

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

July 18 – 19, 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 January 2024.

Global Situation

COVID-19

- The **United State (US)**: COVID-19 cases are increasing in most states, including Minnesota, with a spike expected in July (Baude, E., 2024). High case numbers in Minnesota may be attributed to Fourth of July gatherings and summer travel. Hospitalization numbers have slightly increased but are not near peak levels. The immune systems are adapting due to vaccination, and symptomatic individuals should still test and limit exposure to high-risk individuals. A new COVID-19 vaccine is in the works, potentially ready in August. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Hong-Kong (SAR)**: The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) reported 37 Dengue fever cases in Hong Kong, with 34 imported and three local cases (news.gov.hk, 2024). Most imported cases visited tourist spots in Southeast Asia during the incubation period. The CHP has conducted active case finding and medical surveillance for the three local cases. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has conducted vector mosquito investigations and targeted mosquito control operations. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India**: Dengue fever cases in Tamil Nadu have surged due to intensifying South West Monsoon, with 568 affected in the last 7 days (Daily Thanthi, 2024). The officials are prompting local bodies and doctors to implement preventive measures. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Pakistan**: Pakistan health authorities have intensified their campaign against dengue fever after detecting five cases, including four in the same house in Peshawar's Gul Bahar locality (Fundación iO, 2024). The province is endemic for the virus, with no recorded deaths in 2023. The number of infections in the province was 747, the lowest recorded by any province in the country. The country has been experiencing a dengue epidemic since 2010, with the first confirmed outbreak in 1994. [\[Full article\]](#)



Malaria

- **India:** A resident in Model Town Bhilai tested positive for malaria *P. falciparum* due to a mosquito bite (The Hitavada, 2024). Despite efforts by the Bhilai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and district administration, residents remain careless, leading to a rise in mosquito populations. The Dengue-Malaria Prevention and Mosquito Eradication team conducted a thorough cleaning operation and provided instructions on protecting themselves from dengue and malaria. Residents are advised to keep their surroundings clean, empty water tanks, and treat them with insecticides. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Poland:** From January to mid-July 2024, there are 232 children in Poland fell ill with measles, a 10-fold increase from 2023 (TASS, 2024). Despite universal vaccinations, population immunity to measles has been lost, according to UNICEF head Renata Bem. In 2020, as many as 91% of Polish children received the first measles vaccination, while 77% received the second. Confidence in vaccinations is falling globally. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Marion County Public Health has confirmed a fourth measles case in the county, with an unvaccinated child diagnosed on July 16 (Lugo, D., 2024). This marks the fourth measles case in Marion County since June 17. There were no known public exposure or connections between the other three cases. The disease spreads through the air when an infected individual coughs or sneezes. The Oregon Health Authority confirmed two other cases in June. [[Full article](#)]

Mpox

- **Australia** health officials have reported 125 confirmed mpox cases since April 1, with Victoria being the most affected (Crisis24, 2024). Health officials urge individuals with symptoms to seek medical care and testing. Free mpox vaccines are available for eligible people. Disease surveillance and contact tracing may identify additional cases in the coming weeks. [[Full article](#)]
- **South Africa:** A grade one pupil in Iketleng Primary School in Hammanskraal has tested positive for mpox, a viral infection (TimesLIVE, 2024). The Gauteng education department has initiated containment protocols to prevent further spread. The child was diagnosed after visiting relatives in Boplaas and displaying symptoms of mpox. The department of education and the Gauteng health department have collaborated to provide health education and screening. The risk to the broader school community remains low, but parents are encouraged to practice good hygiene and avoid close contact with unwell individuals. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- The **United Kingdom (UK):** A baby in Scotland died from whooping cough, with infection rates reaching over 5,000 in 2024, according to Public Health Scotland (Anderson, J., 2024). The health watchdog also confirmed one death in an infant under one year. [[Full article](#)]



Zika

- **India:** Pune is experiencing local transmission of zika virus infection, according to experts from the India Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) (Pathare, V., 2024). The situation is different from Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and Kerala, with cases being sporadic. The first zika virus infection case in Maharashtra was reported in July 2021, with 28 cases reported this year, including 24 from Pune city, two from Pune rural areas, and one from Sangamner and Kolhapur. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases in Bandung City have begun to decline from January to June, attributed to weather problems (Burhanudin, 2024). The Head of the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Team, urged the public to remain alert to the dry season and continue Mosquito Nest Eradication program to prevent dengue fever during the rainy season. Despite the highest dengue fever cases in Indonesia, the case fatality rate is only 0.3%, and efforts are being made intensively. The majority of affected children are aged 5-10 years, who usually get cases at home. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **Malaysia:** Leptospirosis cases in Melaka increased to 80 between January 1 and July 6, compared to 28 last year (Bernama, 2024). The increase was due to the outbreak at three recreational centers. The state government, through the Melaka Health Department, will organize short courses on zoonotic disease management for employees of recreation centers. [[Full article](#)]

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