

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 45 more COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, with 720 samples tested, a 6.25% positivity rate (The Daily Observer, 2024). The country's total fatalities remained at 29,491, with 2,048,798 cases and 2,015,785 recoveries. The first case was on March 8, 2020. [[Full article](#)]
- **Canada:** COVID-19 has not caused new deaths in the region, leaving the number of deaths to 150 (Baldwin D, 2024). Hospitalization rates at QHC hospitals were four persons, and no outbreaks were reported. 81% of local residents have received their primary series vaccination. In Canada, 4.93 million cases have been recorded, with 58,560 deaths and 64 new deaths. [[Full article](#)]
- **India:** Delhi has recorded its highest daily COVID-19 case count since May 2023, with 459 cases reported in the last 15 days (Standard B, 2024). The city and other northern states, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, are also experiencing a rise in cases. The last time the daily number of COVID-19 cases exceeded 50 was in May 2023, during a nationwide surge in cases. The northern region is experiencing a rise, with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar reporting more cases. Karnataka reported 268 new COVID-19 cases in the latest 15-day period, down from 959 two fortnights before. In Maharashtra, the number of cases has remained relatively stable, with 496 cases reported in the latest period. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Ohio has seen a decrease in new COVID-19 cases for the third consecutive week, dropping from 5,665 to 4,499 this week (Julie Washington, 2024). The last time this low was recorded was in mid-August. At least 1,312,522 Ohioans have received the updated one-dose vaccine, representing 11.2% of the state's population. The total COVID-19 case count since early 2020 in Ohio has reached 3,728,931. 165 Ohioans were hospitalized in the last week, and 32 died from COVID-19-related issues. Death reporting sometimes lags by weeks. [[Full article](#)]

### Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** A person died of dengue in the last 24 hours in Bangladesh, marking the end of 14 days of the disease (Pratidin B, 2024). The Department of Health reported the death of the last person and 12 more people were admitted to hospitals. This year, 1,456 patients have been admitted to hospitals, with 30 in Dhaka and 38 outside the city. [[Full article](#)]



- **India:** Dengue infections have greatly increased in India in the past two decades, with data from the Central government's National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control indicating that in the last three years, there were over 5,2 million dengue cases and 740 deaths (Mascarenhas A, 2024). The prevalence of dengue has surged dramatically since the 1970s, affecting more than 130 countries and causing an estimated 390 million infections and 100 million clinical cases annually. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Measles

- **Austria:** Measles cases in Vorarlberg have increased due to Corona, and the State Medical Directorate reports 13 confirmed cases as of March 6 (VictoriaLacour, 2024). Measles is not a trivial disease, with complications such as pneumonia and middle ear infections occurring in around 20% of patients. A vaccination rate of 95-98% is necessary to eradicate measles, and two vaccinations are required. The triple combination measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination offers reliable protection and is free for children and adults in Austria. Unvaccinated contacts must be quarantined for 18 days to prevent further spread. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Canada:** Measles continues to spread in Quebec, with two new cases confirmed in Montreal since Monday, bringing the number of people infected to 12 (Marie-Eve Morasse, 2024). The Montreal Regional Public Health Department (DRSP) confirms that the two new cases are a community transmission. The average vaccination coverage in primary schools is 78%, with 43.5% of schools below this average. In secondary schools, the vaccination average is 80.7%, with almost half of the schools (47%) below this percentage. In Laval, the vaccination rate for children aged 2 to 4 varies between 79% to 83%. A case was declared last week at the international school of Aventuriers, a primary school located in the Chomedey district. [\[Full article\]](#)
- In **Greece**, 19 cases of measles have been recorded, with greater frequency in Attica and Crete (Newsroom, 2024). The majority of these cases are unvaccinated individuals, including health professionals. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Taiwan:** Hualien County has confirmed a new case of measles from a 29-year-old woman who traveled to Malaysia from February 12-20, 2024 (Wang, S., 2024). The woman was diagnosed on March 6, and there are 24 contacts in the area. The Health Bureau is monitoring the health of these contacts until March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Measles can be transmitted through air, droplets, or contact with the patient's nasopharyngeal secretions. The health bureau also urges children aged 1 and over to complete the measles, mumps, and German measles mixed vaccine (MMR) before entering primary school. Hand hygiene and avoiding public or crowded places are recommended. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United Kingdom (UK):** A second measles case has been confirmed in Ireland, believed to be in a teenager (Kelly, L., 2024). Health Minister Stephen Donnelly announced a "catch up" vaccination programme to boost vaccine rates to 95%. The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine needs 95% coverage to neutralize the spread. The Health Service Executive (HSE) states that symptoms include cold-like symptoms, aches, pains, a runny nose, sneezing, cough, sore eyes, and temperature changes. [\[Full article\]](#)



- The **United States (US)**: Two more Spokane residents have contracted measles after an outbreak last month, with all three unvaccinated individuals living in the same household (Sullender A, 2024) . The first person infected contracted measles while abroad, and quarantined due to the quarantine. Possible exposure locations include the Spokane International Airport, Deer Park Library, Rozy's Hot Shotz drive-thru, Deer Park Taco Bell, Creekside Kenpo Karate, and Horizon Credit Union. These are the first measles cases in the county since 2015. [[Full article](#)]

## Pertussis

- **Greece** have whooping cough cases increased significantly since 2024, with nine cases reported in 2023. Infants are at the highest risk of serious illness and death, and vaccination programs aim to protect them (Newpost, 2024). The National Immunization Program (NIP) recommends timely vaccination from the second month of life. Pregnant women should be vaccinated during the third trimester of pregnancy. [[Full article](#)]
- **Spain**: The latest epidemiological bulletin shows that 128 cases of whooping cough have been reported this year, a significant increase from 176 last year (Garcia E, 2024). The disease has cycles and outbreaks every three or five years, with the last one occurring between 2011 and 2015. Diagnosis is easy with PCR testing, and pediatric consultations are always kept in mind for cases lasting more than two weeks. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United Kingdom (UK)**: The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) reported a surge in whooping cough cases in January, compared to 858 cases for the entire 2023 (Lynch N, 2024). The UKHSA said case numbers fell during the pandemic due to reduced social mixing. The increase in cases comes amid a decline in vaccine uptake in pregnant women and children. The vaccine is offered as part of the six-in-one jab when babies are eight, 12 and 16-weeks-old. [[Full article](#)]

## Regional Situation

### Anthrax

- **Laos**: Three anthrax cases in Champasak province of Laos have been reported after consuming meat from suddenly dead livestock (VNA, 2024). The disease, which can cause gastrointestinal symptoms like headache, stomach ache, diarrhea, and shortness of breath, is caused by contact with unvaccinated animals or handling dead meat. The Soukhouma agriculture and forestry office has banned animal trading and transportation. [[Full article](#)]

### Dengue

- **Indonesia**: Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases in Sumedang District, West Java, reached 638 cases in the last two months, with two deaths (Irwanto D, 2024). [[Full article](#)]

In the first two months of 2024, the number of dengue fever cases in Wonogiri has exceeded the number of cases throughout 2023 (Praditia M.D, 2024). In January-February 2024, 43 people were infected with dengue fever, with three deaths. The number of cases has exceeded the 26 cases recorded in 2023 without any deaths. [[Full article](#)]



- Philippines:** The Provincial Health Office in the Philippines has reported a 14% increase in dengue fever cases due to El Niño, which encourages residents to store water, creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes (Sornito I, 2024) . From January 1 to February 24, there have been 299 recorded cases, including two fatalities, a 14% increase from the same timeframe in 2023. The most affected municipalities include Oton, Pavia, Passi City, Dumangas, and Lambunao. The province has adequate supplies of dengue test kits and larvicide, and the government is prepared to provide fogging machines to local government units experiencing high case numbers. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Mpox

- Vietnam:** The Mekong Delta province of Kien Giang's Centre for Disease Control (CDC) announced on March 6 that it has so far this year detected three cases of mpox (VietNamNet News, 2024). One of the three infections died on February 5 due to an HIV-related illness. The remaining two patients are in stable condition. The source of transmissions remains unknown. Mpox is a Group B infectious disease in Vietnam, spreading quickly and potentially causing death through respiratory droplets and direct contact. [\[Full article\]](#)

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