

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

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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** reported eleven more COVID-19 cases, with 262 samples tested, a 4.20% positivity rate (The Daily Observer, 2024). The country's total deaths remained at 29,494, with 2,050,060 cases and 2,017,529 recoveries. The first case was reported in March 2020. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has reported a record-high 1,705 dengue deaths in 2023, with 218,749 deaths in 2022. The country has seen 109 patients undergoing treatment at various hospitals. The latest data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) shows that 27 patients were hospitalized, raising the total affected people to 2,288 this year. [[Full article](#)]
- **India:** Six young children are being treated for dengue fever at Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IMGH), with a record high in daily consultations (Raajje.mv, 2024). Doctor specialist at the hospital, advises patients to be closely monitored within 48 hours of onset, and to be extra cautious for at least two days after the fever subsides. [[Full article](#)]
- **Nepal:** Dengue fever cases in Bagmati Province have risen to 11,409 which began on July 17, 2023. Dhading recorded the highest number of cases at 3,501, while Rasuwa had the lowest at two (Khabarhub, 2024). Districts like Kathmandu, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Bhaktapur, and Dolakha reported cases. The Health Office is launching a campaign to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **India:** In the last four months, Rajasthan has reported at least 32 cases of Leptospirosis and 61 cases of Brucellosis, both transmitted to humans through rat urine and raw meat (ETV Bharat, 2024). Symptoms include high fever, mild blisters, headache, chills, muscle pain, stomach ache, vomiting, and diarrhea. If symptoms appear, immediate treatment is required, and if treatment is not received at the right time, many patients may die. [[Full article](#)]
- **Mauritius** has reported 20 cases of leptospirosis since early this year, with 5 positive in April (Radio One, 2024). The disease, primarily caused by rodents, causes fevers, muscle and joint pain, and can lead to complications like kidney, liver, or lung disease. [[Full article](#)]



Measles

- **Pakistan:** The measles outbreak in Dadu has resulted in 22 deaths and over 100 children admitted to hospitals due to inadequate facilities (Staff Report, 2024). Over 40 children have deteriorated due to lack of treatment, and authorities have not implemented specific measures to address the situation in Tehsils of Johi, Khairpur Nathan Shah, and Mehar. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Germany:** Measles cases in Lower Saxony have dropped from 13 in 2023 to eight in 2024, with most confirmed cases imported (Dpa, 2024). This is due to high vaccination rates, the Measles Protection Act, and consistent local health authorities' actions. Two small children in the Nienburg district were infected while visiting their family abroad, but they are doing well after a short hospital stay. The state health department emphasizes the importance of vaccination for effective protection against the contagious disease. Lower Saxony's rate of first and second measles vaccinations is slightly above the national average, but every visit to a doctor should be used to close gaps in vaccination status. The national average vaccination rate for infants and small children is 79.5%, while Lower Saxony's rate is 85.2%. [\[Full article\]](#)

Mpox

- The **United States (US):** The New York City Health Department has reported a significant rise in mpox cases since October 2023 (Herriman, 2024). The majority of cases were mild, with 73% not vaccinated or receiving only one dose. Most cases were Black or Hispanic, aged 25-44, and were not hospitalized. The virus is most likely to be introduced into the US through travel to endemic countries or with epidemiological links to those regions. Isolation vaccination and treatment strategies are expected to be effective for Clade I infections. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Malaysia:** Dengue fever cases decreased to 2,237 in the 17th Epidemiological Week from April 21-27, compared to 2,321 in the previous week (Online, T.S., 2024). No deaths due to complications were reported. The cumulative number of cases was 52,887, with 39 deaths due to complications. Hotspot localities were 63. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Philippines:** Baguio City is intensifying its battle against dengue disease, dubbed "Denguerra," as summer begins its peak season (Dumlao, Artemio A, 2024). Barangays are mobilizing for search and destroy operations, and an online reporting system has been launched to capture cases. The city mayor has ordered preventive programs to prevent a repeat of the 2016 dengue season, with 260 cases recorded since January 1 as of April 25. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- **Philippines:** The Department of Health (DOH) in the Philippines has reported over 2,000 cases of measles and rubella, an increase of 39% from the previous month (Villanueva, 2024). The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has seen 1,177,299 children vaccinated against measles since May 1, aiming to reach its target of 1.3 million vaccines. The DOH urges parents and guardians to get their children vaccinated. [\[Full article\]](#)



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