

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

### ASEAN REGION

May 25 - 27, 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 January 2024.

### Global Situation

#### COVID-19

- **Bangladesh** reported 16 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 368 samples tested, a 4.35% positivity rate (Observer Online Report, 2024). The country's total fatalities remained at 29,495, with 2,050,367 cases and 2,017,816 recoveries. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **New Zealand** is experiencing its highest peak in COVID-19 cases since December 2022, with 6,146 new cases reported and 19 deaths last week (News, 2024). The data comes from wastewater testing, and hospitalizations have also increased. One in three people are still contagious five days after testing positive for the virus. [\[Full article\]](#)

#### Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Nineteen more people were hospitalized with dengue in Dhaka in 24 hours, with 134 currently receiving treatment (UNB, 2024). Since January 1, 2024, 2,745 cases have been reported, with September being the deadliest month with 396 fatalities and 79,598 cases. Last year, 1,705 people lost their lives due to dengue. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Nepal:** Reported dengue cases are on the rise, total of 904 dengue cases have been detected across 57 districts, according to the Chief of the Vector Control Section at the Ministry of Health and Population (Khabarhub, 2024). The risk has increased due to people collecting rainwater, breeding grounds for mosquitoes. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Sri Lanka:** Dengue cases in Sri Lanka are increasing, particularly in Colombo, Gampaha, Ratnapura, Nuwara Eliya, Kalutara, Kandy, Galle, Kurunegala, and Kegalle districts (First, N., 2024). As of now, there have been 24,323 reported dengue cases in Sri Lanka this year. The Colombo district has reported the highest number of cases. Nine deaths have been attributed to dengue. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Measles

- **Australia:** The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has reported a rise in measles cases from returning travelers, with 35 cases recorded this year, the latest in Sydney (Schultz, A., 2024). Thirty-five cases of measles have been recorded across the country this year, compared with 26 last year. The latest case, confirmed in south-western Sydney on Tuesday, was detected in a child who had recently returned from the Middle East. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Pakistan:** Three children in a family died in Khairpur due to measles, while four were in critical condition (News Desk, 2024). Nearly 200 children are affected, with severe shortages of medicines and poor sanitation. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Spain:** Tenerife has been declared a health warning due to a measles outbreak. Four people have been affected, including a young girl who has not been vaccinated (Boneham, I., 2024). The outbreak has the potential to spread rapidly. The Directorate General of Public Health has monitored over 400 contacts to ensure vaccination status and inform affected individuals of necessary measures. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Pertussis

- **Italy:** A whooping cough epidemic is affecting newborns in Italy, with an alarming increase in cases and hospitalizations (Tp24.it, 2024). Between January and May 2024, over 110 newborns were hospitalized, including 15 in intensive care. The Italian Society of Pediatrics has raised the alarm, with the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) estimating that in 2023, around 60,000 cases of whooping cough were in Europe. The most affected regions are Campania, Sicily, and Lazio. The disease is caused by Bordetella pertussis and is highly contagious. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Poliomyelitis

- **Pakistan** has confirmed its third polio case of the year, raising concerns about the disease's prevalence (Ani, 2024). The latest victim, a 12-year-old girl from Kili Malak Haqdad, succumbed to the disease after experiencing fever, pain, and vomiting. Genetic sequencing revealed the virus's presence in the affected region, causing despair over efforts to contain its spread. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Regional Situation

### COVID-19

- **Singapore's** Minister for Health, has reported an increase in COVID-19 hospitalisations to around 280 (Abdullah, Z., 2024). To make vaccinations more convenient, mobile teams will be deployed at selected heartland locations until June 28. He urged residents, particularly seniors, to protect themselves by wearing masks or getting an additional dose of the vaccine. This comes amid a surge in COVID-19 infections due to the KP.1 and KP.2 sub-variants. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) is endemic in Sanggau District, with 179 cases reported as of May 25, 2024 (Indra, 2024). Three children in the district died due to the virus attack. The most infected children aged 5-14 years were found in Kapuas, Mukok, and Parindu districts. Sanggau District has been stratified as a dengue endemic area, with 12 other sub-districts still having sporadic status. The most confirmed cases occurred in Kapuas District. [\[Full article\]](#)

In Lampung, The Lampung Provincial Health Service reported a total of 4,151 DHF cases in the province between January and April 2024 (Sunaryo, 2024). The highest number of cases was in North Lampung District, with 822 cases. The increase in cases is expected to continue in various provinces due to the even transition of seasons. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Leptospirosis

- **Indonesia:** Leptospirosis cases in Sleman District are on the rise, with 19 cases reported and three deaths (Kurniawan & Junianto, 2024). The disease is linked to environmental cleanliness, with rat urine containing *Leptospira* bacteria being a common cause. The risk of leptospirosis is significant during the transition from the rainy season to the dry season, with the potential for disease spread being enormous. [\[Full article\]](#)

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