

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

January 27 – 29, 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 35 COVID-19 positive cases and zero deaths, with a total of 29,481 deaths and 2,046,998 confirmed cases (BSS, 2024). The recovery count rose to 2,014,360, with 98.41% of COVID-19 patients recovering from the pandemic, while 1.44% died. [[Full article](#)]
- **Japan:** The ministry of Health reported 60,268 new COVID-19 cases for the week ending January 21, marking the ninth consecutive seven-day increase (Fujitani, 2024). The number of cases per institution increased by 1.36 times from the previous week, with hospitalized patients doubling from the end of last year. The highest number of cases was 18.99 in Fukushima, followed by Ibaraki and Aichi. [[Full article](#)]

#### Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has admitted 22 new dengue patients daily, increasing the number of infections since January to 981 (Desk N, 2024). The death toll remains at 14, with Dhaka accounting for 50 of the 135 patients undergoing treatment. The outbreak, which began in 2023, is attributed to rising temperatures and inadequate mosquito control measures. Experts predict dengue may continue to affect Bangladesh throughout the year. [[Full article](#)]
- **India:** In 2023, the number of dengue patients in six districts of East Vidarbha increased four times compared to 2022, with most cases from Nagpur municipal limits (TLN Team, 2024). The Pune office of the Public Health Department reported 5,527 suspected cases in 2022, with 2,365 diagnosed in 2023. [[Full article](#)]



## Measles

- **Australia:** Two new measles cases have been recorded in Victoria, with the public urged to look out for symptoms (Theocharous, 2024). The illness starts with cold-like symptoms such as a cough, fever, and runny nose, then develops into a rash on the face and spreads down the body. Symptoms will develop within seven to 18 days after being exposed to the illness. Victoria's Acting Chief Health Officer said people can be administered the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine within 72 hours of exposure to measles to prevent infection. If not, people should monitor for symptoms and seek medical attention if any symptoms develop. Measles is highly contagious and can be spread through airborne droplets and contact with an infected person's saliva or "nose secretions". [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Ethiopia:** A measles outbreak has killed 13 people in 5 Weredas of Hadiya Zone, Central Ethiopia Region (Staff Reporter, 2024). The outbreak, which began two months ago, has exposed the local community to severe stress, social and economic problems. Over 200 people have been diagnosed with measles, and over 80 are being treated at the ICU level. The primary cause of the disease is failing to have vaccinated children when they should have been. The outbreak has spread due to responses from the Weredas, who did not accept the latest news about the worsening problem. The Zone has asked for support from various bodies, but no confirmation has been received. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Pakistan:** Three children in the Sindh district of Kashmore have died from measles, with families claiming that health department teams did not vaccinate them (Desk, 2024). The Sindh health department is seen as lacking in action due to the increasing number of infections and deaths in the area. Measles is a highly virulent infection, with 1 to 3 of every 1,000 children likely to die from respiratory and neurological complications. Vaccination is the only safety measure against measles. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a surge in measles cases in the US, with 23 confirmed cases between December 1, 2023 and January 23, 2024 (Jingjing, 2024). The majority were among children and adolescents who had not received a measles-containing vaccine. The CDC believes this rise in cases is a reflection of a growing global threat from the disease. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Nipah

- **Bangladesh:** Two deaths have been reported due to Nipah virus in Manta and Ghosta villages of Manikganj Sadar upazila (Rahman, 2024). A man fell ill after consuming raw juices of date and died while undergoing treatment at Dhanmondi Popular Hospital in Dhaka and a woman also died at the same hospital on January 16 after consuming date juice. [[Full article](#)]

## Pertussis

- **Maldives:** A new case of pertussis has been discovered on Villingili island, a Maldives island (Zalif, 2024). The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has confirmed that the case is unrelated to previous cases. The authorities have collaborated with Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital and Gaaf Alif Atoll Hospital to identify and test contacts with symptoms. Four cases of whooping cough have been detected, with 161 identified contacts, 23 of whom have exhibited symptoms. 17 individuals have been tested, and 27 have received prophylaxis and medication. [[Full article](#)]

## Regional Situation

### COVID-19

- **Cambodia:** The Ministry of Health reported two new COVID-19 cases in Cambodia, bringing the total to 139,082, with no deaths reported (Tharith, 2024). The country has recovered 136,007 patients nationwide, with over 15.3 million doses of vaccines administered. The Ministry of Health is accelerating the inoculation of the sixth dose among citizens, as the country has already recorded COVID-19 infections with Omicron BA.4, BA.5 sub-variants, and JN.1 variant. [[Full article](#)]

### Dengue

- **Indonesia:** As the transitions to the rainy season, Pandeglang District, Banten Province, has seen an increase in Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases (Prasetia Moch.M, 2024). The Pandeglang District Health Office is concerned about this situation, as the number of cases has risen significantly in the last two years, reaching 531 cases in 2023. The majority of patients affected by DHF are children under five, while 42 are over 18 years old or adults. To combat the spread of DHF, efforts include Mosquito Nest Eradication and distributing 36 fogging equipment to 36 Public Health Centers. The public is encouraged to use the method, such as close water reservoirs, drain them, and monitor larvae regularly. [[Full article](#)]

### H5N1

- **Cambodia:** A three-year-old boy in Cambodia's southeast Prey Veng province has been confirmed for H5N1 human avian influenza, the first case in the Southeast Asian nation this year (VNA, 2024). The boy is receiving intensive care and is receiving anti-virus drug to prevent the bird flu from spreading. The Ministry of Health is investigating the source of the infection and examining suspected cases to prevent an outbreak. Since 2003, Cambodia has reported 63 cases of H5N1 influenza in humans. [[Full article](#)]



## Rabies

- Malaysia:** A woman and two men have died from rabies in Sarawak, bringing the total deaths to 71 out of 78 human cases since the outbreak was declared in July 2017 (Ling, 2024). The victims were bitten by stray dogs and cats, and did not receive treatment or anti-rabies vaccination. Of the cumulative 78 human cases in the state, 38 were caused by pet dogs, 20 from stray dogs, five from pet cats, and one from a stray cat. The cause of rabies in the remaining 14 cases is unknown. The state Health Department director advised the public to seek immediate treatment if bitten or scratched and advised against rabies prevention through the anti-rabies vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin jab. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Reference

- BSS (2024) Bangladesh reports Zero covid-19 death, 35 positive cases: News, BSS. Available at: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/170459> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Desk, N. (2024) Bangladesh registers 22 dengue cases, no deaths in a day, *bdnews24.com*. Available at: <https://bdnews24.com/health/acllttgw5j> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Desk, W. (2024) Three children die of measles in Kashmore, *ARY NEWS*. Available at: <https://arynews.tv/three-children-die-measles-kashmore/> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Fujitani, K. (2024) Covid-19 cases in Japan increase for the ninth consecutive week: *The Asahi Shimbun: Breaking News, Japan news and analysis, The Asahi Shimbun*. Available at: <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/15133765> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Jingjing, T. (2024) U.S. CDC warns of rising measles cases, *The Star*. Available at: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/world/2024/01/27/us-cdc-warns-of-rising-measles-cases> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Ling, S. (2024) Three more rabies deaths in Sarawak, *The Star*. Available at: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2024/01/27/three-more-rabies-deaths-in-sarawak> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Praselia, Moch.M. (2024) Awal Tahun 2024, Demam Berdarah di Kabupaten Pandeglang capai 172 kasus, *radarbanten.co.id*. Available at: <https://www.radarbanten.co.id/2024/01/27/awal-tahun-2024-demam-berdarah-di-kabupaten-pandeglang-capai-172-kasus/> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Rahman, M. (2024) Nipah virus claims life in Manikganj, *Dhaka Tribune*. Available at: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/338004/nipah-virus-claims-two-lives-in-manikganj> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Staff Reporter. (2024) 13 people die from measles in Hadiya Zone, central Ethiopia Region, *Borkena Ethiopian News*. Available at: <https://borkena.com/2024/01/26/ethiopia-hadya-13-people-die-from-measles-in-hadiya-zone-central-region/> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Tharith (2024) Top news: Cambodia reports 2 new Covid19 cases; 1 recovered; 0 died, *FRESH NEWS*. Available at: <https://en.freshnewsasia.com/index.php/en/localnews/45263-2024-01-28-05-27-40.html> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Theocharous, M. (2024) Two new measles cases in Victoria, public urged to be alert, *Measles cases locations*. Available at: <https://www.9news.com.au/national/two-new-measles-cases-in-victoria-public-urged-to-look-out-for-symptoms/0408e2ee-780a-483f-b75e-e78282296648> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- TLN Team. (2024) Four times increase in dengue patients in east vidarbha, *The Live Nagpur*. Available at: <https://thelivenagpur.com/2024/01/27/four-times-increase-in-dengue-patients-in-east-vidarbha/> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- VNA (2024) Cambodia Records first case of bird flu in humans in 2024, *Báo Bình Dương Online*. Available at: <https://baobinhduong.vn/en/cambodia-records-first-case-of-bird-flu-in-humans-in-2024-a315255.html> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).
- Zalif, Z. (2024) Another case of whooping cough surfaces in Ga.. villingili, *Raajje.mv Connecting dots*. Available at: <https://raajje.mv/148809> (Accessed: 29 January 2024).