

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

July 06 – 08, 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

- **New Zealand:** Over 20 residents at a Wellington retirement village have tested positive for COVID-19, causing an outbreak (RNZ, 2024). Twenty-two of the 190 residents tested positive for the virus last week, with one resident in rest home level care. The last positive residents are expected to leave the village tomorrow. The virus and other winter illnesses continue to be present in the villages and nationwide. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Over the past 24 hours, 86 new dengue patients have been hospitalized, bringing the total number of cases to 3,978 (Star Digital RStar, 2024). This year, the total number of deaths is 46, including 13 outside Dhaka. Currently, 282 patients are receiving treatment at various hospitals, with 117 from outside Dhaka. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India:** West Bengal is experiencing a potential increase in dengue cases during the monsoon season, with over 2,000 affected individuals reported by the first week of July (Fleiss, 2024). The Health Department reports that 2,095 cases as of July 4. Malda and Murshidabad districts have the highest numbers, and cases in Durgapur, West Burdwan, are also significantly high. [\[Full article\]](#)

Leptospirosis

- **Mauritius:** The Ministry of Health and Welfare has reported 56 leptospirosis cases since January 11, with two hospitalized and nine deaths due to pre-existing comorbidities (Ion, 2024). The cases come from various regions and age groups, with the youngest cured patient being 23 years old. [\[Full article\]](#)

Malaria

- **India:** A high school student in Sarubujili Mandal, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh State, died while being treated for malaria at RIMS (Raju, B., 2024). Three other students also tested positive, prompting better treatment. [\[Full article\]](#)



Measles

- **Pakistan:** Four children, including an infant, have died of measles in Shikarpur, Sindh Province, raising the death toll to 12 in the past two months (Ary News, 2024). The non-vaccination of children has led to a fatal epidemic, with 397 children infected and over 180 children in Shikarpur hospitalized with similar symptoms since January 2024. An anti-measles vaccination program is underway in districts Dadu and Sujawal. Camps have been established in affected areas while the vaccination program continues. [[Full article](#)]

Mpox

- **South Africa's** National Department of Health has confirmed that the number of mpox cases has increased to 20 (Jiang, X. and Mhlana, Z., 2024). The department expects to receive more Tecovirimat, an antiviral drug, from abroad in the coming weeks to address the surge in new cases. All cases are male aged between 17 and 43. The department urges all contacts to cooperate during contact tracing, screening, and 21-day monitoring to prevent cases from remaining undetected. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- **Australia:** The number of whooping cough cases in Australia has risen significantly, with 12,038 cases reported to date (Fenwicke, 2024). The outbreak mainly affects school-age children and teenagers, particularly in the southern New South Wales (NSW) and Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Factors contributing to the surge include vaccination coverage, waning immunity, and reduced exposure during the COVID-19 pandemic. Infants under six months are at the greatest risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. The pertussis vaccine is funded for children, adolescents, and pregnant women, and recommended for caregivers of young infants, early childhood educators, healthcare workers, and older adults if their last dose was over 10 years ago. The community is advised to check their vaccination status for whooping cough and flu and consult healthcare professionals for protection options. [[Full article](#)]
- **South Korea:** According to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on the June 7, the cumulative number of pertussis infections this year as of the June 6 is 6,163 (Na, E.K., 2024). This is 385 times the number of infected people during the same period last year (January 1, 2023 to July 8, 2023), which was 16 people. [[Full article](#)]

Zika

- **India:** The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) health department confirmed Zika infection in five more people, including three pregnant women, increasing the total number of confirmed cases to 11 (Thevar, S., 2024). The first case was detected on June 20. In accordance with the National Institute of Virology (NIV) guidelines, only blood samples from pregnant women were sent for testing. The reported cases are from Mundhwa, Pashan, and Ambegaon regions. [[Full article](#)]



Regional Situation

Avian Influenza (H5N1)

- Cambodia:** A three-year-old boy from Takeo province, southern Cambodia has been confirmed for H5N1 human avian influenza, raising the number of cases to six so far this year, according to the Ministry of Health (Xinhua, 2024). The boy, who lives in Kiri Vong district, has symptoms of fever, cough, fatigue, and breathing difficulty. Health authorities are investigating H5N1 influenza source and suspected cases to prevent outbreaks. Tamiflu, an antiviral drug, was given to those in direct contact with the patient. H5N1 influenza, which typically spreads between sick poultry, poses a threat to people's health, particularly children. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- Philippines:** Dengue cases in Bacolod City decreased by 19.7% from January to June this year, with 179 cases recorded in morbidity week 25, compared to 223 last year (Pedrosa, 2024). Taculing village had the highest number of cases, followed by Mansilingan, Banago, Estefania, and Mandalagan. The City Health Office is conducting spraying and fogging to prevent further infection. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- Vietnam:** Quang Ninh Provincial Obstetrics and Pediatrics Hospital has seen 13 cases of children with pertussis, a highly dangerous disease that can cause serious complications and high death rates in children under 3 months old. Most infected children have neither been vaccinated nor received the full dose of the whooping cough vaccine. The disease can be transmitted through direct contact with respiratory secretions, including those from the throat and nasal mucosa. [\[Full article\]](#)

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