

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & 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 January 2024.

Global Situation

Avian Influenza (H5N1)

- The **United States (US)**: Colorado has reported three presumptive cases of H5 avian influenza virus infection in poultry workers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (Dunya News, 2024). The infections occurred in workers handling infected animals at a poultry facility experiencing an outbreak of H5N1 bird flu. The affected individuals experienced mild symptoms, including conjunctivitis and common respiratory issues. These cases are part of a global outbreak of H5N1 bird flu, which has been spreading in wild birds, infecting poultry and various mammal species, and causing an outbreak in US dairy cows. While the risk to the general public remains low, the CDC is sending a team to Colorado to assist with the investigation. [[Full article](#)]

COVID-19

- The **United States (US)**: The latest COVID-19 variant, LB.1, is causing a surge in cases across the US, with the third-leading strain behind the highly contagious "FLiRT" variants (Kee, 2024). Since June, there has been an increase in test positivity and emergency room visits, with the Western US experiencing the sharpest rises. LB.1 is now responsible for 15% of cases, with its share doubling since May. Experts suggest that this new mutated variant could potentially surpass the FLiRT variants in the coming weeks. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Sri Lanka** has reported over 30,000 dengue cases this year, with 12 fatalities, according to the National Dengue Control Unit (Huaxia, 2024). The Western, Northern, Central, and Sabaragamuwa provinces are the most affected. [[Full article](#)]

Malaria

- **India**: Despite efforts by the health department to control malaria, the number of cases continues to rise in the tribal-dominated Rayagada district (Pattnaik, 2024). Between January and 2nd of June, a total of 71,216 tests were conducted, resulting in 3,712 positive cases, including 449 paediatric cases. Notably, 1,204 cases were detected in June alone, indicating a surge. [[Full article](#)]



Measles

- The **United States(US)**: Marion County Health and Human Services has confirmed two more measles cases in 2024 (Lugo, D., 2024). An unvaccinated child was diagnosed on Thursday, followed by another unvaccinated child on Friday. The Oregon Health Authority investigated two confirmed cases in Clackamas County in June, which were believed to have come from exposures in Marion County between May 19 and June 4. In that case, an unvaccinated adult and an unvaccinated child in the same household were diagnosed with measles. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- **France**: Two babies under one month old died in Rouen due to the ongoing whooping cough epidemic (Medscape UK, 2024). In June 2024, a total of 91 cases of emergency room visits were recorded, compared to just one in June 2023. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Ukraine**: In 2024, the incidence of whooping cough in Ukraine increased by 21.5 times compared to the same period last year, with the possibility of increasing future cases (High Castle, 2024). This surge is attributed to the periodicity of outbreaks every 3-5 years, short-term immune protection against whooping cough, and decreased vaccination levels during the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian invasion. The Lviv region has recorded 459 cases of whooping cough since 2024, with most cases in Lviv, Zolochiv, and Stryi districts. While the European Union recommends an incidence rate of 1 per 100,000 population, Lviv Oblast currently has an incidence rate of over 5 per 100,000 population. Vaccination remains the only effective prevention method, particularly for infants under 2 months of age, who are at the greatest risk. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **Pakistan**: Dog-bite cases in Pakistan have increased due to extreme hot weather, with over 10 cases reported weekly in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Experts advise avoiding contact with stray dogs, as the risk of rabies among them may increase. Rabies, a deadly disease, is transmitted through contact with infected animals' saliva. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **South Africa**: Tourists are being warned to be extra vigilant around Cape fur seals in a 400-mile stretch of coastline off South Africa, as nine have tested positive for rabies, a deadly virus if passed onto humans (Griffin, 2024). The city of Cape Town has issued warnings urging people to avoid contact with seals and to keep pets away from them. The National Institute for Communicable Diseases recommends post-exposure prophylaxis for those bitten. [\[Full article\]](#)



Zika

- **India:** Pune district has reported two new cases of Zika virus infection, raising the total number of Zika virus infection patients in the district to 21 (Pathare, 2024). The first case was reported in a 65-year-old man from Saswad, who has a travel history to Miraj, Sangli, and Pune city. The new case reported in Bhugaon on Friday has raised concerns, as the samples of both patients were sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune. The woman from Bhugaon had complained of mild Zika virus symptoms and visited the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC)-run Sutar hospital in Kothrud. The man from Hadapsar had been complaining of nausea, fever, diarrhoea, and fatigue since July 1, and was admitted to Noble hospital on July 4. The PMC sent 23 samples of suspected patients to NIV for testing, with 22 samples belonging to pregnant women, 11 from Pashan, and 11 from Kharadi. Zika virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito, known to transmit infections like dengue and chikungunya. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** From January to May 2024, 860 cases of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) were recorded in Riau Province (Amen, 2024). One person died from DHF in Dumai City, with the most cases were found in Pekanbaru City, with 257 cases reported. [[Full article](#)]
- **Viet Nam:** The Department of Health reports that by early July 2024, the province had 1,456 cases and 115 outbreaks of dengue fever, a decrease from the previous year (Anh, 2024). [[Full article](#)]

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

- **Philippines:** The Department of Health Region 1 in Ilocos reported 79 confirmed cases of hand, foot, and mouth disease from June to July this year (Maria Health, 2024). At least 23 cases were from children in Dagupan City, Pangasinan. The disease is highly contagious and can be spread through saliva and direct skin contact. To reduce the risk of contracting it, the public should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water, disinfect dirty items with alcohol, and avoid contact with infected people. [[Full article](#)]

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