

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

January 30 – 31, 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** has reported one death and 57 new cases of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, with a total fatality of 29,482 and 20 COVID-19 cases (Health Desk, 2024). The country has tested 935 samples, with a positivity rate of 6.10%, and 423,598 recoveries. [[Full article](#)]
- **Russia:** From January 22 to 28, COVID-19 incidence in Russia decreased by 4.1%, with 111 deaths reported (Interfax.ru, 2024). The incidence rate per 100,000 population was 16.5, with an increase in cases in 22 Russian Federation entities, including seven regions more than the national average. Hospitalizations totaled 2,924, down 10% from the previous week. In Moscow, 6,505 people were infected, with 585 hospitalized and 18 deaths. The number of cases increased by 28.4% from January 15 to 21. [[Full article](#)]
- **Taiwan (Province of China):** The domestic COVID-19 epidemic is at its peak, with 64 new deaths in a single week from January 23 to 29 (Zhengwei, 2024). The proportion of local JN.1 virus strain has increased to 52%, surpassing EG.5, becoming the mainstream virus strain in China. The Department of Disease Control and Prevention's deputy director stated that the current national vaccination rate reaches 6.23%, with the elderly over 65 years old reaching 14.77%. The majority of virus strains detected overseas are JN.1, accounting for 78%. The number of confirmed local cases and deaths has reached a new high in the past five months, with 90% of death cases being elderly people over 65 years old. [[Full article](#)]

#### Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** In the last 24 hours, 15 people have been hospitalized due to dengue in the country, with 35 people admitted this year (Reporter O, 2024). No deaths have been reported, and 14 people have died. Currently, \_\_\_\_\_; patients have been admitted, with 36 in Dhaka and 83 in other hospitals. [[Full article](#)]
- **Mauritius:** Dengue cases have reached 105 in Port Louis and its vicinity, with 70 active cases in the region (Jones A, 2024). The Minister of Health and Wellness highlighted the disease's effects and recommended hospitalization for one week. Precautionary measures include eliminating still water, mowing grasses, and ensuring a clean environment. Climate conditions are promoting mosquito propagation, and fogging exercises and sensitization campaigns are being carried out. Over 50% of cases are asymptomatic, with children and the elderly being more vulnerable. [[Full article](#)]



## Malaria

- **Pakistan:** A report by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department shows a 300% increase in malaria cases in 2023, with over 500,000 people expected to be infected (Daily Times, 2024). The highest number of cases is reported in Shangla district, followed by D.I. Khan. The abnormal spike is attributed to prolonged rains and floods, which provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Around two million nets have been distributed to protect people. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Measles

- **Kazakhstan:** Measles incidence in North Kazakhstan has surged, with 333 confirmed cases registered in January, with 241 reported in January and 92 in the previous year (Zhukoven O, 2024). The most cases are in Petropavlovsk, with districts like Yesilsky, Kyzylzharsky, Akkaiynsky, Magzhan Zhumabaev, Mamlyutsky, Ayrtausky, and Zhambyl experiencing an increase. 18,925 people received the vaccine during mass immunization. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Russia:** Measles cases in Belarus have increased significantly since the end of 2023, with a total of about a hundred confirmed cases in the capital (Paper N, 2024). The rise in cases began in November and December, with ten cases detected in Minsk in January 2024. The cause of some infectious diseases is returning to their pre-covid period niche. A case of measles was confirmed in the Lida region, with 15 suspected cases. In December, 160 confirmed cases of measles were registered in Belarus. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United Kingdom (UK):** The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reported 347 laboratory confirmed measles cases in England since October 2023, with 75% in the West Midlands, 13% in London, and 7% in Yorkshire and The Humber (Agency U.H.S, 2024). The majority are in children under 10 and 24% in young people and adults over 15. UKHSA Consultant Epidemiologist, warns that the outbreak is concerning due to falling measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine coverage, with one out of ten children starting school unprotected. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Mpox

- **Australia:** Victoria has recorded its first mpox case in six months, indicating local transmission (Sciberras A, 2024). The disease, caused by a virus endemic to a few African countries before a global outbreak in May 2022, predominantly affects men who have sex with men. The state recorded 70 cases of mpox in 2022, but with the mpox vaccination program, that number fell to eight in 2023. Acting Chief Health Officer advised people to stay home, restrict contact with others, and book an appointment with their general practitioner or nearest sexual health service if they develop symptoms. The mpox vaccine is free and available through over 250 providers across Victoria. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Italy:** New cases of mpox have been confirmed in the Florence area, with 11 confirmed cases, all male, and likely contracted through promiscuous sexuality (Artiaco I, 2024). The infection is transmitted through close contact, especially sexual, and can also occur through clothing. The cases emerged in the second half of January, with seven from various provinces in the region being involved in a nightclub in the Florence hinterland on New Year's Eve. The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control and the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 138 cases in Europe between mid-December and mid-January, with Spain leading with 68 cases. Since the start of the epidemic in spring 2022, 26,703 cases have been diagnosed in Europe. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Pertussis

- **Russia:** Whooping cough is beginning to cause serious concern, with cases overwhelmingly in the age category of 18 to 35 years (Shabalina L, 2024). The disease is especially difficult for young children and has spread due to anti-vaccination parents. In January 2024, 25 cases of whooping cough were recorded in Togliatti, with 16 people in contact with whooping cough patients. The chief physician of the Central District Hospital, appealed to parents of young children not to avoid vaccinations against serious infectious diseases, as the disease itself brings more serious consequences than imaginary side effects. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Zika

- The **United States (US):** The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) reported 89 confirmed zika cases in 89 countries, despite a global reduction since 2017 (Hackett K.M, 2024). In 2023, the PAHO reported 35,549 cases, with Brazil leading with 33,863 cases. Pregnant women are particularly susceptible to zika infections, which can lead to congenital malformations and preterm births. No specific antiviral treatment or vaccine candidate has been approved for zika in 2024. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Regional Situation

### COVID-19

- **Cambodia** has reported one new COVID-19 case, increasing its total to 139,083, with no deaths reported (Chivorn, 2024). Over 15.3 million doses of vaccines have been administered, with over 10 million shots for people aged 18 and above. The country is accelerating the sixth dose among citizens. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Indonesia:** Three South Sumatra residents died from COVID-19 last week, with four more confirmed cases (Pahlevi, 2024). The deaths were attributed to comorbidities. The South Sumatra Health Office reported that there are currently 28 active cases, with 24 people isolating at home. Currently, 84.5% of South Sumatra residents have received vaccinations. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) has caused 74 cases in Banyuasin District, with four deaths (Ismail A, 2024). Head of the Banyuasin District Health Office said the most cases occurred in Talang Kelapa Sub-district, with 59 cases and one death. The number of cases in Banyuasin has declined from 220 in 2022 to 154 in 2023. Head of the Banyuasin District Health Office suggested preventive measures, such as breaking the transmission chain and increasing family involvement in larvae monitoring and eradication. Government of Banyuasin called for cooperation to reduce dengue fever transmission and promote a clean and healthy lifestyle. [\[Full article\]](#)



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