

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 65 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 790 samples tested, resulting in a positivity rate of 8.23% (EM, 2024). The country's total fatalities remain at 29,491, with 2,048,699 cases and 2,015,688 recoveries. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Canada:** New Brunswick has reported four more COVID-19 deaths and a 75% increase in weekly hospitalizations, with no new flu deaths, hospitalizations, or outbreaks reported (MacKinnon, 2024). The pandemic has claimed the lives of four more people aged 65 or older, raising the death toll to at least 1,017. Thirty people were hospitalized and tested positive for the virus, with six lab-confirmed outbreaks declared. Eighty new cases have been confirmed through PCR lab tests, and 1,115 COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccines have been administered in the past week. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Taiwan (Province of China)** experienced two rare COVID-19 related deaths in children aged 12 and younger, breaking a 10-month streak without such fatalities, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) (Yi-ning, T. & Hsin-Yin, L., 2024). One case involved an unvaccinated one-year-old girl with no underlying medical conditions, while the other involved a six-year-old girl with a history of chronic neurological disease. The CDC recommends parents have their children vaccinated against the virus and the current XBB shots could protect them against fast-changing subvariants. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** Michigan reported 2,434 confirmed COVID-19 cases, a 21% decrease from last week's 3,071 cases (Bridge Staff, 2024). The decline comes as the number of confirmed COVID-19 positive hospital patients fell below 500 to 496, marking the first time the state's 164 hospitals have had fewer than 500 since November 8, 2023. Hospitalizations peaked at 1,275 on January 3, 2024. The state also reported 60 additional COVID-19 positive deaths, with 48 in February, 2024, eight in January, and three in March. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Dengue has not caused any deaths in the last 24 hours in Bangladesh, but three more people have been admitted to hospitals (Pratidin B, 2024). This year, 17 people have died due to dengue, with all three new infected individuals being Dhaka city residents. Currently, 69 people are receiving treatment. [\[Full article\]](#)



Measles

- **Canada:** Seventeen measles cases have been confirmed in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, with over half of those in the Montreal area (Bains C and Ireland N, 2024). The latest case, in a man in his 30s, was likely related to community transmission in the York Region north of Toronto. Public Health Ontario confirmed five cases, with all but one involving travel. British Columbia and Ontario last reported cases of the virus in 2019 when the western province mandated parents and guardians to provide immunization records for students enrolled in the public school system. Infectious disease specialists warn that a small number of measles cases can escalate to widespread infections, as it has elsewhere in the world, including Europe. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **South Korea:** The global measles epidemic continues, with 11 cases in Korea this year, with ten being infected after traveling overseas (Kim Chang-hoon, 2024). The number of measles patients worldwide increased 1.8 times from 170,000 in 2022 to 300,000 last year, with Europe seeing a 62-fold increase. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported a 1.8-fold increase in Europe from 937 to 58,000 during the same period. The measles vaccine (MMR) must be administered once at 12 to 15 months of age and twice at four to six years of age. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Taiwan (Province of China):** Two new confirmed cases of local measles have been confirmed in New Taipei City, involving a 28-year-old female and a 41-year-old male (Zhao, Y., 2024). The cases are related to a northern community cluster index case, with the female in Zhonghe District and the male in Yonghe District being in risk activity areas. The cases are currently in isolation, with 204 contacts listed. The case has a history of activities in restaurants. People should monitor for suspected symptoms and contact the health unit for medical treatment. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- **Russia:** Whooping cough has been reported in Tatarstan, with 362 cases recorded since 2024, with 9.05 cases per 100,000 population (Vyacheslav Veselin, 2024). The disease is particularly dangerous for young children, with coughing being the most intense transmission. Vaccinations are given to children aged 3-6 months, with revaccination occurring at 1.5 years old. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Spain:** Whooping cough, a respiratory infection, is increasing in Spain, particularly in Andalusia, with 26% of cases reported nationwide (Admin, 2024). The Andalusian Association of Home and Community Care (Asanec) recommends additional pertussis vaccination doses due to waning immunity. The National Epidemiological Center of the Carlos III Institute reports 482 cases, with a rebound in pertussis infections from 38 in 2023 to 1,606 in 2024. The disease is highly contagious and spreads through close contact and coughing. Masks are recommended for vulnerable groups. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **India:** A 21-year-old woman died of rabies while undergoing treatment at Hospital late on March 4, 2024 (Gayakwad, R., 2024). Over a month ago, she was bitten by a stray dog and three days after completing the anti-rabies vaccination course. The dog been reported had bitten around 20 people, including her. [\[Full article\]](#)



Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue fever cases in Kendal District, Central Java, reached 114 cases from January to early March 2024, with 13 deaths (Putri G.S, 2024). In 2023, cases in Kendal had reached 373 cases, with 29 deaths. [\[Full article\]](#)

In Sumedang District, West Java, Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) has claimed the lives of two residents (Andriana K, 2024). In the last two months of 2024, 638 cases were recorded, with 323 cases in January and 315 in February. [\[Full article\]](#)

Leptospirosis

- The **Philippines:** A 32-year-old male from Barangay Pahanocoy, Bacolod City succumbed to leptospirosis, according to reports from the Bacolod City Health Office (SAMILLANO, C., 2024). The CHO also reported three cases of leptospirosis in the city during the period covering January 1 to February 24, or a decrease of 82.4% compared to the same period last year which recorded 17 cases and three deaths. The three cases this year involved two males and a female. [\[Full article\]](#)

Malaria

- **Indonesia:** Malaria cases in Pohuwato District have reached 640 as of February 2024, according to Gorontalo State University academics (Siallagan F, 2024). Malaria researcher believes the high number could be due to the surge in immigrants, as the virus can more easily infect migrant populations in malaria-endemic areas. The Pohuwato District government should take precautions by eradicating mosquitoes, cleaning the environment, and covering puddles where larvae grow. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Malaysia:** The Terengganu State Health Department reported a decrease in malaria cases in Kuala Nerus and Dungun districts from 13 cases in 2023 to two cases, urging people to seek medical attention if experiencing symptoms. (Yusof A.F, 2024) [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- **Vietnam:** Hanoi has experienced nine cases of whooping cough since the beginning of 2024, compared to no cases in 2022 and 2023 (Hoang Chien, 2024). The Hanoi Department of Health recommends vaccination with pertussis-containing vaccine as the most proactive and effective disease prevention measure. Children receive the first injection at 2 months of age (can be vaccinated as early as 6 weeks of age); second dose at 3 months old; third dose at 4 months old; and fourth dose at 18 months old. Parents should ensure their homes, kindergartens, and classrooms are clean, airy, and have enough light. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **Philippines:** A four-year-old in Tiwi, Albay died from rabies after being bitten in December 2023 (BNFM Legazpi, 2024). The Albay Provincial Health Office arrested a resident and initiated contact tracing for his family. By 2024, six cases have been registered in the province. [\[Full article\]](#)



Typhoid

- **Philippines:** The Iloilo Provincial Health Office (IPHO) has reported a 24% increase in typhoid fever cases from January 1 to February 24, with the highest incidence in certain municipalities (Sornito I, 2024). The disease, caused by *Salmonella Typhi*, is transmitted through contaminated food or water. Symptoms include fever, headache, stomach pain, diarrhea, chills, and muscle ache. If untreated, it can last one to three weeks and lead to serious intestinal issues or even death. The World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that typhoid fever is treatable with antibiotics, although antimicrobial resistance has been increasing, necessitating more complex and expensive treatment options. [[Full article](#)]



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