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Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report in the ASEAN Region

— Infectious Diseases

October 2, 2023 | MMWR 2023-39
Epidemiological Week 39



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Weekly Issue





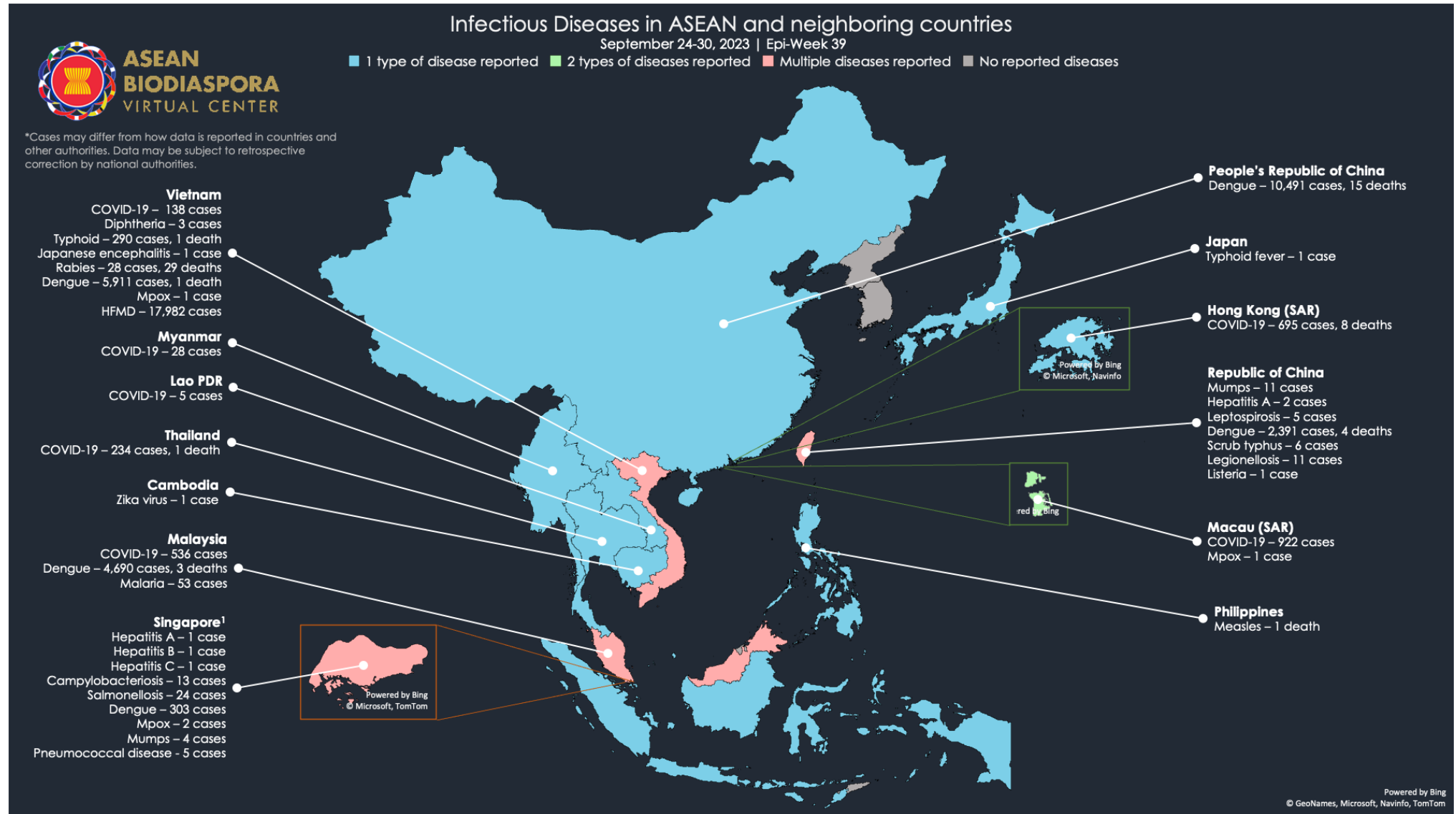
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Reported Infectious Diseases in the ASEAN Region and Neighboring Countries

Epidemiological Week 38 | September 24-30, 2023



1. Ministry of Health Singapore, "Weekly Infectious Diseases Bulletin," Ministry of Health, <https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2023/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>.



Reported Infectious Diseases

Epidemiological Week 39 | September 24-30, 2023

Infectious Disease Global Updates

Rabies

- **USA:** A rabid otter bit a man and a dog in Jupiter, Florida, causing authorities to issue a warning (O'kane, 2023). The otter tested positive for rabies and was euthanized after 41 bites on the man's legs, arms, and hands. The Florida Department of Health warns residents to avoid contact with wildlife and report any suspicious animals to Animal Care and Control. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **India:** Over 3,000 cases of dengue and one death have been recorded in Delhi over the past six months, according to official data shared by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in the House (Hindustan Times, 2023). The number of dengue cases recorded in September was the highest in the last four years. The MCD has not released weekly reports on dengue and other vector-borne diseases for several weeks. The capital experienced a flood-like situation in July due to an unprecedented surge in Yamuna water levels and high levels of rainfall. The MCD shared official data in the House, despite criticism from BJP councilor who alleged that official data was being "suppressed". [[Full article](#)]
- **Jamaica's** Director of Health Services Planning and Integration, Dr. Nadine Williams, announced that health centers will extend their hours to 8pm starting October 2 (News Desk, 2023b). The dominant strain is Dengue Type 2, last dominant in 2010. The National Health Fund will provide resources for dengue mitigation strategies. Dr. Williams advises the public to monitor water storage containers, keep surroundings free of debris, destroy breeding sites, wear protective clothing, use DEET-containing repellent, and stay indoors at dusk. [[Full article](#)]
- **Republic of China:** The Taiwan Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 2,017 new local cases of dengue fever in the country last week, primarily in Tainan City (Lee, 2023). The cases were reported in various counties, bringing the total to 10,496 local cases. Tainan City is responsible for 90% of the cases, with three more dengue deaths reported last week. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Australia:** A new measles case has been identified in Victoria, with four cases identified since the start of the year (News Desk, 2023a). The case occurred at a public exposure site in Melbourne on 20 September 2023. Anyone who attended the site should monitor for symptoms and seek medical care if they develop. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals born since 1966 are at high risk. Unvaccinated infants are at a higher risk, as they can receive the measles-containing vaccine (MMR) before traveling to countries where measles is endemic or outbreaks occur. The first dose is usually given at 12 months of age as part of the National Immunisation Program Schedule (NIP). Infants aged 6 to 12 months traveling to measles-affected areas are free of the MMR vaccine. Young infants, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems are at increased risk of serious complications from measles. [[Full article](#)]

Vector-Borne Diseases

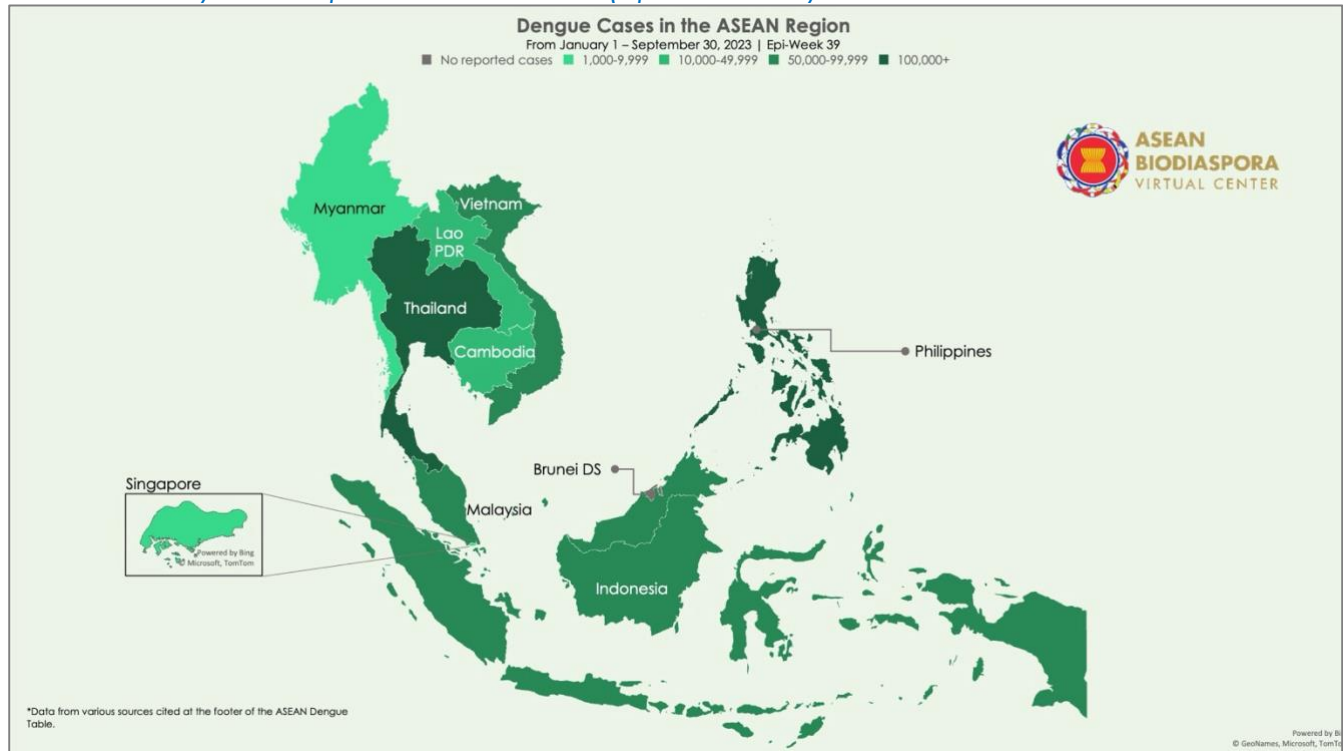


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Dengue Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to September 30, 2023 (Epi-Week 39)



Dengue cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Dengue Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Cumulative Deaths	New Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia⁴	Week 30	11,824	0	32	0	0.27%
Indonesia⁵	Week 38	66,849	7,651	482	53	0.72%
Lao PDR⁴	Week 31	16,413	0	12	0	0.07%
Malaysia⁷	Week 39	89,753	2,330	62	0	0.07%
Myanmar¹	Week 28	6,685	0	30	0	0.45%
Philippines²	Week 34	111,813	10,035	421	6	0.38%
Singapore³	Week 38	7,060	632	0	0	0.00%
Thailand⁶	Week 39	102,202	4,804	98	9	0.10%
Vietnam⁴	Week 31	57,698	0	14	0	0.02%
Total		470,297	25,452	1,151	68	0.24%

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed October 2, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
 2. Department of Health Website, accessed October 2, 2023 "Statistics," August 26, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 3. National Environment Agency (NEA), accessed October 2, 2023. Dengue cases, September 30, 2023, <https://www.nea.gov.sg/dengue-zika/dengue/dengue-cases>.
 4. WHO WPRO, "Dengue," World Health Organization, accessed October 2, 2023, <https://www.who.int/westpacific/emergencies/surveillance/dengue>.
 5. Ministry of Health Indonesia
 6. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed October 2, 2023, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>
 7. Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia, accessed October 2, 2023. iDengue, <https://idengue.mysa.gov.my/did/>.
 *Data were updated and collected from official sources, which may have a 2-8 weeks delay in reporting. Data must be interpreted cautiously.

- The ASEAN region reported **25,452** new dengue cases and **68** new deaths in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand since the previous report. The region reported **470,297** total cases and **1,151** total deaths in 2023 with **0.24%** CFR.



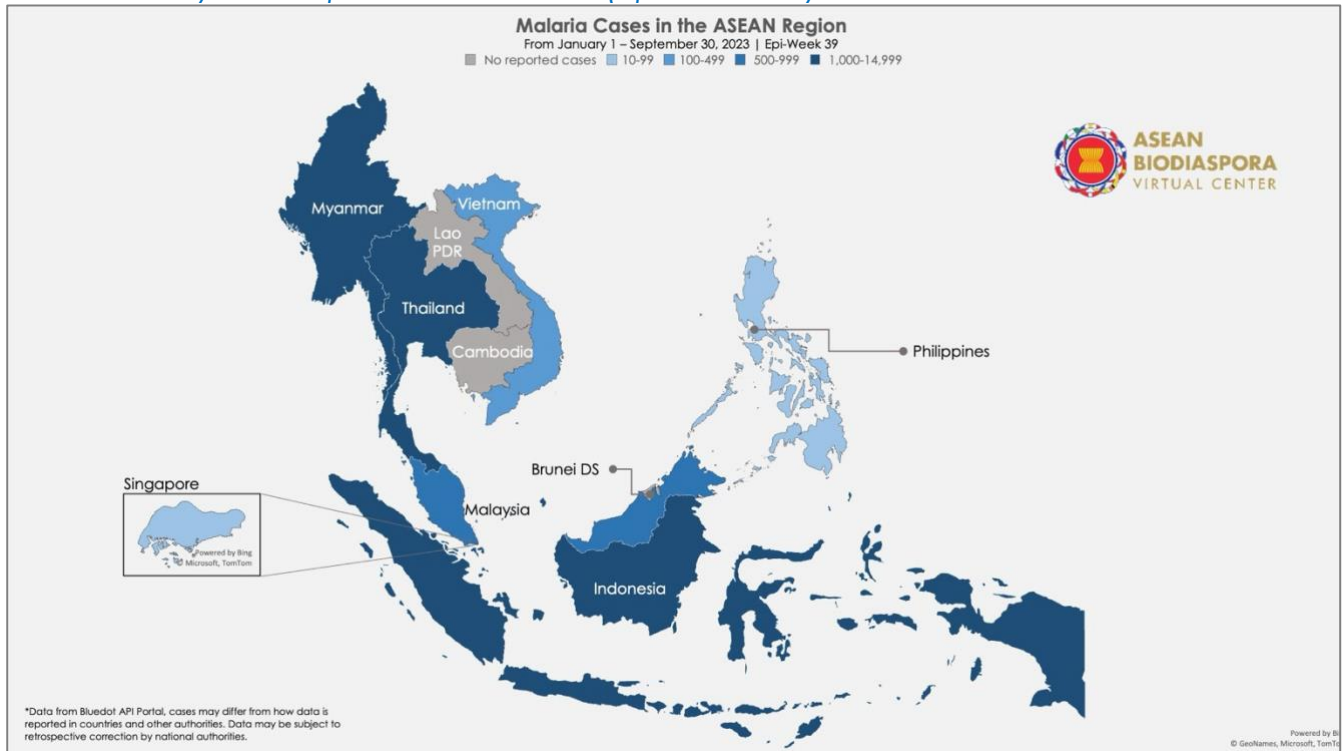
Dengue

- Indonesia:** The Indonesian Health Ministry aims to decrease dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases from 20-50 per 100,000 people to 10 per 100,000, with zero deaths by 2030 (Resinta & Muhammad, 2023). The ministry has introduced a National Strategy for Dengue Mitigation, which has reduced the case fatality rate to below one percent. However, the ministry needs to redouble efforts in tackling DHF cases in some regions. Communities can contribute by cleaning up mosquito breeding sites through the 3M Plus Movement and recommending vaccination against the virus. The vaccine has received approval from the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Malaysia:** Dengue fever cases in Malaysia decreased by 2.9% to 2,310 during the 38th Epidemiological Week (ME38) from September 17 to 23, compared to 2,380 cases in the previous week (Hirman, 2023). Three deaths due to complications were reported in ME38, and the cumulative number of cases rose by 107.1% to 87,175 compared to 42,084 in the same period last year. Dengue hotspot localities decreased to 61, and those with symptoms should seek immediate treatment. No cases of chikungunya were recorded in ME38. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Singapore** has reported over 300 dengue cases per week for the first time in 2023, with 330 reported between September 10-16 and 303 between September 17-23 (Chin, 2023). The total number of dengue cases in 2023 is over 7,000. The National Environment Agency (NEA) reported over 32,000 cases in 2022, the second-highest in a year. There are now over 60 active dengue clusters, with nine in the red-alert classification. The rise in the prevalence of the previously less prevalent dengue virus serotype 1 is of concern, as it has historically been associated with a surge in cases. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Vietnam:** Dengue cases in Hanoi have increased significantly, accounting for 42% of the country's total cases (Than, 2023). The Hanoi Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported over 2,400 more cases and 95 outbreaks in the area, the highest so far in 2023. The number of dengue cases in Hanoi has risen by 3.5 times since the beginning of the year, with the most affected districts being Hoang Mai, Thach That, Thanh Tri, Ha Dong, Phu Xuyen, Dong Da, Cau Giay, Nam Tu Liem, Dan Phuong, Bac Tu Liem, and Thanh Oai. The Hanoi CDC forecasts that the epidemic situation will continue to develop complicatedly in the coming weeks, with anyone at risk of developing severe dengue fever. Hospitals are seeing an increase in critically admitted patients, with some receiving treatment for severe cases. Dr. Tran Van Bac recommends medical examinations for dengue fever in the first three days, electrolyte rehydration orally, and limited fluids. [\[Full article\]](#)



Malaria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to September 30, 2023 (Epi-Week 39)



Malaria cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Malaria Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Cumulative Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia¹	Week 30	1,056	0	0	0.00%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia¹	Week 22	866	0	0	0.00%
Myanmar¹	Week 23	4,510	0	0	0.00%
Philippines¹	Week 28	31	0	0	0.00%
Singapore³	Week 38	16	0	0	0.00%
Thailand²	Week 39	4,285	112	3	0.07%
Vietnam¹	Week 30	146	0	0	0.00%
Total		10,910	112	3	0.03%

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed October 2, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
 2. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed October 2, 2023, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>
 3. Ministry of Health Singapore, accessed October 2, 2023, <https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2023/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>

- The ASEAN region reported **112** new malaria cases in Thailand since the previous report. The region reported **10,910** total cases and **3** total deaths in 2023 with **0.03%** CFR.



Malaria

- **Malaysia:** The Kelantan State Health Department has recorded 215 malaria cases this year, an 84% increase from the previous year (The Sun Daily, 2023). Of these, 24.7% were human malaria infections, while 76.3% were zoonotic malaria. However, no malaria-related deaths have been reported. Dr. Zaini Hussin attributed the increase to frequent exposure to forest and plantation settings. He urged community prevention measures and expanded financing for zoonotic malaria prevention strategies. [[Full article](#)]

Vaccine- Preventable Diseases

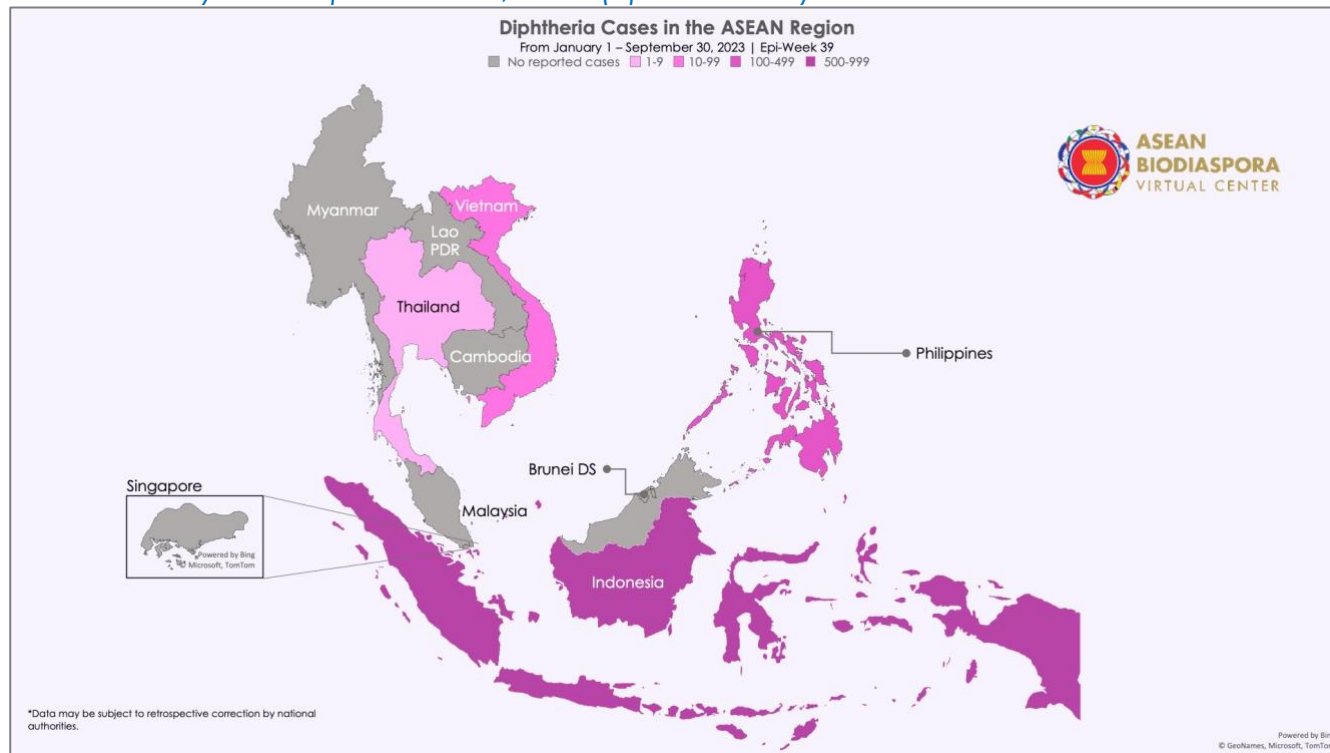


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Diphtheria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to September 30, 2023 (Epi-Week 39)



Diphtheria cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Diphtheria Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Cumulative Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia ³	Week 38	514	98	29	7.59%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines ²	Week 34	117	4	25	21,37%
Singapore ⁴	Week 38	0	0	0	0.00%
Thailand ⁵	Week 39	4	0	0	0.00%
Vietnam ¹	Week 38	41	0	3	7.32%
Total		676	102	67	9.91%

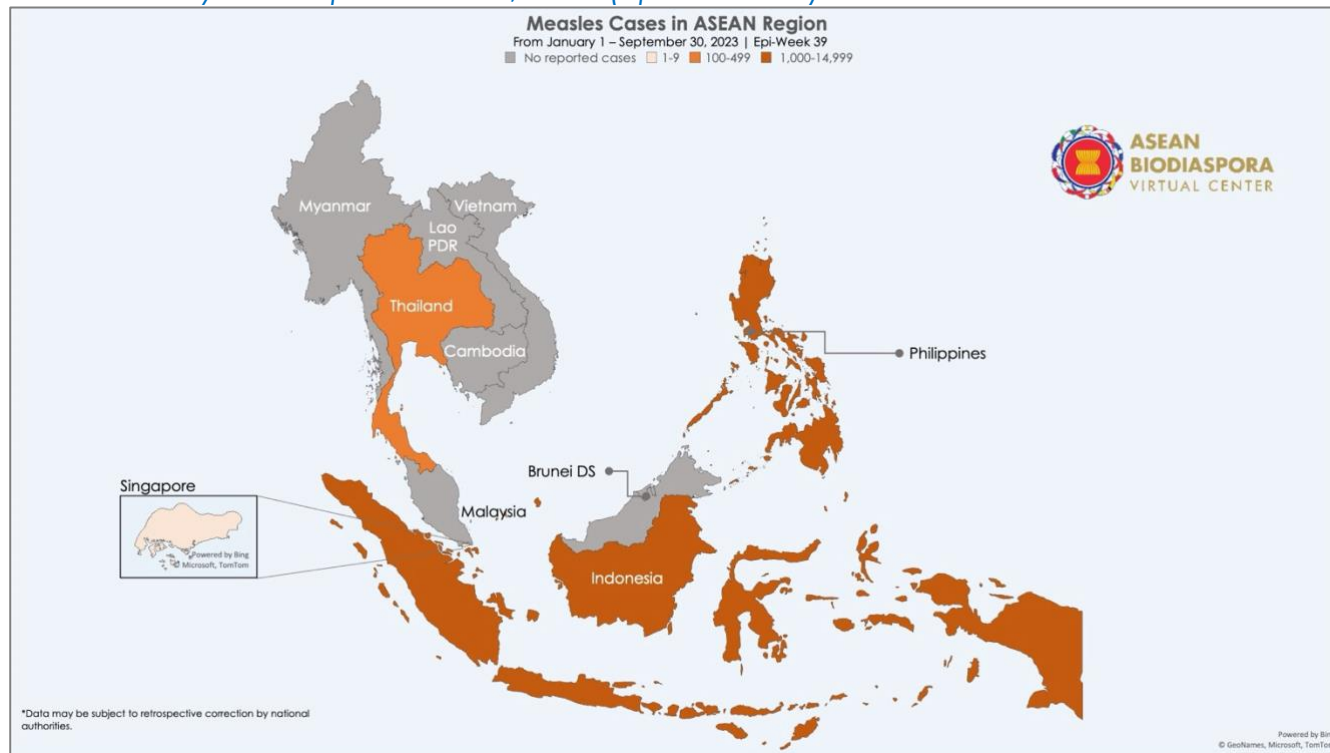
1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed October 25, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
2. Department of Health Website, accessed October 2, 2023 "Statistics," August 26, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
3. Ministry of Health Indonesia
4. Ministry of Health Singapore, accessed October 2, 2023, <https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2023/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>
5. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed October 2, 2023, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>

- The ASEAN region reported **102** new diphtheria cases in Indonesia and the Philippines since the previous report. The region reported **676** total cases and **67** total deaths in 2023 with **9.91%** CFR.



Measles Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to September 30, 2023 (Epi-Week 39)



Measles cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Measles Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia ²	Week 32	3,527	0	17	0.48%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines ¹	Week 34	1,179	65	4	0.34%
Singapore ⁴	Week 38	6	0	0	0.00%
Thailand ³	Week 39	232	10	0	0.00%
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-
Total		4,944	75	21	0.42%

1. Department of Health Website, accessed October 2, 2023 "Statistics," August 26, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 2. Ministry of Health Indonesia
 3. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed October 2, 2023, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>
 4. Ministry of Health Singapore, accessed October 2, 2023, <https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2023/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>

- The ASEAN region reported **75** new measles cases in the Philippines and Thailand since the previous report. The region reported **4,944** total cases and **21** total deaths in 2023 with **0.42%** CFR.



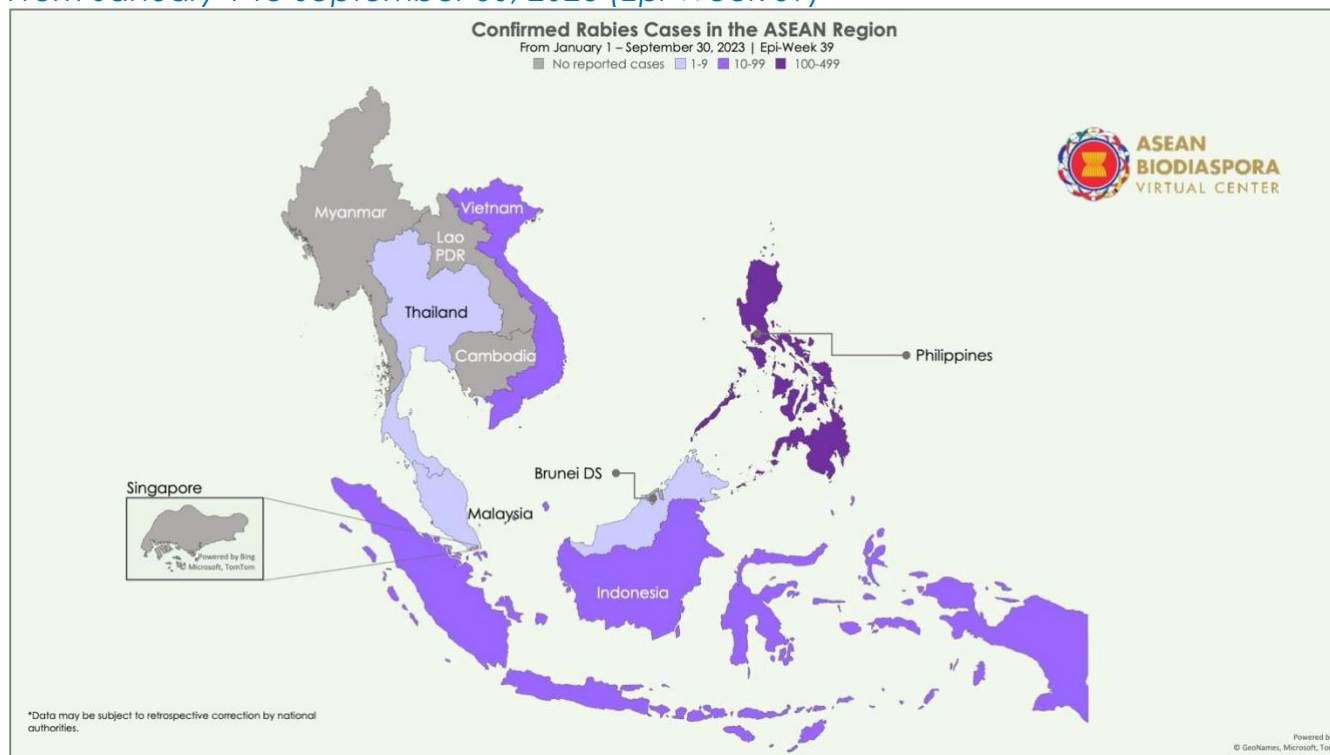
Measles

- **Philippines:** Health authorities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) have launched a three-day joint monitoring and information campaign to contain the measles outbreak in Marawi City and other parts of Lanao del Sur province (Pageone, 2023). As of September 25, the number of measles cases in Marawi City was 16, with one death, while 12 cases were reported in other parts of Lanao del Sur. Most of the infected patients are children, and the majority have not received Measles-Rubella and Bivalent Oral Polio vaccines during the nationwide vaccination campaign. BARMM medical workers have urged parents to bring their children to health centers if they show any symptoms of measles. A focus group discussion was organized to equip health frontliners with the necessary information on addressing the outbreak. [[Full article](#)]



Rabies Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to September 30, 2023 (Epi-Week 39)



Rabies cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Reported Rabies Cases	Laboratory-Confirmed Rabies Cases	Rabies-Related Deaths
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-
Indonesia¹	Week 34	315	17	47
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-
Malaysia¹	Week 38	21	9	19
Myanmar	-	-	-	-
Philippines²	Week 34	247	247	247
Singapore	-	-	-	-
Thailand³	Week 39	3	3	3
Vietnam¹	Week 39	64	33	64
Total		650	309	378

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed October 2, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
 2. Department of Health Website, accessed October 2, 2023 "Statistics," August 26, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 3. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed October 2, 2023, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>

- The ASEAN region reported **650** rabies cases, **309** confirmed rabies cases, and **378** rabies-related deaths.



Rabies

- **Philippines:** The Ilocos Region has recorded 21 rabies cases this year, a 110% increase from the previous year, according to the Department of Health Center for Health Development in the Ilocos Region (Austria, 2023). All cases resulted in deaths, and owners are advised to immunize their pets annually and provide booster shots. Rabies is deadly with a 99% case fatality rate in critical areas. The agency is distributing equine rabies immune globulin vials and purified chick embryo cells to provincial health offices. The Pangasinan Provincial Veterinary Office has vaccinated 129,628 pets and castrated 1,499 and spayed 847 for free. [[Full article](#)]
- **Vietnam:** Rabies deaths are increasing globally, despite the availability of vaccines for both humans and animals (Vietnam+, 2023). In Vietnam, an average of 70 people die from rabies each year, despite the availability of vaccines. Rabies causes significant health impacts, economic and social burdens, and is one of the endemic infectious diseases with the highest number of deaths. In Vietnam, up to 90% of deaths are due to not being vaccinated against rabies, with the Central Highlands region having the lowest vaccination rate and the highest mortality rate. To reduce rabies deaths, localities need to vaccinate rabies vaccines annually, manage domestic dogs and cats, provide human rabies prophylaxis, and handle non-compliance. [[Full article](#)]



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