common cold, and infected people develop a severe cough lasting weeks or months. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Anthrax

- **Lao PDR**: Ministry of Health has urged local authorities to be alert after 54 anthrax cases were reported in two districts in the southern Champasak province (Xinhua, 2024). High-risk areas will be zoned off, and some abattoirs have been banned from slaughtering cattle and buffalo. Livestock owners are advised to closely monitor their animals for anthrax symptoms, and local authorities are tasked with disinfecting affected areas. The district agricultural department has also issued a notice urging not to trade animals or animal products outside the district. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Indonesia**: In March 2024, 16 people died from dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) in Banten Province, an increase from the previous month (Muntaha, 2024). The cases were spread across various districts and cities, with Serang City being the most affected. The total number of cases in Banten Province reached 3,801, with 131 cases in Serang Regency, 629 in Pandeglang, 1517 in Tangerang, and 949 in Lebak. [[Full article](#)]



- **Indonesia:** The Sleman District Health Office reported an increase in DHF cases in March 2024, with one death and 70 cases in Sleman District (Fitrat, 2024). [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **Indonesia:** Leptospirosis cases in Tulungagung have increased over the last two years, with one case in 2024 resulting in the death of the patient (Ajttv.com, 2024). Clinical symptoms include high fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, dry cough, red eyes, yellow skin, and nausea. Hotspots for leptospirosis cases are in Sendang, Gondang, Ngunut, and Sumbergempol sub-districts. The Tulungagung Livestock Office is coordinating with the Animal Husbandry Office to handle infected animals. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **The Philippines:** The Department of Health in Central Visayas has warned the public about the increasing number of pertussis cases, which have already killed six infants (Saavedra, J., 2024). There are 42 confirmed cases and 115 suspected cases. The Head of the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, advised public to observe good respiratory hygiene, avoid close contact with infected persons, and ensure family members are up-to-date on pertussis vaccinations. [[Full article](#)]

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