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Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report in the ASEAN Region

— Infectious Diseases

July 17, 2023 | MMWR 23-003



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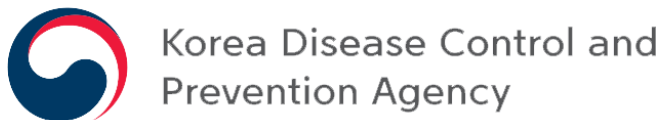


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Weekly Issue





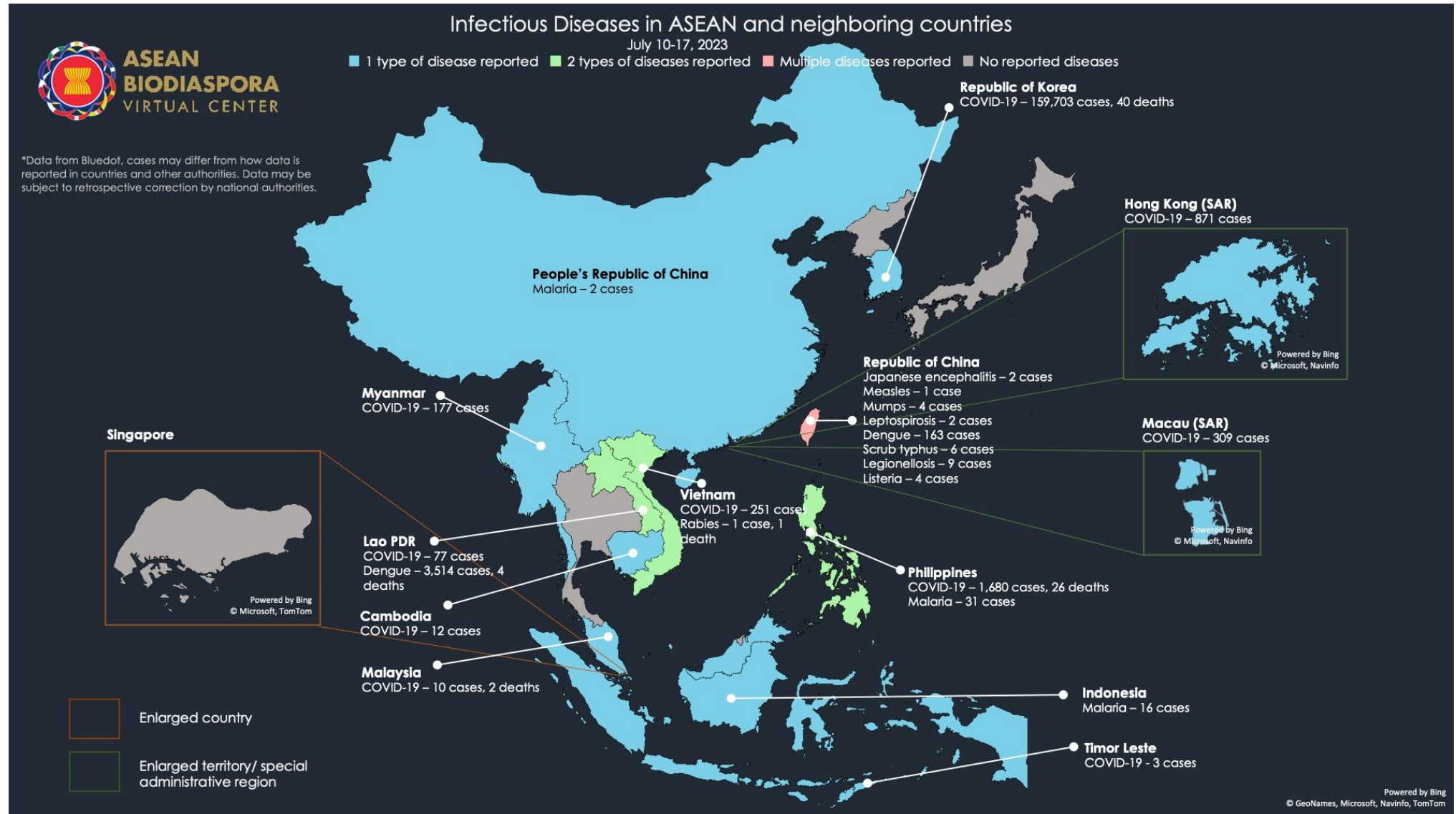
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Reported Infectious Diseases in the ASEAN Region and Neighboring Countries

From July 10-17, 2023





Reported Infectious Diseases

July 10-17, 2023

Infectious Disease Global Updates

Avian Influenza Outbreaks in Animals

- The **FAO**, **WHO**, and **WOAH** presented a situation analysis and advice on ongoing avian influenza outbreaks in animals on 12 July 2023 (WHO, 2023b). The increasing number of H5N1 avian influenza detections among mammals, which are closer to humans, raises concerns that the virus might adapt to infect humans more easily. Some mammals may act as mixing vessels for influenza viruses, leading to the emergence of new viruses that could be more harmful to animals and humans. The goose/Guangdong-lineage of H5N1 avian influenza viruses first emerged in 1996 and has since caused unprecedented deaths in wild birds and poultry in Africa, Asia, and Europe. In 2022, 67 countries reported H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza outbreaks in poultry and wild birds to WOA, with over 131 million domestic poultry lost due to death or culling in affected farms and villages. In 2023, another 14 countries reported outbreaks, mainly in the Americas. Infections in humans can cause severe disease with a high mortality rate, with human cases mostly linked to close contact with infected birds and contaminated environments. [[Full report](#)]
- **Poland:** Poland's IHR National Focal Point reported unusual deaths in cats due to influenza A (H5N1) infection (WHO, 2023c). Out of 47 tested samples, 29 were positive, causing 14 euthanizations and 11 deaths. Genomic analysis revealed 19 viruses belong to the H5 clade 2.3.4.4b and are highly related to wild bird influenza A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b. The source of the exposure is unknown, and epizootic investigations are ongoing. No human contacts have reported symptoms, and the surveillance period is complete. The risk of human infections is low for the general population and low to moderate for cat owners and those exposed to H5N1-infected cats without personal protective equipment. [[Full report](#)]

Malaria

- **United States:** Locally-acquired malaria cases (due to *Plasmodium vivax*) have been confirmed in the states of Florida and Texas over the last two months. These are the first autochthonous cases of malaria in the United States in the last two decades. There were 8 laboratory confirmed cases, no deaths: 7 cases in Sarasota County, Florida (first case on 28-May-2023, most recent case on 10-July-2023) and 1 case in Cameron County, Texas (23-June-2023). The majority of malaria cases in the United States are imported and are reported among returning travelers from countries with endemic malaria transmission, including sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia. Since 2000, four outbreaks of autochthonous malaria transmission have been documented in the United States. *Anopheles quadrimaculatus* and *Anopheles crucians* were collected throughout the county and were implicated as probable vectors. All seven cases of malaria in Florida identified during this outbreak had the same strain of *P. vivax*. Investigators determined that international travelers and immigrants were the most likely source of infection. The Florida and Texas Departments of Health have issued a statewide mosquito-borne illness advisory following the confirmed local cases of malaria. Health authorities are also raising awareness among healthcare workers to consider malaria among individuals with fever or other compatible symptoms without a history of travel since timely diagnosis and treatment are gold-standard to prevent severe malaria. *BlueDot Alerts 11 July 2023*



Infectious Disease Updates in the ASEAN Region

Influenza

- WHO SEARO:** In South-East Asia, influenza activity remained stable or decreased in most reporting countries (WHO, 2023a). Cambodia, Laos People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand reported continued detections of predominantly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses. Malaysia and Singapore continued to report A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) virus detections. SARS-CoV-2 activity as detected in integrated surveillance remained low in countries reporting this data during this reporting period. The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 265 159 specimens during that time period. 6147 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 4142 (67.4%) were typed as influenza A and 2005 (32.6%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 1768 (74.3%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 611 (25.7%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the type B viruses for which lineage was determined, all (458) belonged to the B/Victoria lineage. [\[Full article\]](#)

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- Malaysia:** Johor state's Health and Unity Committee chairman reported that Johor has experienced a significant increase of 44.7% in cases of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) during epidemiological week 27 (ME27) of this year (Musa, 2023). Among the districts in Johor, Johor Baru district has reported the highest number of cases with 1,237, followed by Tangkak with 365 and Kota Tinggi with 339 cases. Other districts affected by HFMD include Kluang with 329 cases, Batu Pahat with 317 cases, Kulai with 202 cases, Segamat with 200 cases, Muar with 178 cases, Pontian with 159 cases, and Mersing with 21 cases. According to the committee, a total of 3,347 HFMD cases have been recorded in Johor from January 1, to July 8, 2023. The majority of cases, 2,856, involved children below the age of six. There were 421 cases among children aged between seven and 12 years, and 70 cases among children above 13 years old. In terms of locations, there have been 74 identified locations in Johor where HFMD cases have been reported as of July 8, 2023. Among these locations, 43 were kindergartens, 11 were nurseries, seven were day care centers, five were pre-schools, and four cases were reported in private homes. Two cases were reported in nursery schools, and one case each was reported in a primary school and other locations. These figures highlight the concerning increase in HFMD cases in Johor and emphasize the need for effective measures to prevent further spread. It is crucial for parents, caregivers, and educational institutions to maintain good hygiene practices, promote cleanliness, and follow guidelines provided by health authorities to mitigate the transmission of HFMD. [\[Full article\]](#)

Vector-Borne Diseases



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Dengue Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to July 17, 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 | 23-Jun-23 | 4,668 ² | 1,617 | 9 ² | 0.19% |
| Indonesia | 07-Jul-23 | 35,694 ¹ | 0 | 270 ¹ | 0.76% |
| Lao PDR | 23-Jun-23 | 5,310 ² | 2,517 | 1 ² | 0.02% |
| Malaysia | 23-Jun-23 | 54,139 ² | 7,882 | 39 ² | 0.07% |
| Myanmar | 09-Jun-23 | 1,717 ¹ | 0 | 7 ¹ | 0.41% |
| Philippines | 17-Jun-23 | 72,333 ³ | 0 | 249 ³ | 0.34% |
| Singapore | 14-Jul-23 | 4,583 ⁴ | 1,260 | 0 ⁴ | 0.00% |
| Thailand | 14-Jul-23 | 27,235 ² | 13,248 | 1 ² | 0.003% |
| Vietnam | 23-Jun-23 | 37,714 ² | 4,019 | 8 ² | 0.02% |
| Total | | 243,393 | 30,543 | 584 | 0.24% |

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 16, 2023, <https://developer-portal.blue-dot.global/>.
 2. Asian Dengue Voice and Action, "Asian Dengue Dashboard," accessed July 17, 2023, <https://www.adva.asia/asian-dengue-dashboard/>.
 3. Department of Health Website, accessed July 17, 2023 "Statistics," June 17, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 4. National Environment Agency (NEA), accessed July 16, 2023, Dengue cases, July 14, 2023, <https://www.nea.gov.sg/dengue-zika/dengue/dengue-cases>.
 *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 **30,543** new dengue cases in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam since the previous report. The region reported **243,393** total cases and **584** total deaths in 2023 with **0.24%** CFR.



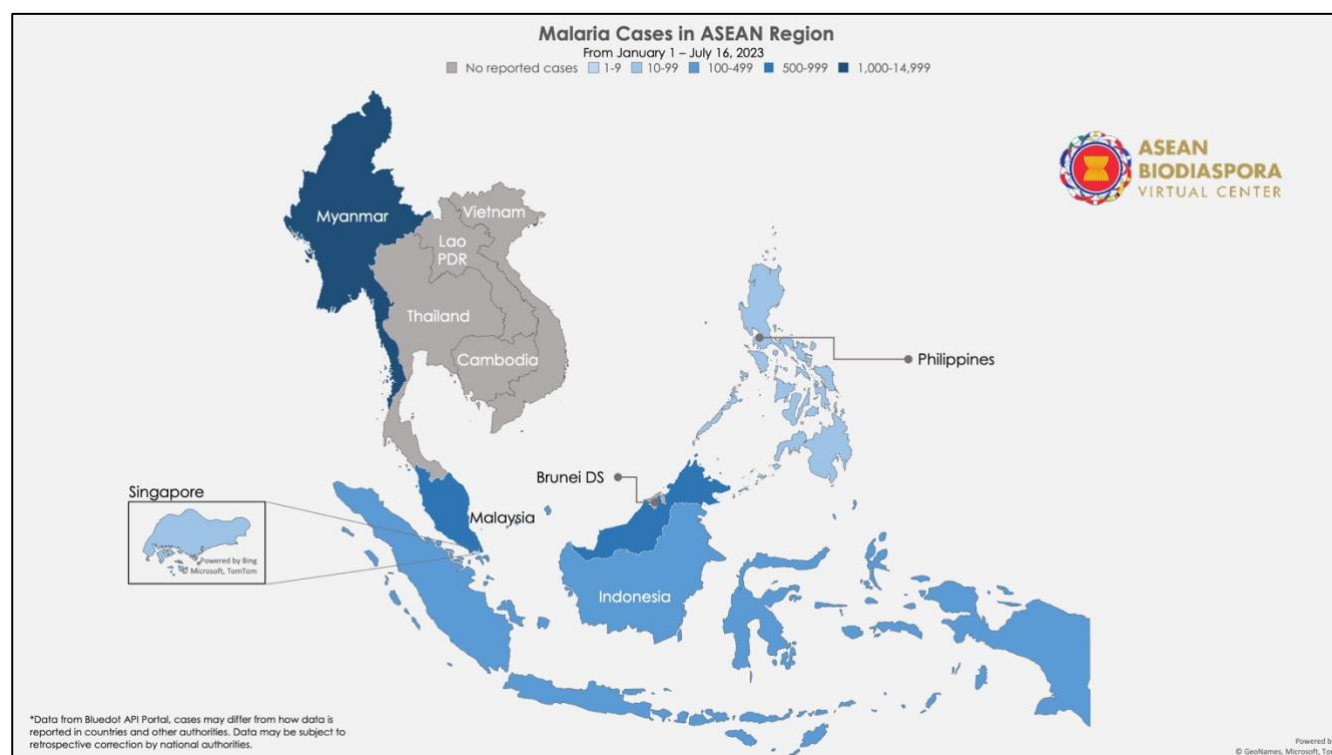
Dengue

- **Lao PDR:** According to the Center of Information and Education for Health in Laos, a total of 11,176 dengue fever cases have been reported as of July 14 (The Star, 2023). Oudomxay province has recorded the highest number of cases with 2,472, followed by Khammuan province with 1,829 cases. Tragically, six deaths have been reported across the country, with three in Bolikhamxay province and one each in the Lao capital Vientiane, Savannakhet, and Khammuan province. The Ministry of Health attributes the surge in dengue fever cases to multiple factors, primarily a lack of public awareness regarding preventive measures to avoid mosquito bites. Despite the increase in cases, the ministry remains optimistic about controlling the virus's spread by raising public awareness and promoting necessary precautions. Simultaneously, the Lao government has expressed its commitment to strengthening surveillance efforts and implementing preventive measures to curb the transmission of dengue fever. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health has pledged to continue enhancing the knowledge and capabilities of healthcare professionals, including doctors and nurses, to provide improved healthcare services in the fight against dengue fever. Their aim is to develop the necessary capacity and expertise to effectively manage and combat the disease. It is important for the public to stay informed about preventive measures and follow the guidelines provided by health authorities to mitigate the impact of dengue fever. [\[Full article\]](#)



Malaria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to July 16, 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 | 369 ⁴ | 16 | 0 ⁴ | 0.00% |
| Lao PDR | - | - | - | - |
| Malaysia | 866 ⁴ | 0 | 0 ⁴ | 0.00% |
| Myanmar | 4,510 ⁴ | 0 | 0 ⁴ | 0.00% |
| Philippines | 31 ⁴ | 31 | 0 ⁴ | 0.00% |
| Singapore | 7 ⁴ | 0 | 0 ⁴ | 0.00% |
| Thailand | - | - | - | - |
| Vietnam | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 5,783 | 47 | 0 | 0.00% |

5. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 16, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.

- The ASEAN region reported **47** new malaria cases in Indonesia and the Philippines since the previous report. The region reported **5,783** total cases and **0** total deaths in 2023 with **0.00%** CFR.



Malaria

- **Philippines:** The Department of Health (DOH) has reported a cluster of malaria cases in Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan (Tapas, 2023). A total of 31 cases were recorded, spanning from less than one month to fifty years old. Among the affected zones, Zone 14 had the highest number of reported cases, accounting for 24 cases out of the five affected zones. Approximately 55% of the cases were female. The patients exhibited various signs and symptoms, including headaches, dizziness, body malaise, fever, and epigastric pain. The clustering of malaria cases occurred between April 26 and June 30, 2023. In response, the DOH conducted misting and stream-clearing operations in Zone 12, 13, and 14, covering a total of 42 houses. Additionally, indoor residual spraying was performed in 27 houses, while search-and-destroy activities were carried out in 25 houses. These measures aimed to prevent the further spread of the disease. The country's Health Secretary recently announced that 66 provinces in the Philippines are now free of malaria, while 15 provinces have entered the elimination phase. Palawan remains the only province with local transmission of malaria in the country. The report underscores the importance of implementing targeted interventions and preventive measures to combat malaria and reduce its transmission. Continued efforts to control and eliminate malaria in Palawan are crucial to protecting the health and well-being of the local population. [[Full article](#)]

Vaccine- Preventable Diseases

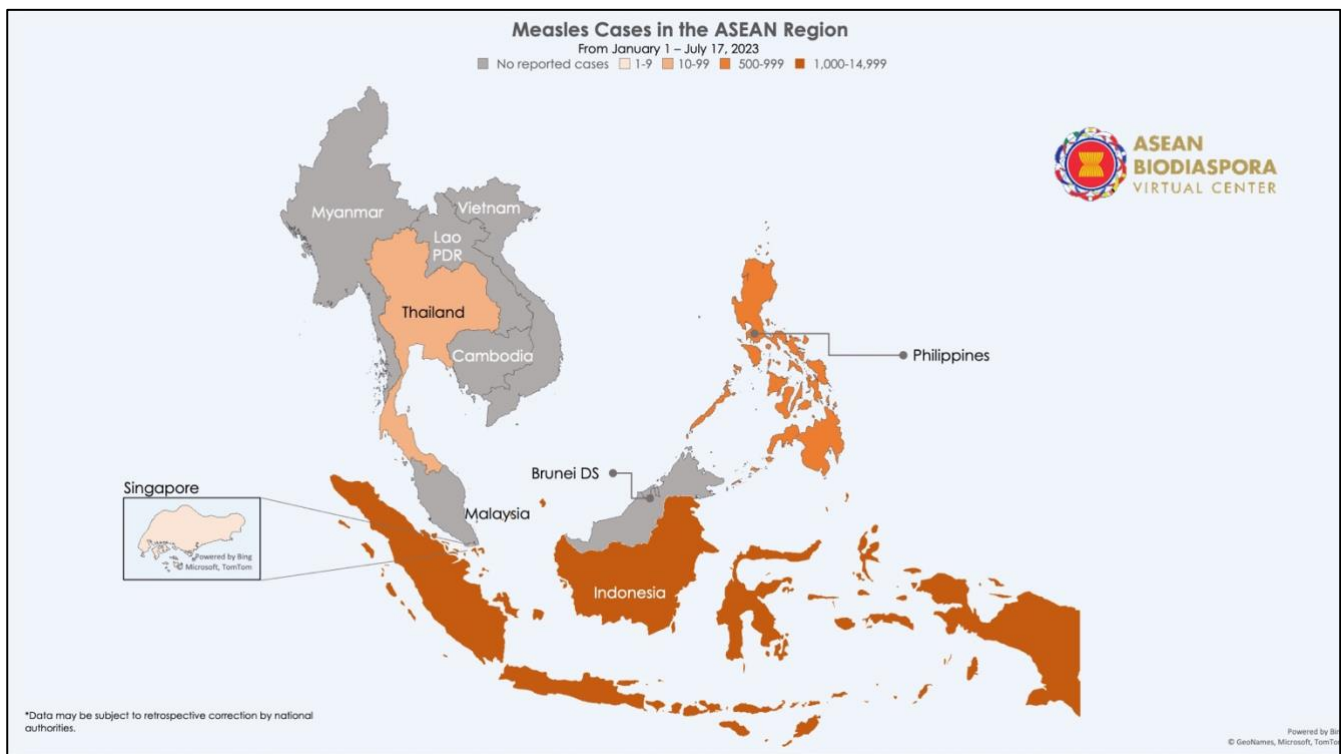


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Measles Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to July 17, 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 | 0 | 2 ⁶ | 0.27% |
| Singapore | 6 ⁵ | 0 | 0 ⁵ | 0.00% |
| Thailand | 73 ⁵ | 0 | 0 ⁵ | 0.00% |
| Vietnam | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 2,970 | 0 | 19 | 0.64% |

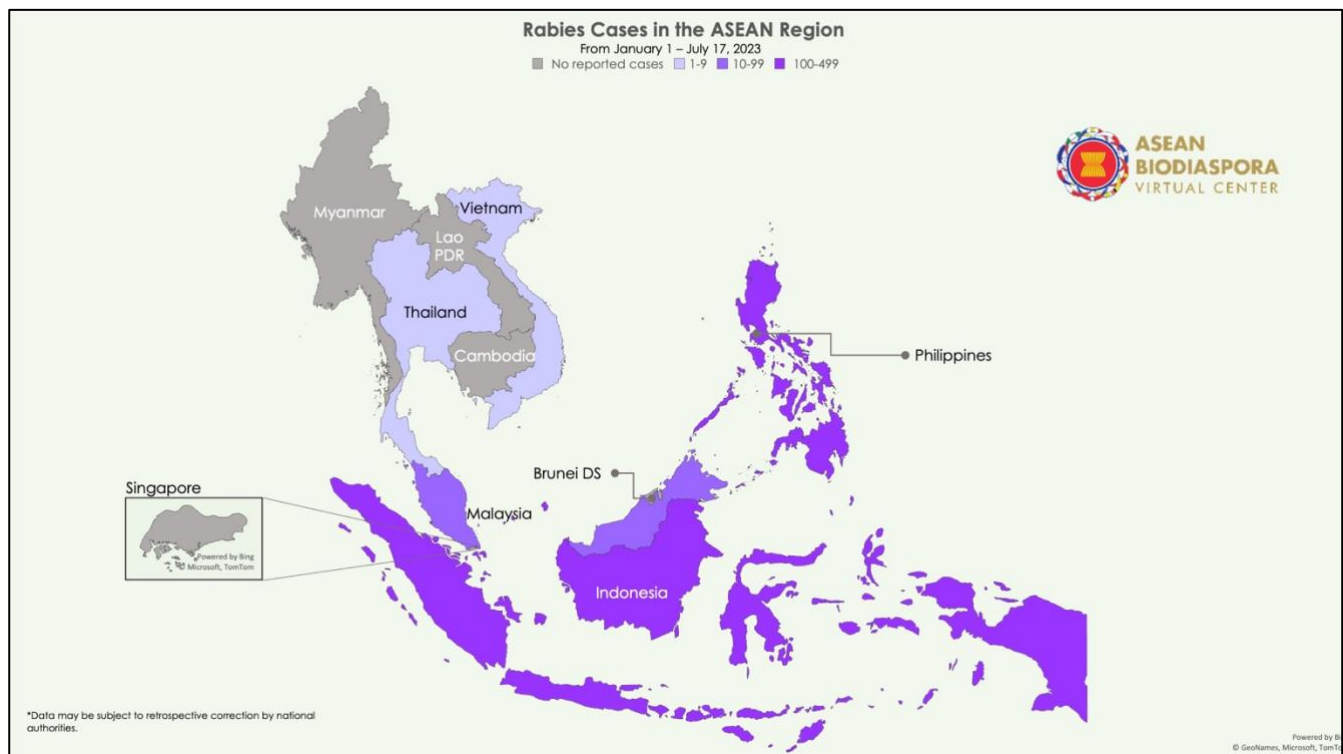
6. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 17, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
7. Department of Health Website, accessed July 17, 2023 "Statistics," June 17, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.

- The ASEAN region reported **NO** new measles case 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 17, 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 | 302 ⁷ | 35 | 47 ⁷ | 15.56% |
| Lao PDR | - | - | - | - |
| Malaysia | 15 ⁷ | 0 | 13 ⁷ | 86.67% |
| Myanmar | - | - | - | - |
| Philippines | 171 ⁸ | 0 | 171 ⁸ | 100% |
| Singapore | - | - | - | 0.00% |
| Thailand | 3 ⁷ | 0 | 3 ⁷ | 100% |
| Vietnam | 8 ⁷ | 1 | 6 ⁷ | 75.00% |
| Total | 499 | 36 | 240 | 48.10% |

8. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 17, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.

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

- The ASEAN region reported **36** new rabies cases in Indonesia and Vietnam since the previous report. The region reported **499** total rabies cases and **240** total deaths in 2023 with **48.10%** CFR.



Rabies

- **Vietnam:** After more than 4 months of being bitten by a neighbor's dog but not vaccinated, Mr. H. died of rabies (Giadinh, 2023a). On July 15, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) of Quang Binh province said that in Dong Hoi City, one death due to rabies has been recorded. According to the family, more than 4 months ago, Mr. H. was bitten by a neighbor's dog on the index finger of his right hand; the wound was shallow and was not bleeding much. After two days, the dog died. By July 11, Mr. H. was in normal health. But in the afternoon of the same day, the patient felt tired. The next day, Mr. H. became serious, so his family took him to the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Hospital Dong Hoi for treatment and was diagnosed with suspected rabies. According to CDC Quang Binh, as soon as receiving case information from the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Hospital Dong Hoi, the unit sent staff to coordinate with Dong Hoi City Health Center, Dong Son Ward Health Station to directly investigate. It was discovered that there was one more case related to the dog bite. Mr. Q., a student, was bitten on the shoulder by the above dog, the bite was shallow, bleeding sparingly. Soon after, family members took him to the provincial CDC for a full dose of rabies serum and vaccine. At present, Mr. Q.'s health is normal. On July 17, according to the report of the Dong Nai Center for Disease Control, one suspected rabies death was recorded in the area (Giadinh, 2023b). That is Mr. T.V.P, 7 years old, from Song Trau commune, Trang Bom district, Dong Nai. It was initially determined that Mr. P.'s family had a dog that had not been vaccinated against rabies. In late December 12, the dog scratched the skin on Mr. P.'s left wrist, which did not cause bleeding, so Mr. P. did not get vaccinated against rabies. A few days later, the dog bit Mr. P's wife and 2 young children. All 3 went to Trang Bom district health center for rabies vaccination. The dog was then culled. By July 7, Mr. P. had manifestations of illness such as loss of appetite, vomiting, muscle pain, fear of water, fear of wind, fear of light, chest tightness and shortness of breath. requires emergency hospitalization. By July 14, the victim was dead. According to verification results by the provincial Centre for Disease Control, opposite Mr. P.'s house recorded an outbreak of rabies in dogs about 11 days before Mr. P. was scratched. Mr. P.'s dogs were muzzle-free every day, having contact with other dogs in the area. Up to now, this is the 2nd case of an outbreak of rabies dogs transmitting diseases to humans in Song Trau commune and the 3rd outbreak in Trang Bom district from the beginning of 2023 until now. [Full article [Giadinh 2023a](#), [Giadinh 2023b](#)]



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