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Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report in the ASEAN Region

— Infectious Diseases

September 25, 2023 | MMWR 2023-38
Epidemiological Week 38



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Weekly Issue





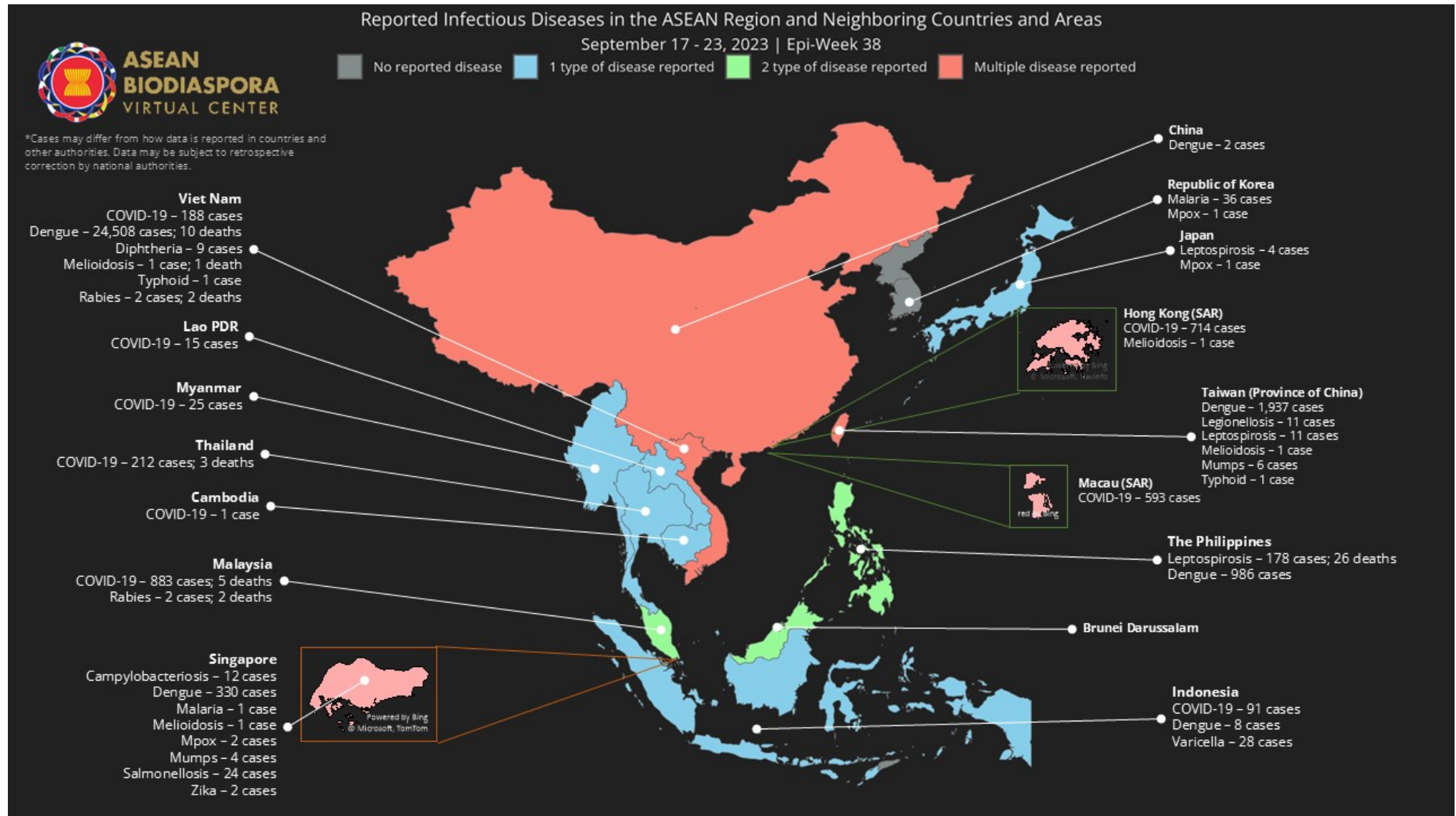
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Reported Infectious Diseases in the ASEAN Region and Neighboring Countries

Epidemiological Week 38 | September 17-23, 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 38 | September 17-23, 2023

Infectious Disease Global Updates

Diphtheria

- **US:** The CDC has issued travel notices for three African and Asian countries experiencing diphtheria outbreaks. Nigeria has seven affected states, with 4160 suspected cases reported between August 19 and 31, 2023. Guinea has 117 suspected cases, including seven confirmed cases, all of whom have died. The 1-4-year-old age group is the most affected, with 60 cases. Siguiri District has the highest number of cases. Northern Vietnam is also experiencing outbreaks in Dien Bien, Ha Giang, and Thai Nguyen. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **India:** A 29-year-old woman with dengue fever had an emergency C-section and a positive baby test (Unival, 2023). The baby recovered and was resuscitated, indicating that rare cases of dengue infection can pass to the fetus. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Italy:** Italian Health authorities have reported 27 confirmed cases of dengue locally in Italy as of 18 September 2023, involving three unconnected transmission episodes in Lodi, Latina, and Rome (NewsDesk, 2023). Investigations are underway to verify any epidemiological links, with 21 confirmed cases in Lodi, 2 cases in Latina, and 4 cases in Rome. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Jamaica** has declared an outbreak of dengue due to an increase in cases compared to normal months (Press Release, 2023). As of September 22, 2023, the country had 565 suspected, presumed, and confirmed cases of dengue, with 78 confirmed cases in Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine, and St. Thomas. The dominant strain is Dengue Type 2, which last predominated in 2010. The Ministry of Health & Wellness has made significant investments in the vector control programme, with over J\$300M in acquisition of vehicles, fogging machines, and staff dedicated to the vector management program. The Ministry will expand community strategies through engagement of stakeholders, including support for bulky waste removal and drain-cleaning exercises. Parish health departments have been engaged in enhanced fogging and treatment of breeding sites since July 2023. The Ministry will also extend opening hours for Type 3–5 Health Centres to 8:00 p.m. starting October 2, 2023. Children under 18 years visiting the University Hospital of the West Indies will not be charged a fee or be required to pay for services at the facility. The National Emergency Operations Centre and emergency operations centers will monitor and report on the outbreak to minimize cases. [\[Full article\]](#)

Infectious Disease Updates in the ASEAN Region

Zika

- **Cambodia** has confirmed on September 21 its first case of the Zika virus since 2016, with a seven-year-old girl who was admitted to Baray Santuk Referral Hospital suspected of having dengue fever (Manila Bulletin, 2023). The virus is transmitted by the Aedes mosquito, sexual contact, blood transfusions, and congenitally from mother to child. Symptoms include fever, headache, rash, red eyes, and joint pain. [\[Full article\]](#)

Vector-Borne Diseases

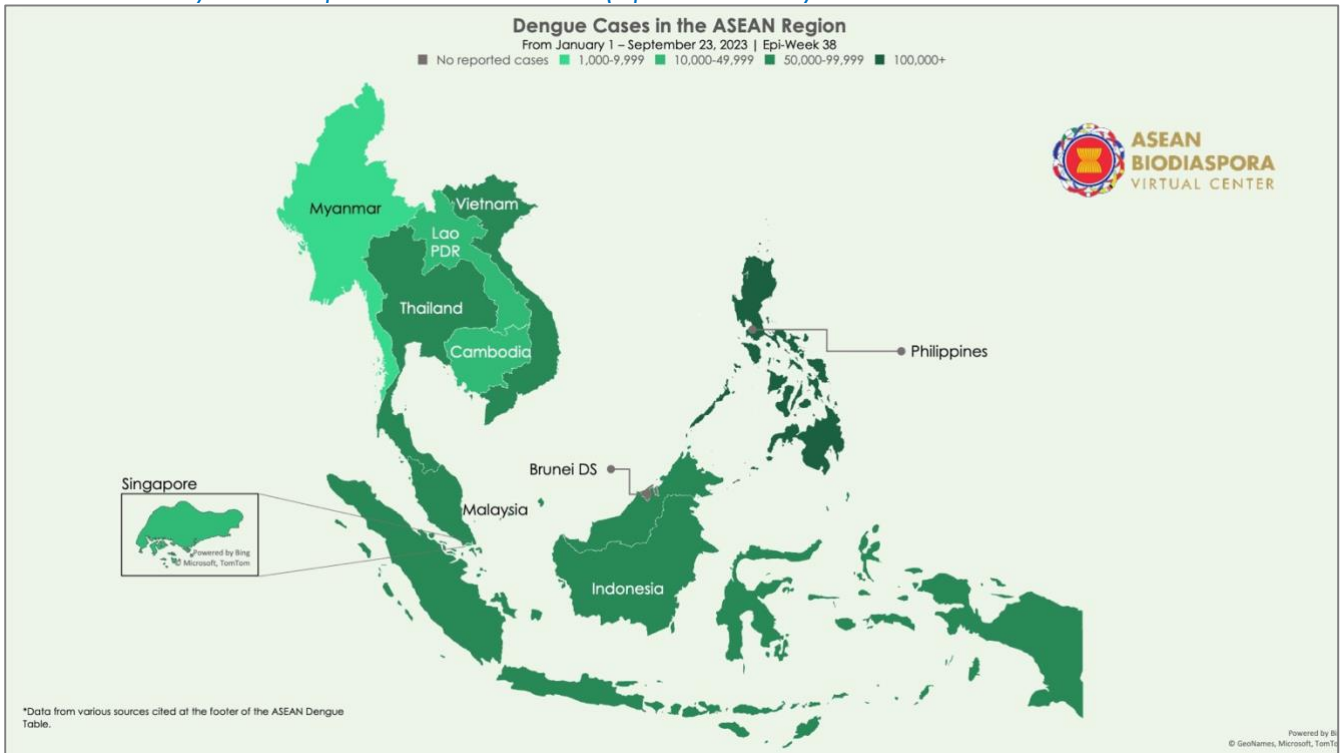


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Dengue Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to September 23, 2023 (Epi-Week 38)



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 34	59,198	0	429	0	0.72%
Lao PDR⁴	Week 31	16,413	0	12	0	0.07%
Malaysia⁷	Week 38	87,423	16,230	62	13	0.07%
Myanmar¹	Week 28	6,685	0	30	0	0.45%
Philippines²	Week 33	107,278	5,500	415	33	0.39%
Singapore³	Week 37	6,758	330	0	0	0.00%
Thailand⁶	Week 38	97,398	31,846	89	31	0.09%
Vietnam⁴	Week 31	57,698	0	14	0	0.02%
Total		450,345	53,906	1,083	77	0.24%

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
 2. Department of Health Website, accessed September 24, 2023 "Statistics," August 19, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 3. National Environment Agency (NEA), accessed September 24, 2023. Dengue cases, September 23, 2023, <https://www.nea.gov.sg/dengue-zika/dengue/dengue-cases>.
 4. WHO WPRO, "Dengue," World Health Organization, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/surveillance/dengue>.
 5. Ministry of Health Indonesia
 6. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed September 24, 2023, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>
 7. Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia, accessed September 25, 2023. iDengue, <https://idengue.mysa.gov.my/did/>
 *Data were updated and collected from official sources, which may have a 2-6 weeks delay in reporting. Data must be interpreted cautiously.

- The ASEAN region reported **53,906** new dengue cases in Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand since the previous report. The region reported **450,345** total cases and **1,083** total deaths in 2023 with **0.24%** CFR.



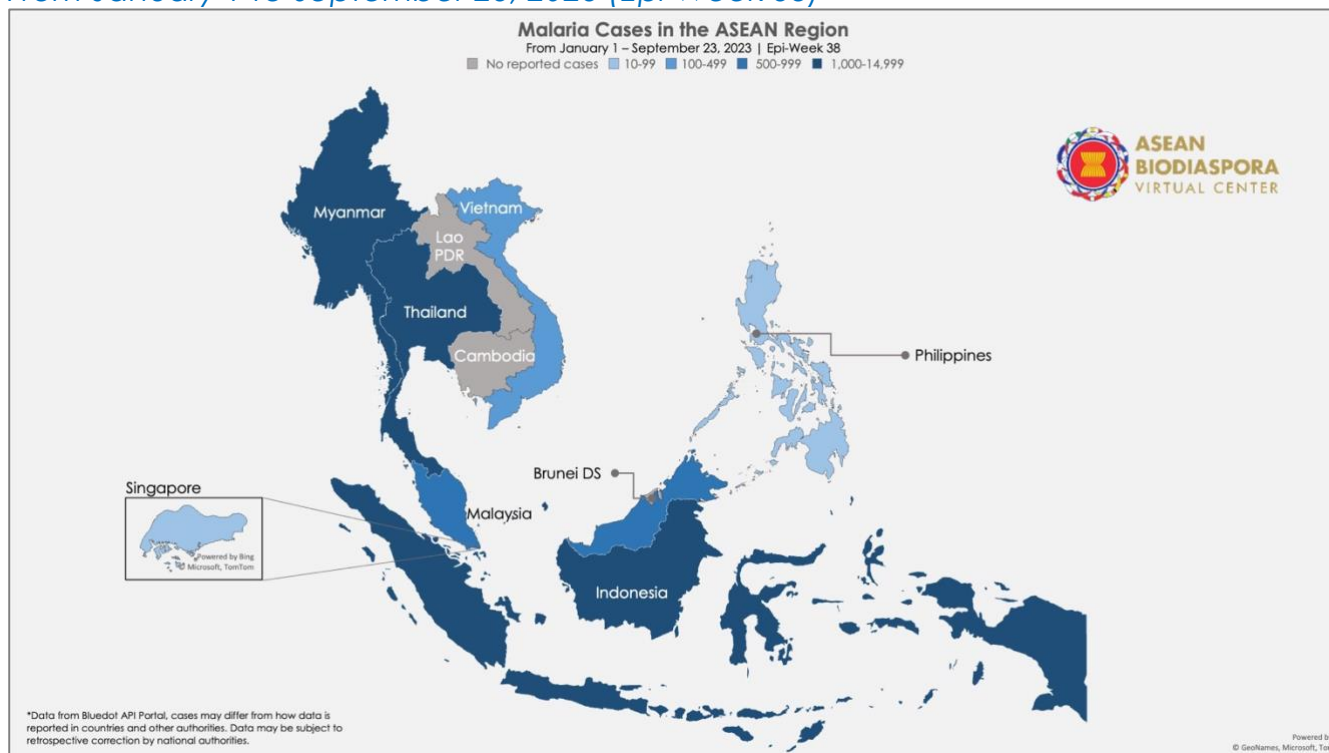
Dengue

- **Cambodia** has seen a rise in dengue fever cases, prompting several provincial health departments to launch pesticide spraying campaigns to eradicate mosquito breeding grounds (Zelin, 2023). The figures are twice as high as 2022, and officials are conducting outreach programs to educate the public on the disease's risks. They are also educating people about prevention measures and spraying pesticides. The Ministry of Health's National Dengue Control Programme reported nearly 20,000 cases of dengue fever, including 34 fatalities, from January to September 2018, a figure double the previous year. [[Full article](#)]
- **Philippines:** The Eastern Visayas region has seen a 44% decrease in dengue infections from January to September this year, according to the Department of Health (DOH) [Meniano, 2023]. The number of cases is fewer than the 4,719 recorded in 2022. Nine deaths were reported, and 2,415 were hospitalized. The DOH attributed the decrease to early fogging operations and aggressive search and destroy activities in areas with clustering cases. The DOH has reminded the public to use the "5S" strategy, including search and destroy, self-protection measures, early consultation, fogging, and hydration. [[Full article](#)]
- **Vietnam's** capital city of Hanoi has reported 2,010 dengue fever cases in 29 districts, doubling the number in August (Xinhua, 2023). The city has reported 10,372 cases since early this year, including three fatalities. The Vietnamese Ministry of Health has sent experts to assist in prevention and control tasks. From September 8 to September 15, Vietnam reported 5,180 cases, increasing the total infections to 81,808, including 23 deaths. [[Full article](#)]



Malaria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to September 23, 2023 (Epi-Week 38)



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	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia ¹	Week 30	1,056	0	0	0.00%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia ¹	Week 22	866	0	0	0.00%
Myanmar ¹	Week 23	4,510	0	0	0.00%
Philippines ¹	Week 28	31	0	0	0.00%
Singapore ³	Week 37	16	1	0	0.00%
Thailand ²	Week 38	4,173	0	3	0.07%
Vietnam ¹	Week 30	146	0	0	0.00%
Total		10,798	1	3	0.03%

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
 2. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed September 25, 2023, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php> (New data source in Thailand, data was retroactively corrected based on the official source)
 3. Ministry of Health Singapore, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2023/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>

- The ASEAN region reported **1** new malaria case in Singapore since the previous report. The region reported **10,798** total cases and **3** total deaths in 2023 with **0.03%** CFR.

Vaccine- Preventable Diseases

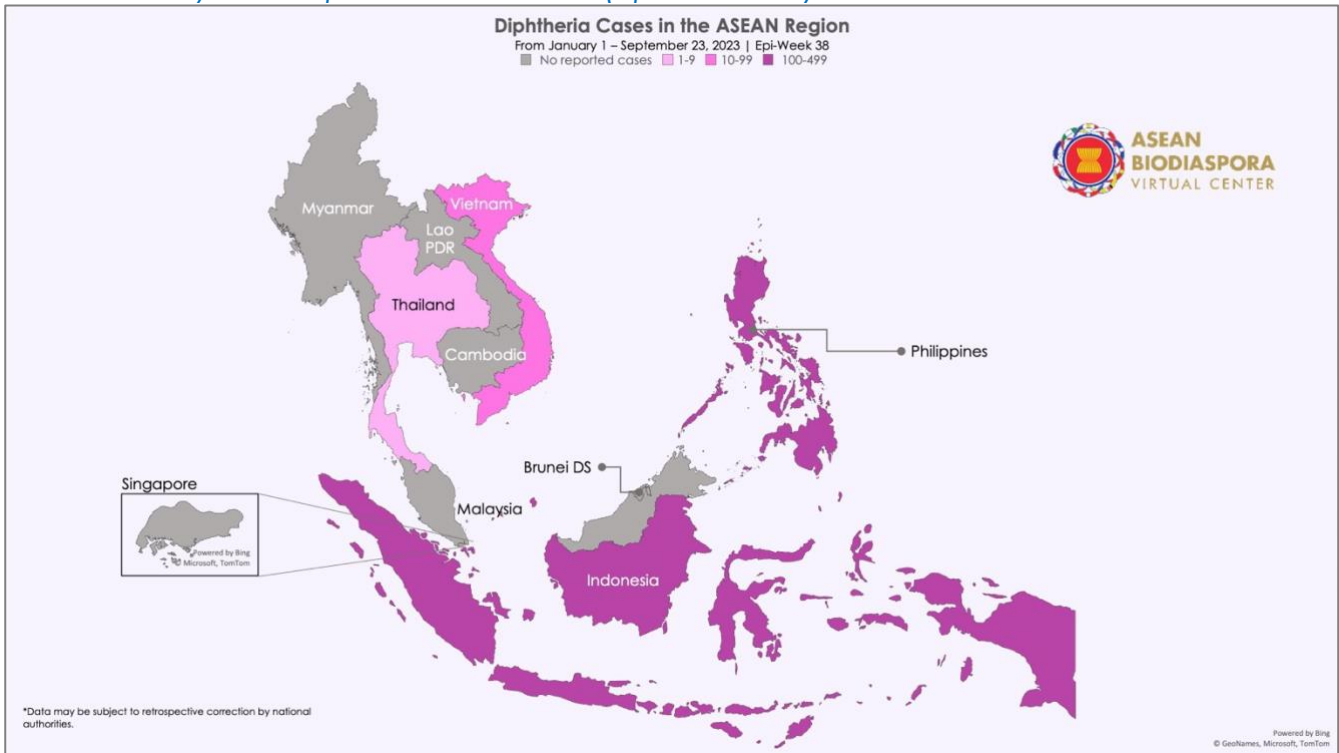


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Diphtheria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to September 23, 2023 (Epi-Week 38)



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 32	416	0	29	6.97%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines ²	Week 33	113	3	25	22.12%
Singapore ⁴	Week 37	0	0	0	0.00%
Thailand ⁵	Week 38	4	4	0	0.00%
Vietnam ¹	Week 38	41	9	3	7.32%
Total		574	16	57	9.93%

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
2. Department of Health Website, accessed September 25, 2023 "Statistics," August 19, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
3. Ministry of Health Indonesia
4. Ministry of Health Singapore, accessed September 25, 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 September 25, 2023, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>

- The ASEAN region reported **16** new diphtheria cases in the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam since the previous report. The region reported **574** total cases and **57** total deaths in 2023 with **9.93%** CFR.



Diphtheria

- **Vietnam:** The diphtheria epidemic in Ha Giang is complex and expected to continue, according to the Ministry of Health's working delegation (VnMedia.vn, 2023). The region has recorded 9 cases, including 1 death, and over 100 suspected cases, with Meo Vac district having the highest number. The Ministry is taking measures to prevent the spread of the disease, including early detection, isolation, tracing, and timely treatment. However, the rugged terrain and lack of vaccinations make it difficult to prevent epidemics. The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology has sent a delegation for epidemiological surveillance and investigation. The Ministry of Health has 10,000 doses of diphtheria vaccine for people aged 7 and older. The number of confirmed cases is 9, and the number of suspected cases is 32. [[Full article](#)]



Measles Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to September 23, 2023 (Epi-Week 38)



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 33	1,114	80	4	0.36%
Singapore ⁴	Week 37	6	0	0	0.00%
Thailand ³	Week 38	222	149	0	0.00%
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-
Total		4,869	229	21	0.43%

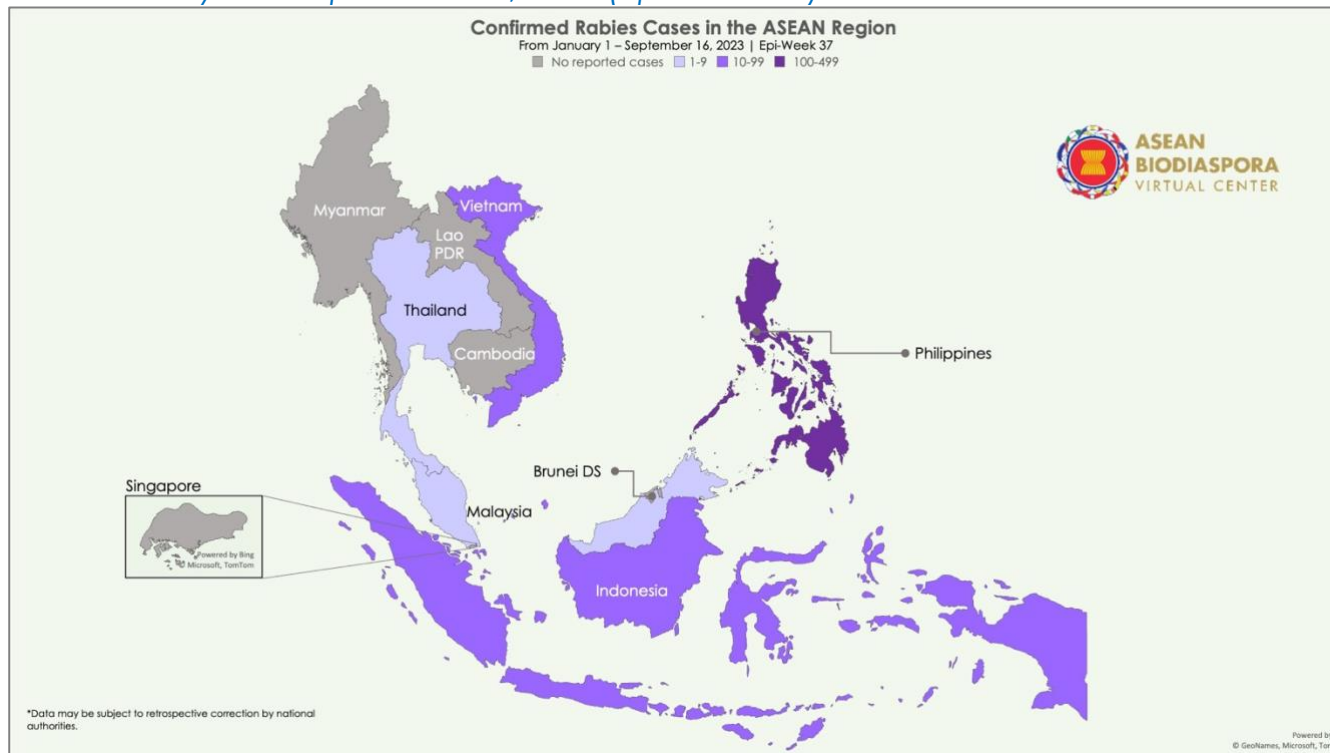
1. Department of Health Website, accessed September 25, 2023 "Statistics," August 19, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 2. Ministry of Health Indonesia
 3. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed September 25, 2023, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>
 4. Ministry of Health Singapore, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2023/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>

- The ASEAN region reported **229** new measles cases in the Philippines and Thailand since the previous report. The region reported **4,869** total cases and **21** total deaths in 2023 with **0.43%** CFR.



Rabies Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to September 23, 2023 (Epi-Week 38)



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 33	237	237	237
Singapore	-	-	-	-
Thailand³	Week 21	3	3	3
Vietnam¹	Week 38	36	33	33
Total		612	299	337

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
 2. Department of Health Website, accessed September 25, 2023 "Statistics," August 19, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 3. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed September 25, 2023, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>

- The ASEAN region reported **612** rabies cases, **299** confirmed rabies cases, and **337** rabies-related deaths.



Rabies

- **Malaysia:** The State Health Department (JKN) in Sarawak has reported a 70% increase in rabies cases between January 1 and September 17, compared to the same period last year (Malay Mail, 2023). The increase is mainly due to the presence of pet dogs and cats, with the final death case believed to have been infected while handling the carcass of a pet dog. Dr. Ooi Choo Huck advised the public not to handle the carcasses of animals whose infection status is unknown and to ask local authorities to handle them. JKN Sarawak has established 64 post-bite clinics in public health facilities and 29 post-bite clinics in private facilities, and has also provided rabies immunoglobulin injection services at 11 hospitals for high-risk cases. He urged the public to take preventive measures, such as washing wounds immediately, seeking treatment at a clinic, taking a complete anti-rabies vaccine, and not handling wild animals. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Vietnam:** A 9-year-old boy was bitten by a dog or cat and later diagnosed with rabies. His family was unaware of the incident (Le, 2023). The boy died on September 16, and his test results confirmed rabies. The Chu Dtooth Commune Health Station has been promoting rabies awareness and vaccinations. The Gia Lai Provincial Center for Disease Control reported that the total number of rabies deaths in the province this year has reached 11. The family's symptoms and treatment were not immediately known. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **Philippines** has seen an 8% decrease in rabies cases from January to September compared to last year, but cases have continued to rise, with 29 new cases reported in the last four weeks (Montemayor, 2023). The Department of Health (DOH) emphasizes the importance of proper wound management and immunization for preventing rabies infection. Two types of immunization are given for minor scratches or abrasions without bleeding, and puncture wounds, lacerations, avulsions, scratches, and avulsions with spontaneous bleeding. The DOH advises the public to seek medical attention and encourages pet owners to be responsible. [\[Full article\]](#)



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