

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

February 27 – 28, 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 83 more COVID-19 cases in February 26, 2024, with 1,327 samples tested, a 6.25% positivity rate (The Daily Observer, 2024) . The country's total deaths remained at 29,489, with 2,048,360 cases and 2,015,370 recoveries. The first case occurred on March 8, 2020. [[Full article](#)]
- **China** has experienced a significant increase in COVID-19 and influenza-related hospitalizations and deaths following the Chinese New Year holiday. Health officials in Beijing have admitted to a resurgence of the COVID-19 epidemic, with residents reporting a surge in infections and an uptick in deaths during the holiday week. The Beijing Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that respiratory infectious diseases in Beijing are currently caused by both influenza and COVID-19. The main circulating strain causing infections is the JN.1 variant, with a COVID-19 positivity rate in hospitals of 21.1% in the past week. The COVID-19 positivity rate in Beijing has risen from 6.4% before the holiday to a higher rate in just two weeks. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US)**: Michigan has reported over 40,000 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, reaching 40,044 since the pandemic began in March 2020 (Bridge Staff, 2024). The state reported 3,071 new cases, down 7% from the previous week. The state's 164 hospitals reported 542 confirmed COVID-19 patients, down from 566 reported a week earlier. Experts suggest that state-confirmed cases may be a vast undercount due to people no longer testing or relying on home tests. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United Kingdom (UK)**: The CDC has updated its primary surveillance metrics to focus on hospital admission rates and COVID-19 deaths among all deaths (Lauren Desena, 2024). As of February 17, 2024, 253 new hospital admissions were made, with a -20.4% change from the previous week. The daily hospitalization summary for Suffolk County showed 115 individuals hospitalized, with 59% due to COVID-19 or COVID-19 complications. The county has reported 5,256 deaths since March 2020, an increase of one since the last report. Vaccination information is available at local pharmacies, health care providers offices, or federally qualified health centers. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Mauritius** has 494 active dengue cases, while Rodrigues has 361 (Defimedia, 2024). Since December 11, 2023, over 1,700 cases have been recorded, with two deaths linked to dengue fever, as per the Ministry of Health's data. [[Full article](#)]



Measles

- **Austria:** Tyrol has reported 59 confirmed cases of measles this year, with most of them are recovering and no longer contagious (Die Presse 2024). Four people were initially considered sick and contagious. Visitors should check vaccination status, monitor health, and contact a doctor if ill. Two MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccinations offer the most effective protection against measles. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Greece:** The National Public Health Organization reports eight confirmed cases of measles in Greece, with the probability of other cases being high (Prokopi D, 2024). The increase in measles cases in Europe is alarming, with over 30,000 cases reported in 40 of the 53 member states during January-October 2023. The resurgence of measles is largely attributed to the decline in vaccination coverage in European countries during the period 2020-2022, with over 1.8 million children missing the opportunity to be vaccinated. The National Immunization Committee recommends immediate vaccination for children, adolescents, and adults, with two doses given at 24-36 months. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Taiwan:** Taipei City has confirmed a new confirmed case of measles, involving a non-national male in his 20s who has not been vaccinated (Weirong, 2024). The case entered the country from Malaysia on February 20 and was notified after seeking medical treatment on February 22. The Taipei City Health Bureau reported 330 contacts, including 1 traveler, 29 aircraft contacts, 291 medical contacts, and 9 other contacts. The case took a flight to Taipei and took the Taoyuan Airport MRT from Terminal 1 to Station A1. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United States (US):** The measles outbreak has reached Central Florida, with a ninth case confirmed in Polk County (Bowen, 2024). The patient, aged 20-24, is the first Florida adult to be infected this year. The outbreak is causing concern as the number of cases reported in the first two months of 2024 already accounts for over half of the total number reported last year. The virus is extremely contagious, with unvaccinated people having a 90% chance of being infected. The Florida Surgeon General veered away from a 21-day quarantine recommendation, leaving it up to parents to decide. [\[Full article\]](#)

Nipah

- **Bangladesh:** From January 1 to February 9, 2024, two laboratory-confirmed cases of Nipah virus infection have been reported from the Dhaka division of Bangladesh (WHO, 2024). Both cases are unlinked, the first patient is a 38-year-old male from Manikganj district and the second patient is a three-year-old female from Shariatpur district. Both cases have died. WHO assesses the overall risk at the national levels to be moderate. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

COVID-19

- **Malaysia:** Perak recorded 9,014 COVID-19 cases from January 2023 to December 2023, a decrease of 91.8% compared to the previous year (Bunyan J, 2024). The state Health Department has been working to increase public awareness through social media and vaccination campaigns. From mid-November 2023 to January 15, 2024, 60 infographics and five videos were shared on the JKN and District Health Offices' Facebook site. Approximately 80% of people in Perak received the first dose of vaccine until January 30, and 79.1% received their second dose. Perak recorded 60 deaths due to COVID-19 in 2023, compared to 719 in the previous year. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** High humidity during the end of the rainy season and transition has increased the growth and spread of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, increasing the risk of dengue hemorrhagic fever infection (Arif, A., 2024). The Indonesian Medical Association, stated that there has been a tendency for cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) to increase in the past month. From January to mid-February 2024, the number of dengue fever cases was 10,665 cases with an infection rate (IR) of 3.81 per 100,000 with a death rate of 89 cases. The five districts or cities that have the highest dengue cases in succession are Kendari, Kutai Kartanegara, Bogor City, Subang and West Bandung. [[Full article](#)]

Banyuwangi has been declared an outbreak area for dengue fever, with an increase in cases since November 2023 (Hujaini, 2024). Acting Head of the Banyuwangi District Health Office reported that the number of cases has risen significantly, with the highest incidence in Srono Sub-district and Bangorejo Sub-district. In February, there were 35 cases and two deaths, with the highest incidence in the Srono Sub-district, including the outbreak. The disease has caused significant health issues, with the highest number of cases recorded in December 2023. [[Full article](#)]

- **Lao PDR:** The Lao Ministry of Health has called on local authorities and the public to be vigilant in controlling the spread of dengue fever, which has reached 1,118 cases since January 2024, including two deaths, according to a report by the Center of Information and Education for Health (Xinhua, 2024). The ministry has instructed everyone to engage in mosquito eradication, stating that this requires the support of all sectors of society and should be the responsibility of every household. [[Full article](#)]
- **Malaysia:** Dengue fever cases in Malaysia have decreased to 3,483 in the 7th epidemiological week from February 11 to 17, with four deaths due to complications (Bernama, 2024). The cumulative number of cases up to 7th epidemiological week was 25,541, compared to 15,243 in the previous week. The number of hotspot localities reported has also decreased to 185. [[Full article](#)]



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