

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

30 – 31 May, 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

#### Avian Influenza (H5N1)

- **The United States (US):** Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has reported an additional case of influenza A (H5) in a farmworker who worked with H5 positive cows (Wuth, 2024). The CDC emphasizes that the public's risk remains low, and the worker is recovering from respiratory symptoms. The state and local public health are monitoring for potential human cases, which can occur sporadically in individuals with close contact to infected animals. Michigan has led a swift public health response, with farmworkers reporting even mild symptoms and testing for the virus available. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is working closely with federal, state, and local partners to address human and animal health. MDHHS recommends seasonal flu vaccination for people working on poultry or dairy farms. [[Full article](#)]

#### COVID-19

- **Bangladesh** reported 26 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 560 samples tested, a 4.64% positivity rate (The Daily Observer, 2024). The country's total fatalities remained at 29,495, with 2,050,455 cases and 2,017,869 recoveries. The first case was on March 8, 2020. [[Full article](#)]
- **South Australia (SA)** has reported 1,906 new COVID-19 cases in the past week, with no new deaths notified to the Department for Health and Wellbeing (Mirage News, 2024). The total number of cases has been readjusted due to a reconfiguration of data. In the past week, 5,128 people received a PCR test, a 7% increase from the previous week. SA Health encourages everyone to stay updated with vaccinations and to have a plan with their general practitioner for PCR testing and antiviral treatments if symptoms develop. [[Full article](#)]

#### Measles

- **Pakistan:** A measles outbreak has affected 13 children in Burewala, who were admitted to Tehsil headquarters hospital (Ali, 2024). The Medical Superintendent urged parents to ensure their children receive the measles vaccine and bring them to the hospital for prompt treatment. [[Full article](#)]



- The **United States (US)**: Tulare County has confirmed the first adult case of measles in 2024, involving an international traveler (Houghton, 2024). Public Health officials are working to identify potential exposures, determine vaccination status, and assess the risk of spreading the disease. Those not infected or not vaccinated are at risk. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Mpox

- **Australia**: Contact tracing is ongoing in Queensland after eight cases of mpox were recorded in May, marking the state's biggest cluster (Barton, 2024). The virus spreads through close contact with skin lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets, or contaminated objects. High-risk groups, such as sex workers, are eligible for free vaccines. Mpox was first reported in Australia in May 2022 and was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organisation. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US)**: Allegheny County has seen an increase in Mpox cases, a painful rash, enlarged lymph nodes, and fever (Rash, 2024). The county has 11 confirmed cases this year, with 10 reported in April. The two-dose vaccine helped curb cases, but it is crucial to ensure high-risk populations have the standard two-dose regimen. The disease primarily spreads between men having sex, with symptoms including rash, fever, chills, and headache. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Pertussis

- The **United States (US)**: Pertussis cases in Buncombe County and Henderson County are increasing, with five confirmed cases since late April (Sams, 2024). All affected individuals are children, and there is no direct connection to outbreaks elsewhere in Western North Carolina. Henderson County has 117 cases as of May 29 but no hospitalizations. Buncombe County Health and Human Services staff work to identify and notify those exposed to the infection, with parents, guardians, and close contacts notified by letter or phone call. Vaccination remains the best defense against pertussis, which can spread quickly in schools, workplaces, and healthcare settings. Symptoms resemble those of a common cold, with runny nose, low-grade fever, and occasional mild cough. Most deaths from whooping cough are among infants too young to be fully vaccinated. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Regional Situation

### Dengue

- **Cambodia** experienced a nearly 3,000 increase in dengue fever cases in the first 20 weeks of 2024 compared to the same period last year (Seangly, 2024). However, a recognized vaccine against the disease remains unavailable in Cambodia. The National Dengue Control Program (NDCP) reported 5,695 cases in the first 20 weeks of 2024, with only 3% of them being serious. The disease is still considered under control, but vaccines are not yet available for official use. The NDCP predicts over 40,000 cases in 2024, with over 10,000 cases expected. The last major outbreaks occurred in 2012 and 2018. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Indonesia**: Three sub-districts in the West Bandung District region contributed the most cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) in 2024, with 369 cases reported in Cililin, 322 cases in Lembang, and 157 cases in Cipongkor (Kamaludin, 2024). Among them, 14 deaths were reported, 8 women and 6 men. In May 2024, dengue cases are expected to be lower than in the previous four months, with only 80 cases reported. [\[Full article\]](#)



- The **Philippines:** The Iloilo Provincial Health Office (IPHO) reported 1,003 dengue cases from January 1 to May 25, the highest in the region, a 69.1% increase from last year (Castor, 2024). Clustering of cases was observed in nine barangays, with Lambunao leading with 72 cases. Children and young adults are the most affected demographics, with the 1-10 year age group having the highest number of cases. The IPHO urges the public to follow the Department of Health's improved 5S strategy, including self-protection, early consultation, and support for indoor and outdoor fogging or spraying. The provincial government is set to launch a "Limpyo Iloilo for MoRProGRes" clean-up drive on May 31. [[Full article](#)]

### Pertussis

- The **Philippines:** Pertussis deaths in Central Luzon have increased significantly since the start of the year, with Pampanga, including Angeles City, reporting the highest number of deaths at four (Arcellaz, 2024). DOH-3 urges public to practice respiratory hygiene, wear masks, and get immunized. [[Full article](#)]

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