

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

January 06 - 08, 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

- **South Korea:** The South Korean government confirmed an additional case of highly pathogenic avian influenza at a poultry farm, bringing the total number of cases to 27 (Kyong-ae, 2024). The farm, raising 239,000 chickens, was cordoned off and quarantine measures were implemented. Health authorities issued a standstill order for 24 hours. [[Full article](#)]

#### COVID-19

- **India** has reported 756 new COVID-19 cases and five deaths, with the active caseload dropping to 4,049 from 4,187 the previous day (Chakraborty, 2024). The country has also reported 619 cases of the coronavirus JN.1 sub-variant. The recovery rate stands at 98.81%, with a fatality rate of 1.18%. The country has reported 45 million cases since the outbreak in January 2020. The number of daily cases increased due to cold weather conditions and the emergence of the new coronavirus variant JN.1. The number of cases of JN.1 sub-variant in 12 states rose to 619, with most infected individuals opting for home-based treatment. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified JN.1 as a separate "variant of interest" due to its rapidly increasing spread but posing a "low" global public health risk. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** The JN.1 variant, a subvariant of BA.2.86, is now responsible for 61.6% of COVID-19 cases in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (Nugrahani, 2024). The Northeast region has the highest prevalence, accounting for 74.9% of cases. The variant has been listed as a 'variant of interest' by the WHO, but its scale is less serious due to the increasing number of hospitalizations. [[Full article](#)]
- **Pakistan** has reported four cases of the new COVID-19 variant, JN.1, a sub-variant of the BA.2.86 (Abbas, 2024). The Pakistani Ministry of Health confirmed that all affected individuals experienced mild symptoms and have since recovered without complications. The Caretaker Federal Minister for Health is closely monitoring the situation, ensuring border health services and labs are fully operational. The Sindh Health Department has identified two suspected cases and initiated testing 2% of all international travelers for this variant. The National Command and Operation Center plans to perform COVID-19 testing on foreign passengers. [[Full article](#)]



## Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has recorded 378 new cases of dengue fever in a day, marking the worst outbreak in the country's history (Desk, 2024). The death toll remains unchanged, with no fatalities reported. Experts attribute the outbreak to a prolonged monsoon, rising temperatures, and a lack of effective measures to kill the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. [[Full article](#)]

## Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease

- The **United States (US)**: A 29-year-old man from Murfreesboro, discovered the Hand-Foot-and-Mouth (HFV) virus during a 102-degree fever and chills (Adejumo, 2024). Despite testing for COVID-19, strep, and flu, he was diagnosed with the virus after discovering red spots on his hands and feet. HFV is a mild yet highly contagious viral infection, more common among young children but not adults. It presents challenges for children, such as mouth blisters, and there is no specific remedy. He suspects the virus was a co-worker's child visiting his workplace during Christmas break. [[Full article](#)]

## Pertussis

- **Israel** is facing a health crisis due to the whooping cough epidemic, with a 7,000% increase in reported cases (Ahmad, 2024). The disease, which causes an annoying and painful cough lasting up to four months, mainly affects one-day-old children, who may suffocate and suffer from respiratory failure. A 10-week-old baby died of whooping cough. The disease is considered one of the ten most deadly diseases in the world and is particularly dangerous for children up to six months old. The Ministry of Health confirmed that the real number of infected people is much higher, as most are not sent for a whooping cough test or see a doctor. The increase in infections is attributed to the refusal of ultra-Orthodox Jews to receive vaccinations, which causes them to become infected and transmit the disease. The Ministry also noted that the bacteria's violence has increased in recent years, requiring adaptation to the vaccine. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- **India**: From 2018 to 2023, 15 people in Salem district have died due to rabies, with most of the deaths being caused by dog bites (Sabari, 2024). The majority of these cases were caused by pet dogs, with the remaining bites from stray dogs. The Salem government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital treated 10,900 dog bite cases in 2023. The street dog population in the district increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Councillors in Salem Corporation demanded measures to control the dog population, and animal birth control centers were proposed to be established in all four zones. The city health officer also suggested opening two more animal birth control (ABC) centres in the remaining two zones. [[Full article](#)]

## Regional Situation

### COVID-19

- **Cambodia** reported zero new COVID-19 cases on Monday, with a total of 139,039 (Reaseyeam38, 2024). No deaths were reported, with 3,056 fatalities. Over 135,956 patients have recovered nationwide. Over 15.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, with over 10 million shots for people aged 18 and above. The country is accelerating the inoculation of the sixth dose among citizens. [[Full article](#)]



- **Indonesia:** North Kalimantan Province Health Office reported 44 COVID-19 cases in the region, with 8 deaths (Kaltara, 2024). The remaining 21 cases are under treatment, with 8 dying, 7 recovering, and 8 self-isolating. The North Kalimantan Province Health Office has appealed to district and city health offices to follow up on positive infected residents, implement health protocols, and complete vaccines. However, the vaccine is still effective in providing protection against the virus. [[Full article](#)]

## Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases in Lebak District reached 760 in 2023, with four deaths (Nurandi, 2024). The Lebak District Health Office's Head of Infectious Disease Prevention and Control emphasized the importance of following guidelines such as closing water reservoirs, draining bathtubs, and burying used items. He also advised avoiding mosquito bites with anti-mosquito lotion and long-sleeved clothes. The Lebak District Government will continue to implement prevention measures and promote a clean and healthy lifestyle to prevent DHF transmission [[Full article](#)]
- **Malaysia:** In 2023, Kelantan reported 2,790 dengue cases, a 127.4% increase from 1,227 in 2022 (Online, 2024). However, the number of dengue-related deaths decreased to two from four in the previous year. Dengue cases were lower than during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 3,874 in 2020 and 6,003 in 2019. The State Health Department has implemented control and prevention activities, including premises inspection, fog spraying, and health education. The department urges the public to work together to curb dengue in the state. [[Full article](#)]

## Mpox

- **Cambodia:** The Ministry of Health in Cambodia has detected three cases of mpox, a disease transmitted through sexual contact (Daro, 2024). The virus can spread quickly, especially through contact with contaminated wounds, body fluids, saliva, airborne droplets, and equipment. Preventive measures include using a condom, avoiding multiple sexual partners, and avoiding direct contact with clothing or equipment. Experts warn that public health could be seriously affected if the government doesn't prevent it and patients don't receive proper treatment. The Cambodian Virtuous Doctors Association president urged doctors and stakeholders to pay close attention to patient care and prevent infection. The WHO reported nearly 87,000 cases and 112 deaths in May 2022, urging countries to implement comprehensive health measures. [[Full article](#)]

## Polio

- **Indonesia:** Acute flaccid paralysis cases have been confirmed in Klaten District, Central Java, and Pamekasan District, East Java, with VDPV2 found in environmental samples in Bangkalan District, East Java (Arlinta, 2024). At least three children have been reported to have suffered from the virus, with one child in Central Java having complete immunization but suffering from malnutrition. Health workers administered polio immunization to elementary school children in Aceh, Indonesia, and the latest generation vaccine, Novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (nOPV2), is being used to combat polio outbreaks. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- **Indonesia:** A child in Tallunglipu, North Toraja District, died at Lakipadada Makale Regional Hospital, Tana Toraja, January 3, 2024 (Alifitri Nabila, 2024). This seven year old child died allegedly due to rabies. Before he died, he was bitten by his pet. [[Full article](#)]

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