

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

April 4 – 5, 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

- **Australia:** South Australia (SA) reported 880 new COVID-19 cases and 23 deaths in the past week (Mirage News, 2024). The total number of cases has been readjusted due to data reconfiguration. In the past week, 2,775 people received a PCR test, a 19% decrease from the previous week. SA Health encourages everyone to be up to date with vaccinations and to have a plan with their GP for PCR testing and antiviral treatments if symptoms develop. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Bangladesh** reported 15 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 342 samples tested, a 5.39% positivity rate (The Daily Observer, 2024). The country's total fatalities remained at 29,493, with 2,049,595 cases and 2,016,984 recoveries. The first case was on March 8, 2020. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** Ohio reported a small decrease in new COVID-19 cases by fewer than 100 cases this week (Washington, J., 2024). Marked the seventh consecutive week of drop, from 2,291 to 2,224, with the last low being in late July and a year ago. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** In the last 24 hours, no one has died from dengue in the country, but 11 more people were admitted to hospitals (Pratidin, B., 2024). This year, 22 people have died due to dengue. In 24 hours, 15 patients were discharged from hospitals, bringing the total to 1,667 people infected. As of April 4, 1,100 men and 646 women have been infected. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Italy:** A female councilor in the municipality of Avio, Brazil, experienced severe symptoms after being bitten by a mosquito carrying the Dengue virus (Urso, 2024). Despite being positive, she was still in danger of death. The patient returned to Italy and was hospitalized at the S. Chiara hospital in Trento for five days. She is concerned about the high risk of Dengue arriving in Italy due to globalization. Experts advise using repellent products and mosquito nets, but in Valdirene's case, it was not enough. The infection usually resolves after two weeks but can lead to internal bleeding and even fatal consequences. To prevent further spread, she recommends blocking the reproduction of mosquitoes and checking swimming pools and fountains. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Sri Lanka** has reported over 20,000 dengue cases this year, with eight fatalities, according to the National Dengue Control Unit (Xinhua, 2024). The Western Province had the highest number, followed by the Northern Province. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **France:** *La Réunion*'s health agency has issued an alert due to a surge in leptospirosis cases, with 119 detected since January (FranceTV, 2024). 70% of affected individuals have been hospitalized, with 26% in intensive care and one death. Protective measures include gloves and antibiotic treatment. [[Full article](#)]

Malaria

- **Russia:** Doctors at the Naberezhnye Chelny Infectious Diseases Hospital in Russia successfully treated African Doreen of tropical malaria (Duty Editor, 2024). The girl, who had been in Russia for three days, was initially admitted with fever, nausea, and severe muscle pain. The disease typically appears within 14 days, but the girl had previously experienced it and had poor treatment with quinine. The hospital confirmed the diagnosis and stabilized Doreen's condition, allowing her to be discharged. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Australia:** A 17-year-old male in metropolitan Adelaide has been exposed to measles, and is currently in a stable condition in the hospital (The National Tribune, 2024). SA Health advises those not fully immunized to be alert for symptoms and seek medical attention if ill. Those exposed during specific times should contact their GP for post-exposure treatment. [[Full article](#)]
- **Canada:** Durham Region Health Department confirmed a measles case that flew into Canada through Pearson Airport. The patient contracted the disease while traveling abroad (McConnell, L., 2024) . The health department is investigating the patient's movement and potential exposure. The disease is highly contagious and poses risks to those unimmunized or with weakened immune systems. [[Full article](#)]
- **Germany:** In the first few months of 2024, more people in Germany have been infected with the measles virus than in previous years (Deutscher Ärzteverlag , 2024). 109 laboratory-confirmed infections have been recorded in a database from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI). Since 2020, the number of registered measles cases in Germany has been significantly lower, largely due to measures taken worldwide after the corona pandemic. The Standing Vaccination Commission (STIKO) has called for more measles vaccinations and laboratory diagnostics to contain the spread and avoid serious cases. [[Full article](#)]
- **Netherlands** has seen a surge in measles infections, with over 50 cases reported in the country (Redactie, 2024) . The Brabant-Zuidoost region is the hardest hit, with 43 cases. The last major epidemic occurred in 2013, with nearly 2,700 cases. Measles is highly contagious, with potential complications and higher risk for young children. [[Full article](#)]
- **Russia:** Since 2024, 61 measles cases have been confirmed in the Saratov region, with 36 in children (SaratovNews, 2024). The cases were found in Saratov, Pugachevsky, Engelssky, Ekaterinovsky, Balakovsky, Krasnokutsky, Sovetsky, and Novouzensky districts. [[Full article](#)]



Pertussis

- The **United States (US)**: A case of Whooping Cough, or pertussis, has been confirmed in a theater group at a High School in Fargo, North Dakota (Leier, J., 2024). The symptoms are coughing fits, prolonged coughing, and vomiting, and is preventable with vaccines. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia**: The number of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases in Seruyan District has decreased, but two deaths occurred between January and February 2024 (Haidi, 2024). The Seruyan Health Service Secretary, urges the public to remain alert and participate in the Mosquito Nest Eradication Movement. He also encourages a clean and healthy lifestyle to prevent further cases. [[Full article](#)]
- **Lao PDR**: Dengue cases in Laos reached 1,837 between January and March 2024, with three deaths (Xinhua, 2024). Health authorities are calling for people to clear mosquito breeding sites and increase public understanding of the disease's danger. Sekong province reported the highest number of cases, with 336 confirmed in Vientiane and 247 in Luang Namtha province. [[Full article](#)]
- **Malaysia**: Penang recorded 1,592 cases of dengue fever during the 13th Epidemiological Week, with two deaths (Bernama, 2024). The state Health Department reported that Timur Laut and Seberang Perai Selatan districts each had one fatality. Seberang Perai Tengah had the highest number of dengue outbreaks at 16. The state Health Department (JKNPP) advises public to take preventive measures. [[Full article](#)]

HFMD

- **Vietnam**: In Hanoi, hand, foot, and mouth disease cases have increased by 60-70 cases per week in the last two weeks, with three outbreaks in three preschools (Hanoimoi, 2024). In the first three months of 2024, the city recorded 300 cases, an increase of 75 compared to 2023. The country's Ministry of Health reported 6.7 thousand cases in the first quarter of 2024, more than twice the same period in 2023. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **Philippines**: Pertussis deaths in the Philippines have risen to 49, mainly children, with 862 cases recorded as of March 23 (BusinessWorld (2024)). The rise is like Europe's 553 cases in January 2024. Most affected individuals were under five years old, with two-thirds unvaccinated or unaware of their vaccination history. [[Full article](#)]
- **Vietnam**: The Hanoi Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported 32 cases of whooping cough in 16 districts and towns in the first three months of the year, compared to the same period last year (VNExpress, 2024). The number of pertussis cases continues to appear sporadically, mainly in young children who are not yet of vaccination age or have not been fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated nearly 72% of the cases are children under 3 months old. The Center for Tropical Diseases, National Children's Hospital, has received over 40 patients with the disease since the beginning of the year. Director of the Center for Tropical Diseases, said that normally children



before vaccination age often have immunity to prevent whooping cough from their mothers. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Philippines:** The Department of Health in the Philippines reported 89 rabies cases from January to March 2024, 2% lower than in 2023 (Sarao, Z., 2024). The majority were caused by dog bites, with five cat bites and two from other animals. Only one case was bitten by a fully vaccinated animal. No reported cases of livestock-to-human transmission were reported. [[Full article](#)]

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