

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

### ASEAN REGION

April 02 – 03, 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 18 COVID-19 cases in April 1, increasing its total caseload to 2,049,560 (Daily Bangladesh, 2024). The official death toll remained at 29,493, with a daily positivity rate of 5.26%. Recovery count increased to 2,016,914, with recovery and death rates at 98.4% and 1.44%, respectively. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Nepal:** A growing number of patients with COVID-19 infection symptoms have been reported in Nepal within a week, with 28 cases detected last week (Samiti, 2024). The new variant of COVID-19 virus, JN.1, has also started to emerge in Nepal. People who have not received the vaccine, chronic patients, and senior citizens remain at risk. Director at Teku-based Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Diseases Hospital, reported that three COVID-19 patients were receiving treatment in the ICU. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United States (US):** Michigan reported 1,463 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases, down 18% from the previous week, with 36 additional deaths (Bridge Staff, 2024). The number of confirmed hospital patients fell to 247, with experts predicting a significant undercount due to people not testing or relying on home tests. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** In February and March, COVID-19 and dengue cases decreased by 16% and 62% respectively (Online Desk, 2024). However, dengue cases increased by two more deaths in March. The Department of Health reported 14 dengue patients admitted to hospitals, with no deaths. This year, there were 1,719 admitted patients and 22 deaths, with 63% male and 37% female, respectively. The disease killed equal numbers of men and women. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Kenya:** The health authorities have reported 71 dengue cases in Dagahaley refugee camp, Garissa county, with 43 confirmed and 28 suspected cases. No deaths have been reported (iO Foundation, 2024). The last reported outbreak was in 2022, with 2,359 cases and 2 deaths in Mandera and Mombasa counties. [\[Full article\]](#)



## H5N1

- The **United States (US)**: The second case of the highly pathogenic bird flu in the US was confirmed in Texas, where a dairy worker was exposed (Vickers, 2024). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the public health risk assessment for the H5N1 bird flu to be low. The spread of the virus is attributed to cattle movement across state lines, particularly from Texas, and temporary restrictions on cattle imports. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Measles

- **France**: The Regional Health Agency at Midi Libre confirmed 12 measles cases in Nîmes schools, with over ten confirmed cases among unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated children under 2 years of age under investigation in the municipality and surrounding area since March 19, 2024 (Boudet, 2024). Parents of students in Nîmes schools were notified of the situation. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US)**: The Cook County Department of Public Health has confirmed the first suburban Cook County measles case this year, involving a resident who was exposed during a shelter for new arrivals in Chicago (Riverside, 2024). The department is working to identify and notify those exposed, and is encouraging residents to stay updated with recommended vaccinations. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United Kingdom (UK)**: Measles outbreaks pose a global health risk, including in the UK (Hackett, 2024). The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) reported 868 laboratory-confirmed cases in England as of March 28, 2024, with 182 newly confirmed cases in the past four weeks. The West Midlands has the highest number of cases (34%), followed by London (33%). The UKHSA emphasizes the importance of MMR vaccination, as it can spread rapidly in communities with low vaccination rates. The U.S. CDC recommends all travelers be fully vaccinated against measles when traveling to any international destination. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Mpox

- The **United States (US)**: Mpox cases in the U.S. have nearly doubled in the past year, with 511 cases reported as of mid-March, compared to 287 cases in the same period last year (Benadjaoud, 2024). Mpox is rarely fatal and has milder symptoms compared to smallpox. The outbreak began in May 2022 and has since led to over 32,000 cases and 58 deaths. The administration declared a public health emergency in 2022, but vaccination uptake in high-risk groups has helped contain the outbreak. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Regional Situation

### COVID-19

- **The Philippines** COVID-19 situation has improved four years after the pandemic, with the average daily cases now less than 40 (Ombay, 2024). The country implemented a mass vaccination campaign and reported 251 new cases from February 27 to March 4, 2024, a 27% decrease from the previous year. The Philippines has moved past the worst of the pandemic, with only 115 (10%) ICU beds occupied and 1,119 (11%) dedicated non-ICU beds in use. Only 156 severe and critical cases were admitted to hospitals, and seven deaths were recorded. The Department of Health is prepared to handle another pandemic, citing lessons learned from COVID-19. The Philippines lifted the State of Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19 in July 2021. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) remains a significant issue in Indonesia. Until the 12th week of this year, 350 people had died from dengue fever with 46,168 cases so far (Sofyandari, 2024). Director of Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, Ministry of Health, suggests high cases may be due to a low mosquito nest eradication program. Bandung and Subang are identified as high cases due to high Aedes mosquitos populations. [\[Full article\]](#)

The Klaten District Health Office in Central Java has reported 204 cases of DHF and 14 deaths since the beginning of the year (Newswire, 2024). The majority of the deceased patients were under 7 years old. The cause of death was attributed to a decrease in platelets during the 4th and 5th days of fever. The health service has appealed to the public to seek medical attention if the fever persists for more than three days. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Leptospirosis

- **Indonesia:** Around 10 people in Semarang City were infected with mild leptospirosis after a flood, according to the Head of Semarang City Health Office (Qudstia, F.I., 2024). The Head of City Health Office, requested screening for dengue fever and leptospirosis in five sub-districts, including Gayamsari, Pedurungan, North Semarang, Genuk, and West Semarang. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Pertussis

- **Philippines:** Mandaue City Health Office recorded five cases and two deaths of pertussis, primarily affecting infants (Sagarino, 2024). City Councilor Mandaue encourages parents to get their children vaccinated for Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (DTP3) to prevent infection. The health office is conducting catch-up vaccinations for those who missed the recommended age. Vaccines can be obtained from the Department of Health at Brgy. Centro. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Rabies

- **Indonesia:** A 43-year-old woman from Tanakepi Hamlet in Tanarawa Village, Waiblama District, died from rabies (Gomez, 2024). She was referred to TC Hillers Maumere Regional Hospital, where she experienced fever, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting. She had a history of dog bites, having had her own pet puppy. The puppy died three days later, and she had been experiencing symptoms since puppy congestion. She had three puppies, two of which died suddenly, and one was vaccinated and healthy. The rabies outbreak in Sikka District has been declared as an outbreak since March 17, 2024. She is the second death victim after the outbreak was determined, and a Palue resident died, also suspected of having rabies symptoms. Throughout 2024, four residents of Sikka District have died due to rabies. [[Full article](#)]
- The **Philippines:** From January 1 to March 16, 2024, the Department of Health (DOH) reported 84 rabies cases resulting in deaths (Locus & Ombay, 2024). Health Undersecretary is coordinating with the Department of Agriculture (DA) to address the reported rabies infection among cattle in Marinduque. Authorities have placed Boac and Buenavista in Marinduque under a state of emergency due to the high number of cases. Rabid dogs have also bitten six pigs, three cows, and a Philippine brown deer. Health Undersecretary advises patients bitten by rabid animals to immediately wash the bite area with soap and water. [[Full article](#)]

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