

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

04 – 05 June, 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.

### Key Findings

- Pertussis has been increasing in several countries around the world such as Canada, People's Republic of China, Spain, The United Kingdom (UK), and The United States (US). However, the opposite trend has not been detected in the ASEAN Region between 4 and 5 June 2024.
- Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) has been detected both in global and in the ASEAN Region, US and Vietnam respectively.
- A new COVID-19 variant (KP) has been reported in The Philippines.

### Global Situation

#### COVID-19

- **New Zealand** has reported 6,142 new COVID-19 cases and one death in the past week, with Canterbury having the most active cases 738 (Rnz, 2024). The West Coast has the fewest new cases 17. [[Full article](#)]

#### Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** The Directorate General of Health Services reported 35 dengue patients hospitalized in the last 24 hours, with nine in Dhaka and others in other hospitals (BanglaNews24.com, 2024). This year, the total number of cases reached 2,960, with 36 deaths reported. Out of the total cases, 2,800 have been recovered. [[Full article](#)]
- **Italy:** Two Dengue cases were reported in Trieste between June 3 and 4, 2024, following a trip to an endemic area (ANSA, 2024). No other passengers are at risk. An inspection and national and international protocols have been activated to limit the spread of the disease. [[Full article](#)]
- **Pakistan** has reported 2,795 new dengue cases in the past week, primarily in Baluchistan, Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Report, 2024). The virus, transmitted by female mosquitoes, has been increasing rapidly due to rising temperatures. No cases were reported in Gilgit Baltistan and Islamabad. [[Full article](#)]



## Hand, Foot, And Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- The **United States (US)**: Two boys in Texas have been infected with hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD), a virus that causes painful lesions in the mouth after playing in water parks (Andrews, 2024). The first case involved a one-year-old boy who was hospitalized with seizures and red lumps across his skin after catching the virus at a waterpark in the southern tip of the state. The second case involved a five-year-old boy who was left covered in painful red rashes and spots after going to a separate water park in San Antonio while on a school trip. Pediatricians are warning parents to be vigilant over the highly contagious disease, which tends to rise around early summer and fall months. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Measles

- **Italy**: Measles cases in Italy have increased significantly, with Lazio recording the most cases since January (Vano, 2024). The disease affects not only children but also elderly, 60-year-olds, 30-year-olds, and children aged 5-6. Sicily ranks with 75 positive cases and Emilia-Romagna with 48. Lazio represents over a quarter of all cases registered in Italy, accounting for approximately 28%. The Roma two local health authority has reported several outbreaks, with four being "family" outbreaks. Head of the Emergency and Admissions and General Pediatrics department, warns that the number of cases is expected to grow, with the risk of infections getting out of control. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Mpox

- **Australia** is experiencing a re-emergence of the infectious disease mpox, formerly known as mpox (Mirage News, 2024). 40 cases have been recorded so far in 2024, surpassing the total number recorded for 2023. Victoria reported 24 cases this year, while Queensland saw ten cases in May. All cases since 2022 have been in males, most commonly aged 30 to 39. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Pertussis

- **Canada**: Quebec is experiencing a rise in whooping cough cases, particularly among teenagers and school-aged children (Spector, 2024). The disease, also known as the "100-day cough," starts with cold symptoms but can lead to further complications. The most cases are in the Chaudière-Apachees and Estrie regions, with Montreal having 57 confirmed cases since the start of the year. The last flare-up in Quebec was in 2019, with 1,269 cases. The spread is not as rampant in Quebec as in Europe, but the last time the disease flared up in Quebec was in 2019. The cause is believed to be dips in vaccination rates for many pediatric illnesses, particularly during COVID-19, and the difficulty many people have accessing the health system without a family doctor. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **People's Republic of China** has seen an increase in whooping cough cases since the start of the year (Agency, 2024). In April, the number of cases surged 83 times compared to the same period last year, reaching over 90,000 cases and seven deaths. The cumulative number of cases in the first four months of this year exceeded 150,000. The National Administration for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Health Commission jointly released the "Pertussis Prevention and Control Plan (2024 Edition)", proposing to include whooping cough within sentinel surveillance for acute respiratory infectious diseases in China. The plan allows students and faculty to return to school and



work after 5 days of effective antibacterial treatment. The plan is China's first version of a prevention and control plan specifically targeting whooping cough. [\[Full article\]](#)

- **Spain:** The Health Department of Andalusia has reported over 1,800 cases of whooping cough in the first five months of 2024, a 390% increase from the previous year (Rodríguez, 2024). The majority of cases occur in babies aged three to eleven months, compared to those under three months. This trend has been observed since 2015, when vaccination against whooping cough was launched in pregnant women. Granada is the province with the highest number of cases, followed by Seville, Málaga, Jaén, Cádiz, Almería, Huelva, and Córdoba. The European Center for Disease Control (ECDC) warns of the high spread of whooping cough, with cases multiplying by ten and posing a great risk for children under six months. The childhood vaccination schedule in Andalusia includes the whooping cough vaccine, with coverage in the community in minors being almost 95% and in pregnant women exceeding 90%. Whooping Cough is an endemic disease in Europe, with larger epidemics expected every three to five years, especially after a period of limited circulation. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United Kingdom (UK):** The UK Health Security Agency has reported over 2,800 cases of whooping cough in Scotland this year, with most cases being in the 10-14 age group (Summers & Ward, 2024). The NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Lothian, and Grampian health board regions had the largest number of confirmed cases in the first quarter of 2024. The infection is a bacterial infection that spreads through coughs and sneezes and is most serious for young children and babies. Five babies have died from whooping cough in England since the start of the year, and the last whooping cough death recorded in Scotland was in 2015. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United States (US):** The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department has confirmed more cases of Pertussis (Staff, 2024). The health department says seven new cases of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, were confirmed last week, bringing the total number of cases since April 26 to 21. On May 20, the health department declared a pertussis outbreak in Fayette County. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Rabies

- **The United States (US):** The Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department confirmed a positive rabies case in Keith County, involving only domestic animals (Johnsen, 2024). Rabies is a severe neurological disease spread through saliva and is classified as a medical emergency by the CDC. The best way to prevent rabies exposure is to ensure all pets, livestock, and horses are up-to-date with current vaccinations, as well as teaching children about animal safety. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Regional Situation

### COVID-19

- **Philippines:** The Department of Health (DOH) reported a slow increase in mild Covid-19 cases, indicating that all regions remain at low-risk status (Montemayor, 2024). The average daily reported cases for the week of May 21 to 27 is 319, which is still less than half compared to the previous week's figure of 202. Only 14% of ICU beds dedicated for Covid-19 were occupied, and severe and critical cases accounted for 10% of total admissions. The DOH assumes that the flagged Omicron sub variants are already likely in the country. Recent sequencing data from the University of the Philippines - Philippine



Genome Center confirmed the identification of 30 cases of JN.1, two cases of JN.1.8, and two cases of KP.2. The earliest sample collection date for JN.1 in the Philippines is November 2023, while the earliest sample collection date for KP.2 is May 2024. Further assessment is ongoing to determine transmissibility and capacity to evade immune response. [[Full article](#)]

## Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases in Klaten District, Central Java, have surged to 633 cases and 27 deaths as of the 21st week of 2024 (Meilikhah, 2024). The increase is uncontrolled, with 63 cases and one death in the last week. The Klaten Health Service's Head of Disease Prevention and Control, urges increased prevention and control efforts, including the elimination of mosquito nests and the role of larva monitors. [[Full article](#)]
- **Philippines:** The Department of Health (DOH-7) in Central Visayas has emphasized the importance of being vigilant during the rainy season (Noliverio, 2024). The DOH has urged the public to search and destroy mosquito breeding sites, use insect repellents, and seek early consultation if their fever lasts for more than 24 hours. Rapid diagnostics tests (RDT) for dengue are free in rural health units and public hospitals. The DOH has also called for support fogging and misting during impending outbreaks, as they do not have a significant effect on the situation. The number of dengue cases in Central Visayas rose by 95% compared to 2023, highlighting the need for vigilance. [[Full article](#)]

## Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- **Vietnam:** The Department of Health in Ho Chi Minh City has reported an increase in cases of hand, foot, and mouth disease, particularly among preschool children (Anh, 2024). In the first 19 weeks of 2024, there were 13,495 cases in 20 southern provinces, an increase of 33.1% over 2023 and 55% over the average of the same period of five years. Hand, foot, and mouth disease is caused by enteroviruses, transmitted through the digestive tract, commonly found in young children. Symptoms can range from mild to severe, leading to death. The disease can occur all year round, with an increase from March to May and September to December every year. Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent hand, foot, and mouth disease in Vietnam. [[Full article](#)]

## Malaria

- **Indonesia:** The Aceh Singkil District Government has declared an for malaria since 16 May 2024 (Munthe, 2024). The disease has spread from its initial outbreak in Pulau Banyak Barat sub-district and has now spread to two other sub-districts. The Aceh Singkil District Health Service recorded at least 33 cases of malaria from April to May 2024, with 21 cases in Pulau Banyak District, ten in Pulau Banyak Barat sub-district, one case in North Singkil District, and one in Kuala Baru District. The spread of malaria was initially discovered by a tourist visiting Pulau Banyak. The government urges residents to be alert and maintain a clean environment, use mosquito nets, and use mosquito-preventive tools. [[Full article](#)]





## Rabies

- Vietnam:** The People's Committee of Đắk Nông Province is establishing a team to catch unleashed dogs and cats in public areas due to a dangerous rabies situation (VNS, 2024). The province has recorded one death and 16 cases of rabies infection. The committee requests the Department of Health to increase vaccination points, provide comprehensive guidance, and manage household numbers. The province's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development encourages people raising dogs and cats to register with local authorities and raise public awareness to isolate cats and dogs with unusual symptoms and seek support from veterinary agencies. [[Full article](#)]

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