

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

January 25 – 26, 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

#### COVID-19

- **Australia:** In South Australia, 1,336 new COVID-19 cases were reported in the past week, with 34 deaths notified to the Department for Health and Wellbeing (Mirage News, 2024). The total number of cases has been readjusted due to a reconfiguration of data. In the past week, 4,044 people received a PCR test, a 19% decrease from the previous week. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India** has seen a single-day rise in 198 new COVID-19 infections, while the number of active cases has dropped to 1,764 (PTI, 2024). The rise began after the emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions. The highest single-day rise was 841 new cases on December 31, 2023. Around 92% of the 1,764 active cases are recovering under home isolation. India has experienced three waves of COVID-19, with the peak incidence occurring during the Delta wave in April-June 2021. Since the pandemic began, over 45 million people have been infected and over 530,000 have died. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** COVID-19 is rapidly spreading, with a new variant called JN.1 affecting 86% of cases in the US and globally (Romo, 2024). The virus's rapid evolution has led to a lack of vaccination, with only 11% of children and 21% of adults receiving the updated vaccine. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Russia:** Worldometer reports that 702 million people have been infected with COVID-19, with 6,972,344 confirmed deaths (ShiaWaves, 2024). Over 43,000 new cases and 272 deaths were reported in various countries, with Russia reporting the highest number of deaths and COVID-19 patients, with 141 deaths and 26,000 new infections reported. [\[Full article\]](#)

#### Dengue

- **Bangladesh** reported no new dengue deaths in 24 hours, but 18 more patients were hospitalized with viral fever (UNB, 2024). 133 patients, including 50 in Dhaka, are now receiving treatment. Since January 1, 2024, there are 945 cases have been reported. Last year, 1,705 people lost their lives due to dengue, making it the deadliest year on record. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Mauritius** has reported a surge in dengue fever cases in the past 24 hours, with health officials working to prevent further spread, particularly in Port Louis and northern regions (News Moris Team, 2024). To combat the problem, authorities are implementing more fumigation to eliminate mosquitoes carrying the virus. Most cases are in areas like Pamplemousses, Baie-du-Tombeau, Cassis, and Rivière-Noire. The Ministry of Health denies rumors of cholera cases. [[Full article](#)]
- **Sri Lanka:** Dengue cases in Suthumalai, Jaffna have reached 47, with 21 children under ten affected (Ratugamage, 2024). Regional health officials are working with police and tri forces to identify potential breeding sites and take legal action against six individuals who failed to destroy them. The total number of cases last week was 47. [[Full article](#)]

### Malaria

- **Kazakhstan:** As of January 25, 2024, the East Kazakhstan region reported 69 confirmed measles cases, with 47.8% of cases being adults (Ushakova, 2024). In January 2023, there was no measles indicator in the region. The majority of cases were children under 14 years old, with 68.7% of cases being children. In 2023, 278 laboratory-confirmed cases were registered, with 68.7% being children under 14. The incidence was mainly among unvaccinated individuals, with 170 cases accounting for 61% of the total incidence. 53 people had unknown immune status and had not received measles vaccination. [[Full article](#)]
- **Pakistan** is facing a surge in malaria cases, with 46,671 cases reported in a week (Desk W, 2024). Other health crises include cholera, typhoid, dog bites, and Acute Lower Respiratory Infection (ALRI) in young children. [[Full article](#)]

### Measles

- **Australia:** NSW Health has issued a warning about measles after a confirmed case in the Australian Capital Territory was confirmed after a traveler returned from India (Karacsony, 2024). The case was found in three locations, including an Air India flight from Delhi to Sydney, and the person's transit through Sydney Airport and the Murray Bus to Canberra. Symptoms typically appear 7-18 days after infection. [[Full article](#)]
- **Russia:** New measles cases have been identified in the Saratov region, with 16 confirmed cases registered since the beginning of the year (Aksenova, 2024). The disease affects 12 children and 4 adults, with five cases currently being tested in Petrovsk and Saratov. COVID-19 has stabilized, with 68 inpatient and 560 outpatient treatment cases. However, there is still an excess for ARVI, with 21,599 cases in the region in the third week. [[Full article](#)]
- **Ukraine:** Four measles cases in unvaccinated children were confirmed in Odesa, Ukraine, with no fatalities (Pavlyuk, 2024). The disease was detected in two family units, considered outbreaks. The last two cases were registered in one family outbreak among children aged 3 and 1 years. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported a 30 times increase in measles incidence in Europe, with 941 cases recorded in 2022 and over 30 thousand cases from January to October 2023. [[Full article](#)]



- The **United Kingdom (UK)**: Public Health Scotland has urged the public to get the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine after a second case of measles in three months was confirmed in Scotland (Jakson, 2024). The number of people receiving the vaccine has declined across all UK nations in recent years. The MMR vaccine protects against measles, with the first dose offered to children aged 12-13 months and the second dose at 3 years 4 months. Between July and September 2023, 93.3% of children received their first dose. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Melioidosis

- **Australia**: Nine cases of melioidosis, a rare tropical disease caused by bacteria in soil and water, have been recorded in the Cairns region in Far North Queensland, the highest number recorded in January for five years (Richardson H, 2024). The disease, caused by the bacteria *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, can be fatal in up to 50% of untreated cases. Most cases occur after heavy rain, as the bacteria, deep in the soil, rise to the surface. Director of Tropical Public Health Services Cairns, emphasized the importance of avoiding contact with floodwaters and soil due to the increased risk of melioidosis. If contact is not possible, avoiding inhaling dust or water drops, wearing gloves and boots, and washing off mud on skin can help reduce the risk of infection. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Regional Situation

### Chikungunya

- **Timor-Leste**: Over 180 people in Timor-Leste have been infected with the first chikungunya outbreak, with most cases reported in Dili (Sousa, 2024). The virus, transmitted by infected mosquitoes, is primarily transmitted by humans. The outbreak has led to a health advisory, with 183 cases reported as of January 25. The virus is characterized by fever, joint pain, headaches, and rash. WHO Timor-Leste is ready to cooperate with the Ministry of Health to control the spread of chikungunya, dengue, and Zika. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Indonesia**: Chikungunya has attacked residents of Mojodanu Village and Ngampel Village in Ngusikan Sub-district, Jombang District, for almost a month (Ilham M, 2024). The outbreak, which began with fever and joint pain, has spread to other residents and has caused mouth ulcers. The average complaint is fever and joint pain. As of January 25, 2024, the outbreak has not been completely resolved, and the disease has spread to two hamlets in Mojodanu Village. Head of the Keboan Public Health Center, Ngusikan, confirmed the complaints but noted that joint pain complaints have not been proven to be chikungunya. Test results are needed to confirm the diagnosis. [\[Full article\]](#)

### COVID-19

- **Cambodia** reported one new COVID-19 case on Thursday, bringing the total to 139,071 (Reaseyeam38, 2024). No deaths were reported, with fatalities remaining at 3,056. Over 136,005 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. Cambodia has already recorded COVID-19 infections with Omicron BA.4, BA.5 sub-variants, and JN.1 variants. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Dengue

- **Indonesia:** The Situbondo District Health Office reported 40 dengue hemorrhagic fever cases in January 2024, primarily due to bites from the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito (Ilham, 2024). The increase was particularly pronounced during the rainy season, with dozens of cases spread across various sub-districts. The most affected areas were Situbondo, Panarukan, Besuki, Mlandingan, Asembagus, and Banyuputih. The head of the district health office noted a significant increase in cases in these sub-districts. [[Full article](#)]
- **Philippines:** Dengue cases in the Philippines have decreased by 24.40% from January 1 to 13, with a case fatality rate of 25% (Jaymalin, 2024). The Department of Health (DOH) has warned the public to take necessary precautions to prevent the spread of dengue, particularly during the rainy season, as improper water storage can serve as breeding sites for mosquitoes. The DOH has advised the public to search and destroy mosquito breeding sites, uphold self-protection, seek early consultation, support fogging and misting, and sustain hydration. [[Full article](#)]
- **Singapore** dengue cases have surged for the seventh consecutive week, with 410 cases recorded in January 2021, bringing the total number of infections for 2024 to 1,110 (Pagaduan M, 2024). The National Environment Agency (NEA) is calling for immediate action to prevent a surge in cases, emphasizing the importance of collective community vigilance. Residents are advised to help suppress the *Aedes* mosquito population by spraying insecticide, using repellents, and wearing long-sleeved clothing. [[Full article](#)]

## Malaria

- **Indonesia:** Malaria cases in Pohuwato District have increased, prompting the Gorontalo Provincial Health Office to urge public awareness and take preventive measures (Dailypost.id, 2024). Malaria, caused by the bite of an infected mosquito, is a dangerous disease if not treated properly. The Gorontalo Provincial Health Office has identified cases in all districts and cities, including imported and indigenous cases. The health office urges the public to visit nearest health facilities if they experience symptoms of malaria, especially those with a history of travel to endemic areas. The health office also urges individuals diagnosed with malaria to undergo treatment with full awareness to prevent recurrence. [[Full article](#)]

## Rabies

- **Philippines** has reported seven human rabies cases from January 1 to 13, with a concerning trend emerging in the past three to four weeks, specifically from December 17 to 31, with 13 new cases recorded (Espina, 2024). The rise in rabies cases is not confined to a particular region. [[Full article](#)]



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