

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

January 04, 2023 – January 05, 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

- **Bangladesh:** The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 21 new COVID-19 cases in January 4, with the infection rate at 0.66% (Star Digital Report, 2024). The total number of confirmed cases increased to 2,046,367 and fatalities to 29,477. The recovery rate reached 98.42%, with 2,013,951 recoveries. The National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) suggested authorities take necessary measures, including masks, to prevent the spread of the virus. [[Full article](#)]
- **India** has seen a single-day rise in COVID-19 cases and two deaths in January 4, according to the Union Health Ministry. The active caseload slightly dropped from 4,440 to 4,423 and the two deaths were reported from Kerala and Karnataka. The overall death toll reached 533,373. As many as 775 people recovered from COVID-19, bringing the total number of recoveries to 44.4 million. The national recovery rate stood at 98.81%, while the fatality rate was 1.18%. The country has recorded 45 million since the COVID-19 outbreak in January 2020. [[Full article](#)]
- **Nepal** is facing an increase in COVID-19 cases due to those returning from India, particularly the new COVID-19 variant JN.1 (Reuters, 2024). The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified JN.1 as a separate "variant of interest." The Ministry of Health and Population in Nepal has asked the public to return to COVID-19 guidelines, but people have returned to normal activities. Healthcare institutions have cut down on medical workers and test kits, making it difficult to persuade people to give up on their freedoms. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Hospitals in New York, California, Illinois, and Massachusetts have reinstated mask mandates due to an increase in COVID-19, seasonal flu, and other respiratory illnesses (Reuters, 2024). The move comes amid a surge in COVID-19 cases and flu hospitalizations. Mask mandates were controversial during the pandemic, sparking anger among those who bucked medical advice. More than 1.1 million Americans have died from COVID-19. [[Full article](#)]



Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** A dengue outbreak in Bangladesh has led to one death and 75 hospital admissions, bringing the total number of deaths to three this year (NTV Online Desk, 2024). There were 27 victims admitted to Dhaka hospitals, while 48 were admitted to other districts. 483 people are receiving treatment due to dengue, with 244 from Dhaka and 239 from other districts. A total of 290 people were infected between January 1 and January 3, and 532 returned home after treatment. [[Full article](#)]
- **Pakistan:** Health Secretary reported three dengue cases in Punjab during the first three days of the new year, with three from Lahore and a new one in January 4 (Desk, 2024). Currently, 10 patients are under treatment in Punjab hospitals, with four in Lahore. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **US:** Philadelphia health officials have confirmed four measles cases, with two additional cases under investigation (Gutman, 2024). The outbreak began with an infant hospitalized at Children's Hospital and has spread to three unvaccinated residents. The city is contacting those potentially exposed to measles at Jefferson Health building, Multicultural Education Station Day Care, and CHOP emergency department. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

COVID-19

- **Cambodia:** The Ministry of Health reported 11 new cases of COVID-19 infection in Cambodia as of January 3, 2024 (Pandaa, 2024). The total number of cases was 139,027, with 135,944 people recovered and three deaths, 11 new cases are caused by Omicron variants and spread through community infection. [[Full article](#)]
- **Indonesia:** Six residents of Pasuruan District are suspected of being exposed to a new variant of COVID-19, similar to ordinary influenza (Arifin, 2024). The Director of Bangil Hospital, stated that five of the six patients have been allowed to go home, while one patient still needs hospital treatment. He emphasized that health services are provided proportionally, including a special isolation room for COVID-19 patients and those with certain diseases. [[Full article](#)]
- **Philippines:** The number of COVID-19 virus cases in Capiz Kun is 26, with no new cases (Capiz, B.R. 2024). The total cases is 13,993, with 13,369 recovered and 598 deaths. The Philippine Health Office urges public to follow health protocols, especially during holiday season. [[Full article](#)]



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