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Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report in the ASEAN Region

— Infectious Diseases

July 10, 2023 | MMWR 23-002



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Weekly Issue





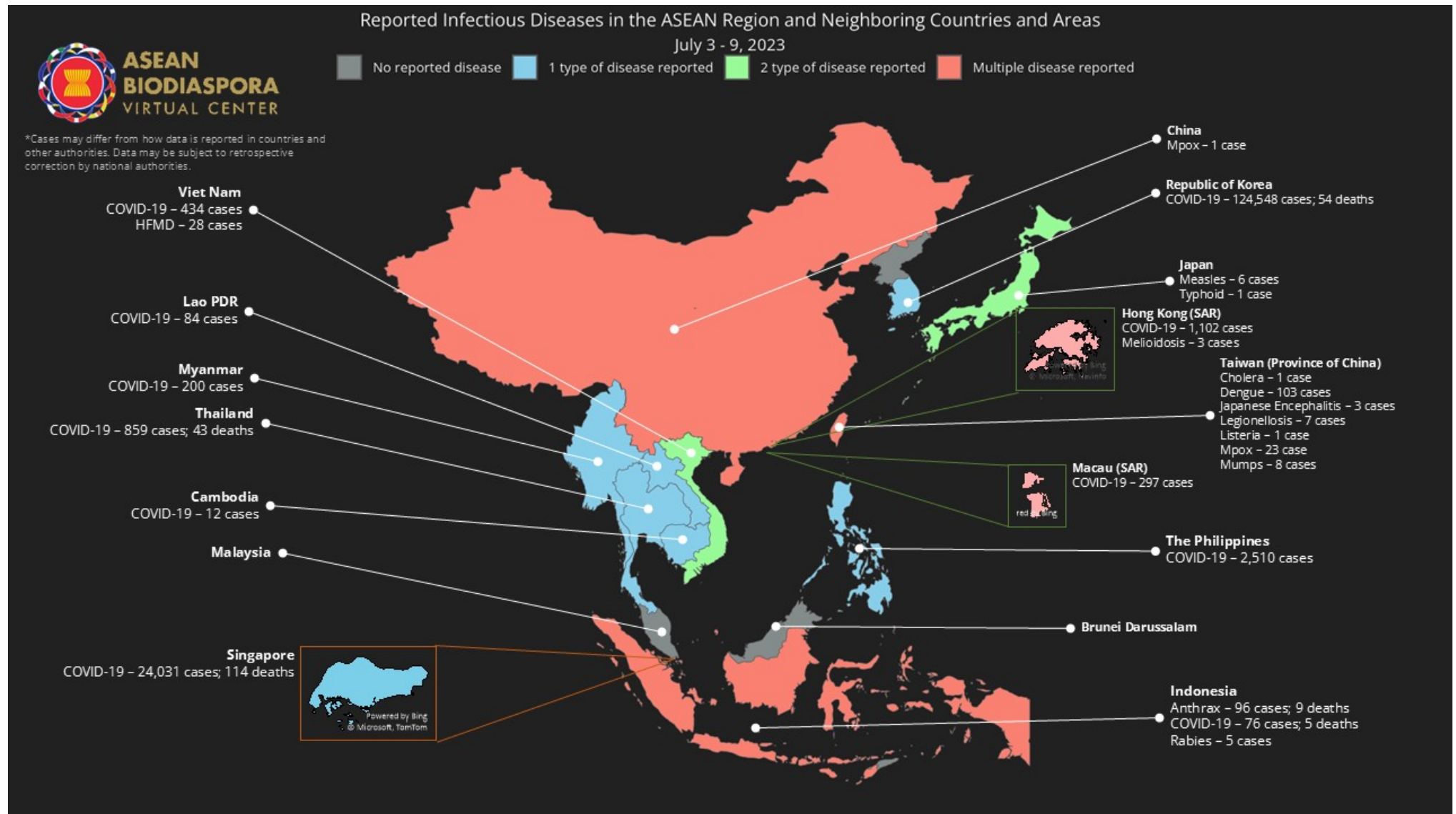
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Reported Infectious Diseases in the ASEAN Region and Neighboring Countries and Areas

From July 3-9, 2023





Reported Infectious Diseases

July 3-9, 2023

Infectious Disease Global Updates

Avian Influenza in Domestic Cats

- Poland:** On 4 July 2023, media sources from Poland published the study of the Polish virologist Prof Krzysztof Pyrc and two other researchers in the country who tested five samples of meat collected from some owners of sick or dead cats (ECDC, 2023). One of the samples tested positive for A(H5N1) influenza virus. On 5 July 2023, Polish authorities informed ECDC that a total of 45 samples from sick or dead cats were tested, of which 24 were positive for influenza A(H5N1) virus. Furthermore, Polish authorities mentioned that 13 cats were fed with raw poultry meat. On 6 July 2023, media sources reported that in Italy (Lombardy region) five dogs and one cat in a poultry farm tested positive for influenza A(H5N1) virus. The poultry farm is experiencing an outbreak of avian flu. The director of the National Veterinary Institute in Puławy stated that, 'they have detected two mutations that indicate that the A(H5N1) virus is evolving to multiply more easily in mammals'. ECDC assessment: Several uncertainties currently exist regarding the source of infection, the potential of feline-to-feline and feline-to-human transmission of the particular A(H5N1) influenza virus strain, as well as regarding the severity of the disease. Taking into consideration the information and genomic data available until now and the fact that no human cases have been reported so far related to this event, ECDC assesses the current risk to the general public as low. However, the risk is considered moderate for persons exposed to sick and/or dead cats confirmed with A(H5N1) infection, particularly if they belong to a vulnerable population group (e.g. immunocompromised people). Considering the existing uncertainties, this assessment is preliminary and will be reviewed as soon as more information becomes available. [\[Full report\]](#)

Avian Influenza in Domestic Dogs and Cats

- Italy:** The National Association of Italian Veterinary Physicians, or ANMVI reports five dogs and a cat from a poultry farm in Brescia, in Lombardy region, have tested positive for influenza A(H5N1) virus, according to a local media account (News Desk, 2023). This farm is currently home to an outbreak of avian flu. Furthermore, the virus is the same as cases detected in seagulls. Although a marker of mammalian adaptation was detected in the birds, in this case the dogs and cats in which seroconversion (i.e., the presence of detectable antibodies) was ascertained had simply been in close contact with a high number of birds in a rural poultry farm where there was an outbreak of bird flu. These are considered sporadic and isolated cases that occur only under certain conditions. The Ministry of Health continues to monitor the situation. As per protocol, the Directorate-General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicines has already informed the regional departments of the certified seroconversion of the dogs and cats that lived in this poultry farm in Brescia which was already kept under control due to an outbreak of high pathogenicity found in the birds bred here. The Reference Center of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) carried out the genetic analysis of the virus found in the birds that died in the aforementioned outbreak, finding traces of the H5N1 virus belonging to the 2.3.4.4b clade, the same virus that had been previously found in some northern Italian gulls.

The following recommendations are offered:

- seasonal flu vaccination for staff who, due to work reasons, are in contact with animals that could be a source of infection
- monitoring the health status of exposed people



- avoid touching and coming into contact with any domestic or wild animals or signs of illness that you may find around
- implementation of surveillance plans in wild birds
- given the recent cases of H5N1 virus in foxes and of seroconversion in some dogs and cats in Brescia, intensification of passive surveillance in wild mammals (with particular reference to subjects found dead)
- avoid contact between outside animals and farmed animals [[Full article](#)]

Infectious Disease Updates in the ASEAN Region

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- **Vietnam:** The Ministry of Health's Department of Preventive Medicine reports that 40% of samples tested positive for EV71, causing an increase in cases of hand, foot, and mouth disease (Vu, 2023). The number of severe cases has risen significantly, with only one-month supply of medication. The Mekong Delta has access to hand, foot, and mouth medicine, but the number of deaths is related to the EV71 strain. The Ministry of Health has established working groups to inspect and prevent epidemics in provinces and cities. [[Full article](#)]

Anthrax

- **Indonesia:** A deadly anthrax outbreak has emerged in Gunung Kidul Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Three people died in Jati Hamlet, Candirejo Village, with a history of slaughtering dead beef (Rachmawati, 2023). One of them, who died on June 4, tested positive for anthrax. The Ministry of Agriculture recorded 12 dead livestock, six cows and six goats, and 85 residents were positive for anthrax based on serological test results. The Mbrandu or purak tradition, where people slaughter animals that look sick and distribute them, is said to increase the risk of anthrax cases the most. The Ministry of Health and Agriculture have launched an epidemiological investigation, and the Ministry of Agriculture will intensify communication, information, and education efforts to the public. One resident of Candirejo Village who is positive for anthrax is still undergoing treatment at Wonosari Hospital. Anthrax is a zoonotic disease transmitted from animals to humans, caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Anthrax spores can enter the skin through cuts or wounds, causing blister-like bumps on the skin. Spores can also enter the digestive tract through the meat of infected animals, into the lungs if inhaled, and through injection. The Ministry of Health advises that livestock infected with anthrax must be burned or buried and not be slaughtered. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **Philippines:** The Iloilo Provincial Health Office (IPHO) has warned the public, especially farmers, against leptospirosis after cases went up by close to 300% in the first six months of the year (Marzan, 2023). Iloilo recorded 107 leptospirosis cases with two deaths from January to June 24, or 296 higher than the 27 cases recorded over the same period last year. Rodney Labis of the IPHO attributed the rise of the cases to wading in farms and flood waters, especially that it had been raining in Iloilo in the past weeks. Wading in contaminated water pose a risk, especially when one has an open wound because it allows leptospira bacteria to get into the body, he added. Cases of leptospirosis were reported in Cabatuan, 14; Barotac Nuevo, 12; Pototan, 11; Anilao, 7; Dingle and Oton, 5 each; Santa Barbara, Dumangas, and San Enrique, 4 each; and Mina, 3. Cabatuan recorded the highest jump, at 1,300% from only one case recorded around the same time last year. Two deaths were also logged, with one each from the towns of Badiangan and Carles. Local government units (LGU) through their rural health units (RHU) have been conducting response activities, including health promotion at the



community level, coordination with farmers associations, procurement and distribution of prophylaxis, and mobilization of RHU personnel and barangay health workers. [[Full article](#)]

Vector-Borne Diseases



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Dengue Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to July 10, 2023



Dengue cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Date Last Reported	Dengue Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	31-May-23	3,051 ²	0	5 ²	0.16%
Indonesia	07-Jul-23	35,694 ¹	0	270 ¹	0.76%
Lao PDR	31-May-23	2,517 ²	0	0 ¹⁻²	0.00%
Malaysia	31-May-23	46,257 ²	0	31 ²	0.07%
Myanmar	09-Jun-23	1,717 ¹	0	7 ¹	0.41%
Philippines	17-Jun-23	72,333 ³	13,889	249 ³	0.34%
Singapore	31-May-23	3,323 ²	0	0 ²	0.00%
Thailand	14-Jun-23	13,987 ²	0	4 ²	0.03%
Vietnam	31-May-23	33,695 ²	0	8 ²	0.02%
Total		212,574	13,889	574	0.27%

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 10, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
 2. Asian Dengue Voice and Action, "Asian Dengue Dashboard," accessed July 10, 2023, <https://www.adva.asia/asian-dengue-dashboard/>.
 3. Department of Health Website, accessed July 10, 2023 "Statistics," June 17, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 *Data were updated and collected from official sources, which may have a 2-4 weeks delay in reporting. Data must be interpreted cautiously.

- The ASEAN region reported **13,889** new dengue cases in the Philippines since the previous report. The region reported **212,574** total cases and **574** total deaths in 2023 with **0.27%** CFR.



Dengue

- Cambodia** has recorded over 4,600 cases of dengue fever in the first six months of this year, a significant increase from the same period last year (Open Development Cambodia (ODC), 2023). The National Dengue Control Program (NDCP) director, Leang Rithea, attributed the increase to a cyclical increase every five years, with weakened immune systems, carelessness, and the rainy season being the main factors. The Ministry of Health has distributed mosquito nets and repellent to prevent the spread of dengue fever. Rithea also urged people to follow clean living rules, collect rainwater-holding items, and seek treatment within 48 hours if they have a high fever. Public health expert Dr. Quach Mengly attributed the rise in dengue fever to a combination of factors, including a lack of attention to environmental sanitation, weakened immune systems, malnutrition, and blood clots from multiplying viruses after mosquito bites. The disease can also cause death if patients do not receive close medical attention. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Lao PDR** has seen a significant increase in dengue fever cases, with 7,662 cases recorded from January to July 2023, up from 6,047 cases in the same period last year (Laotian Times, 2023). The Ministry of Health attributes the increase to factors such as the wet season and public awareness, leading to less caution about mosquito bites. The Ministry of Health is confident in controlling dengue fever by developing doctors' and nurses' capacity to diagnose and treat the disease and increasing public awareness. To provide quality healthcare, the government is committed to developing surveillance and implementing prevention measures to combat the disease. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Malaysia:** Dr. Zaliha Mustafa reported that 59,057 dengue cases were recorded from January to July 2, marking an increase of 138.7% compared to the same period last year (Gimino, 2023). Selangor had the highest number of cases, with 29,382 recorded, compared to 16,133 in 2022. Dengue-related deaths increased by 122.22% compared to 2022. The Health Minister launched the One Hour Malaysia Clean Up program to ensure cleanliness and remove potential Aedes mosquito breeding grounds. The Gotong-Royong Mega 1.0 Perangi Aedes program also encourages people to spend 10 minutes every week destroying potential Aedes breeding grounds on their premises, particularly in Selangor. The Madani Afiat program aims to bridge the gap between leaders and the public through public health, involving house visits and localized activities. The program also raises public awareness of health screenings to detect and prevent non-communicable diseases, in line with health reforms in the Health White Paper. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Philippines:** Health officials in the province have raised concerns over a surge in dengue cases, with 3,274 cases reported from January to June in various municipalities (Reynoso, 2023). Taytay municipality reported the highest number of dengue cases, with other areas having higher numbers. The Provincial Health Office (PHO) has intensified its awareness campaign, focusing on the 5S approach to reduce cases: search and destroy activities, self-protection measures, early consultation, fogging and misting, and proper hydration. Schools are encouraged to promote self-protection measures, such as wearing protective clothing and applying insect repellents. Vector analysis is being initiated to identify factors contributing to dengue transmission. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Vietnam:** On July 5, Dr. Nguyen Minh Tien, deputy director of the City Children's Hospital in Binh Chanh District, Ho Chi Minh City, reported that the hospital had treated three cases of children with dengue shock (Hà, 2023). The most typical case was a boy aged 5 months, who was transferred to the hospital with a diagnosis of infection, blood pressure difficult to measure, and poor health. The doctor determined that the patient had dengue shock, which caused a blood clotting disorder and was life-threatening. The child was quickly treated and passed the critical stage after 1 week. Dengue disease has increased in the southern region since the beginning of the year, with severe cases accounting for over 3.5% of the total recorded cases. The Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh

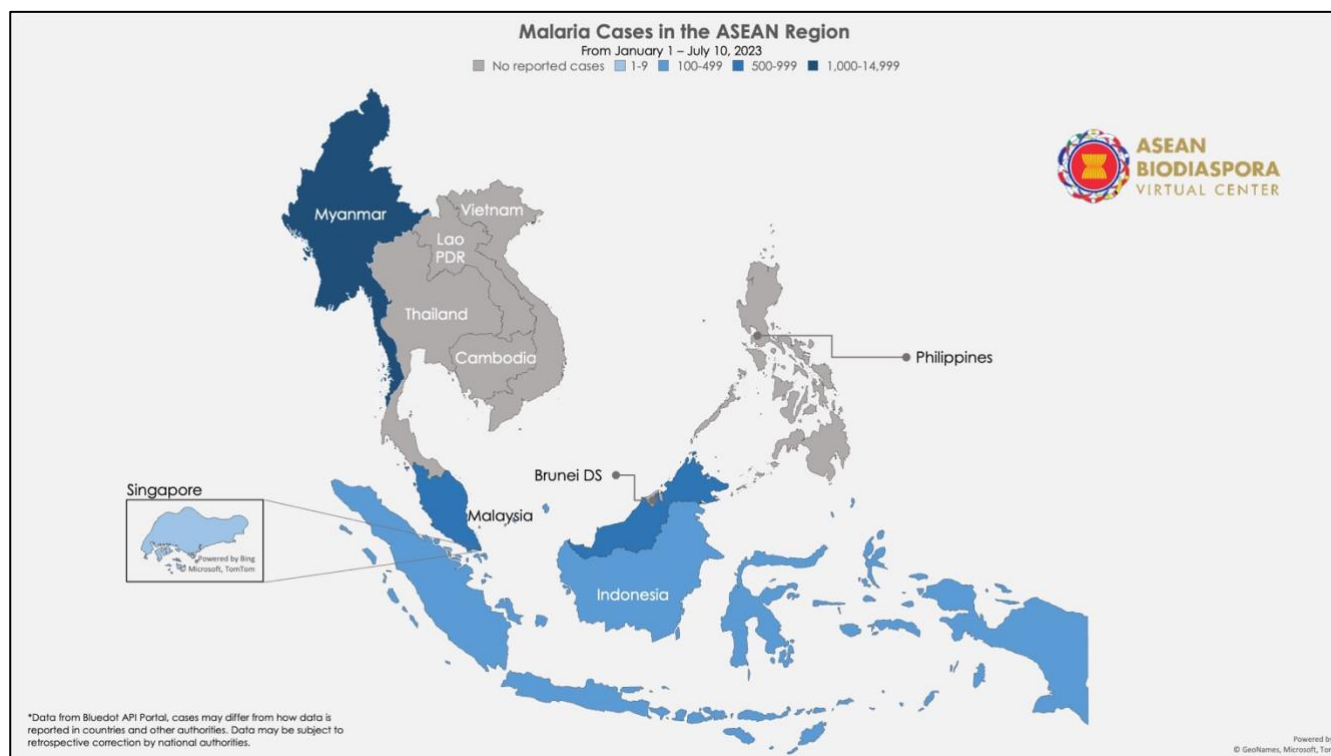


City reports that the DENGUE-2 type of dengue is overwhelming with over 75% of cases, followed by DENGUE-1 with 20% and the rest DENGUE-3 and DENGUE-3. The disease is also affecting infants, with atypical manifestations such as low-grade fever, intermittent cough, runny nose, sneezing, diarrhea, and vomiting. The number of dengue cases began to increase gradually, with over 1,000 cases in the North in the first six months of the year (60% higher than the same period last year). Doctors recommend that people living in high-rise apartments be bitten by dengue mosquitoes following the elevator route and use mosquito nets. Insecticidal chemicals should be limited and people must clean up their living environment to prevent dengue. [\[Full article\]](#)



Malaria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to July 10, 2023



Malaria cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Malaria Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	353 ⁴	0	-	0.00%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	866 ⁴	0	-	0.00%
Myanmar	4,510 ⁴	0	-	0.00%
Philippines	-	-	-	-
Singapore	7 ⁴	0	-	0.00%
Thailand	-	-	-	-
Vietnam	-	-	-	-
Total	5,736	0	0	0.00%

4. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 3, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.

- The ASEAN region reported **NO** new malaria cases since the previous report. The region reported **5,736** total cases and **0** total deaths in 2023 with **0.00%** CFR.

Vaccine- Preventable Diseases



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Measles Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to July 10, 2023



Measles cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Measles Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	2,161 ⁵	0	17 ⁵	0.79%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-
Philippines	730 ⁶	96	2 ⁶	0.27%
Singapore	6 ⁵	0	0 ⁵	0.00%
Thailand	73 ⁵	0	0 ⁵	0.00%
Vietnam	-	-	-	-
Total	2,970	96	19	0.64%

5. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 10, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.

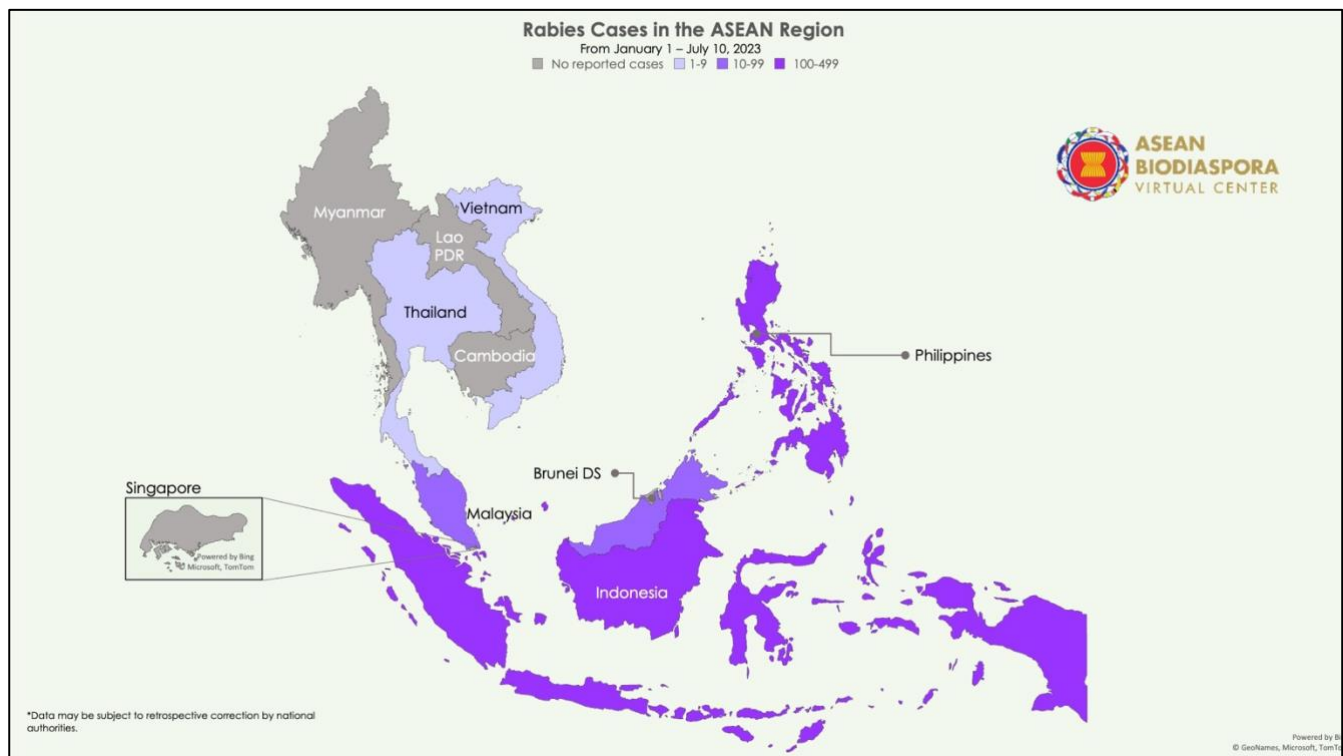
6. Department of Health Website, accessed July 10, 2023 "Statistics," June 27, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.

- The ASEAN region reported **96** new measles case in the Philippines since the previous report. The region reported **2,970** total cases and **19** total deaths in 2023 with **0.64%** CFR.



Rabies Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to July 10, 2023



Rabies cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Rabies Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	267 ⁷	5	47 ⁷	17.60%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	15 ⁷	-	13 ⁷	86.67%
Myanmar	-	-	-	-
Philippines	171 ⁸	13	171 ⁸	100%
Singapore	-	-	-	0.00%
Thailand	3 ⁷	0	3 ⁷	100%
Vietnam	7 ⁷	0	5 ⁷	71.43%
Total	463	18	239	51.62%

7. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 10, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.

8. Department of Health Website, accessed July 10, 2023 "Statistics," June 17, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.

- The ASEAN region reported **18** new rabies cases in Indonesia and the Philippines since the previous report. The region reported **463** total rabies cases and **239** total deaths in 2023 with **51.62%** CFR.



Rabies

- **Indonesia:** The Ambon City Health Office (Dinkes) noted that during January-June 2023, as many as five residents of the area died due to being bitten by rabid dogs. "Meanwhile, dog bite cases reached 448 cases and five of them died," said Head of the Ambon City Health Office Wendy Pelupessy in Ambon, Wednesday (5/7/2023) (Setyadi, 2023). Victims of rabid dog bites, he said, had received antitetanus vaccinations and antirabies vaccines (VAR) for humans from health centers. The Health Office appealed to residents who experience dog bites to immediately report to the nearest Puskesmas for immediate treatment. Wendy explained that currently the stock of rabies vaccines in Ambon City is sufficient, so tracking is carried out to victims of rabies animal bites so that no residents die from this case. [\[Full article\]](#)



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