

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

### GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

July 20 – 22, 2024



With Support by:

  

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)**: Two more bird flu cases have been reported among farmworkers in Colorado, US, on July 19, 2024 (ABC News, 2024). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services conducted a study on 35 people around cows sickened by the bird flu, but no antibodies showed signs of past infections. The largest outbreak of human bird flu infections in the US history has been reported, with most cases occurring among farmworkers. Health officials characterize the threat to the general public as low. [\[Full article\]](#)

##### *COVID-19*

- **Italy** has reported nearly 9,000 new COVID-19 infections in the past week, with Campania, Lazio, and Lombardy having the most cases (Johnin, 2024). The Ministry of Health reported that there were 62% more cases in the week between 11 and 17 July compared to the previous week. Lombardy remains in the lead with 1,761 cases, followed by Lazio with 1,627 positives, and Campania with 1,483. The testing positivity rate at a national level is 11.2%, which is 4% higher than the previous week's 7.2%. The KP.3 subvariant, responsible for the summer case spike, has been identified as the cause of the resurgence. The peak of cases was reported from June 27 to July 3, with 3,855 new positive cases, a decrease from June 20–26. The virus's predominant variant, contracted by a variant of interest, is characterized by mutations in the Spike protein, which can lead to serious complications due to its ability to evade immune defenses and replicate faster. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US)**: COVID-19 cases are increasing across the United States, with the KP.3 variant leading as the dominant strain (Forbes, 2024). The CDC's Nowcast data tracker shows that KP.3 accounted for 32.9% of positive infections, followed by KP.3.1.1 at 17.7%. Combined, the two variants make up 50.6% of cases. Symptoms associated with KP.3 and KP.3.1.1 are similar to those from JN.1, with symptoms ranging from mild to severe. The CDC has not stated if KP.3 or KP.3.1.1 have their own specific symptoms, but they are similar to those from JN.1. The CDC has reported a 12.6% increase in COVID-19 test positivity within the past week, with COVID-19 infections growing in 42 states, stable or uncertain in six states, and declining to zero. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Dengue

- **India:** Jalandhar has reported 11 cases of dengue this year, with four reported in the past three months of May, June, and July (Tribune News, 2024). The Health Department is closely monitoring various hotspots, including the notorious Basti areas in the Jalandhar West constituency. Sixty larvae breeding checker teams have been deployed into service, and 12 warning notices have been issued to residents. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Iran:** The Deputy Director of the Ministry of Health's Infectious Diseases Management Center reported the first case of dengue fever in Tehran, while the Iranian Infectious Society secretary warned about the shortage of infectious specialists and the potential for a crisis (IranPressNews, 2024). The secretary stated that 40-60% of admission capacities for infectious disease specialists are not completed, with top ranks often not filling the gaps. This could lead to an outbreak of infectious diseases like cholera and hepatitis. The situation is expected to worsen due to climate change and unexpected rains, which could lead to an outbreak of infectious diseases. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Nepal:** The District Health Office in Papla District, Lumbini Province, has confirmed that 74 people have been infected with dengue fever this year, with 42 from the district and 32 from nearby districts (Republica, 2024). The health office has directed local units to organize a 'Search and Destroy' campaign to raise awareness about the disease, which is caused by the Aedes mosquito. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Chikungunya

- **India:** 25 patients with chikungunya have been admitted to Doon Hospital this season, with 22 cured (Dehradun News, 2024). Fever, vomiting, and diarrhea are increasing due to the changing weather. A survey of over 12,000 houses in the city of Dehradun and Rishikesh found dengue larvae in 49 of the surveyed houses. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Leptospirosis

- **India:** Kerala is facing a severe leptospirosis outbreak, with 152 deaths this year, despite an effective treatment (Chathothu, R., 2024). The disease affects 1,368 people in the state, with 1,170 suspected cases. Despite a government-reported 76 deaths, the disease is reported in every district, with high risk during July, August, and September. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Measles

- **Pakistan:** Six children of a family died of measles in Matiari, and over four children remain affected (Desk, W., 2024). The incident follows a fatal epidemic in Shikarpur city, Sindh province, where 12 children died in the past two months due to non-vaccination. Over 180 children have been brought to the civil hospital with similar symptoms since January 2024. A special vaccination campaign is being run in areas with measles cases. [\[Full article\]](#)



## *Mpox*

- **The United States (US):** Texas Health and Human Services has issued a health advisory due to the ongoing transmission of mpox, an infectious viral disease that causes blistering (Masso, 2024). In 2024, Texas reported 152 mpox cases, a 76% increase from 85 cases in 2022. The advisory recommends healthcare professionals, public health, and the public take measures to detect and prevent the spread of the virus. [\[Full article\]](#)

## *Nipah*

- **India:** A 14-year-old boy in Kerala, India, died from a Nipah virus infection (Herriman, 2024). The boy, who had acute encephalitis syndrome symptoms, was admitted to a healthcare facility in Perinthalmanna before being transferred to a higher health center in Kozhikode. The National Institute of Virology confirmed the infection, and samples were sent to Pune. [\[Full article\]](#)

## *Pertussis*

- **Finland:** Whooping cough cases in Finland have increased by over six times compared to last year, with over 800 confirmed cases this year (STT, 2024). The disease occurs in cycles, with most cases occurring between May and July, primarily affecting school children. Vaccines are recommended for protection against whooping cough, which can be life-threatening for babies. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United Kingdom(UK):** Bristol has the highest number of suspected cases of whooping cough across England and Wales this year, with over 450 cases detected in the city (Ault, R., 2024). Other high-infection areas include Nottingham, Birmingham, and Cardiff. South Gloucestershire and North Somerset also have high rates. Lab tests confirmed 7,599 cases of pertussis across England and Wales between January and May 2024. [\[Full article\]](#)

## *Zika*

- **India:** Zika disease has been found in Nagar District, including two in Sangamner Taluka, and four in the city district (Online, 2024). The disease is now present in Pune, with a cured case from Sangamner in May. Two pregnant women in Sangamner were also infected, and their condition was examined. Three Zika patients have been detected in the city of Sangamner, and the medical superintendent urges citizens to seek immediate treatment without panic. The health system is also asking for proper care during monsoons. [\[Full article\]](#)

## **Regional Situation**

### *Dengue*

- **Indonesia:** Indramayu residents are concerned about the outbreak of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF), and the latest victim is an elementary school child from Arahan Village, Arahan Sub-district, Indramayu District (Bakhrudin, 2024). The Regent of Indramayu announced that the Health Service would carry out education on mosquito nest eradication and fogging in schools to reduce the incidence of dengue fever. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Malaysia:** Dengue fever cases in Malaysia decreased to 2,373 in the Epidemiological Week 28 from July 7 to 13, compared to 2,805 the previous week (Bernama, 2024). The cumulative number of cases was 80,441 compared to 63,966 in 2023. There were 65 deaths due to dengue fever complications, compared to 45 fatalities last year. Zika surveillance tests were negative. [[Full article](#)]
- **The Philippines:** The Negros Occidental provincial health office is intensifying efforts to combat 17.7% increase in dengue fever cases during the rainy season (Bayoran, 2024). The provincial health officer has reported three children dying due to dengue-causing mosquito breeding grounds. Dengue fast lanes have been activated in government hospitals, with most admitted being children. [[Full article](#)]

## Reference

- ABC News (2024) *Two more bird flu cases reported in Colorado, but elsewhere a study finds no asymptomatic infections*, ABC News. Available at: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/bird-flu-cases-reported-colorado-study-finds-asymptomatic-112113380> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Ault, R. (2024) *Bristol has highest number of whooping cough infections across country*, Bristol Live. Available at: <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/whooping-cough-outbreak-bristol-sees-9414617> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Bakhrudin (2024) *Demam Berdarah Menyerang Indramayu, Warga memita fogging Massal*, Kabar Indramayu. Available at: <https://kabarindramayu.pikiran-rakyat.com/indramayu/pr-3338353236/demam-berdarah-menyering-indramayu-warga-memita-fogging-massal> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Bayoran, G. (2024) *Dengue cases up 17.7 percent in Negros Occidental*, Philstar.com. Available at: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/07/21/2371782/dengue-cases-177-percent-negros-occidental> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Bernama (2024) *Dengue cases drop last week, no deaths reported*, The Star. Available at: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2024/07/21/dengue-cases-drop-last-week-no-deaths-reported> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Chathothu, R. (2024) *Leptospirosis in Kerala claims 152 lives, experts urge for study*, English Mathrubhumi. Available at: <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/kerala-struggles-with-rat-fever-crisis-study-needed-say-experts-1.9741906> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Dehradun News (2024). *दून अस्पताल में चिकनगुनिया के तीन नए मरीज भर्ती*, Dehradun News. Available at: <https://www.amarujala.com/dehradun/so-far-25-chikungunya-patients-have-been-admitted-dehradun-news-c-5-1-drn1030-459814-2024-07-21> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Desk, W. (2024) *Six children of a family die of measles in Matiari*, ARY NEWS. Available at: <https://arynews.tv/six-children-of-a-family-die-of-measles-in-matiari/> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Forbes, A. (2024) *COVID-19 variants KP.3 and KP.3.1.1 account for 50% of cases, latest CDC data shows*, MSN. Available at: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/other/covid-19-variants-kp-3-and-kp-3-1-1-account-for-50-of-cases-latest-cdc-data-shows/ar-BB1qkROz?item=flights%3Cimg+> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Herriman, R. (2024) *Nipah virus death reported in Kerala, India*, outbreaknewstoday.substack.com. Available at: <https://outbreaknewstoday.substack.com/p/nipah-virus-death-reported-in-kerala> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- IranPressNews (2024) *Iran Press News: Dengue fever arrived in Tehran at the same time as warning about the possibility of cholera outbreak*, IranPressNews. Available at: <https://iranpressnews.com/source/241111.htm> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Johin, T. (2024) *Italy hit with 62% rise to 8,942 single-week Covid infections, 40 deaths for July 11-17*, Thailand News, Travel & Forum - ASEAN NOW. Available at: <https://aseannow.com/topic/1333496-italy-hit-with-62-rise-to-8942-single-week-covid-infections-40-deaths-for-july-11-17/> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Masso, S. (2024) *DSHS: Texas reports 76% increase in mpox cases this year*, KXAN Austin. Available at: <https://www.kxan.com/news/texas/dshs-texas-reports-76-increase-in-mpox-cases-this-year/> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Online, M. (2024) *Two patients of Zika disease were found in Nagar district, Saamana*. Available at: <https://www.saamana.com/zika-virus-two-patients-found-in-ahmednagar/> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- STT (2024) *Hinkuuskätapaukset Kuusinkertaistuneet Viime Vuoteen Verrattuna*, Yle Uutiset. Available at: [74-20100708](https://yle.fi/uutiset/74-20100708) (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Republica (2024) *74 dengue cases reported in Palpa*, My Republica. Available at: <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/74-dengue-cases-reported-in-palpa/> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).
- Tribune News (2024) *11 dengue cases reported in Jalandhar District*, Tribuneindia News Service. Available at: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jalandhar/11-dengue-cases-reported-in-jalandhar-district-641832#> (Accessed: 22 July 2024).