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Weekly Situation Report in the ASEAN Region

—— COVID-19 and Mpox

July 27, 2023 | WSR 2023-04



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Weekly Issue





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COVID-19



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COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Updates

- **Worldwide**, over 692 million cases and over 6 million deaths have been attributed to COVID-19.
- **US CDC:** According to recent data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 hospitalizations in the United States have increased by more than 10% on a weekly basis (US CDC, 2023). This surge represents the most significant percent increase in hospitalizations since December. The CDC reported at least 7,109 hospital admissions of COVID-19 patients for the week of July 15, up from 6,444 during the previous week. Another concerning trend is the rise in the proportion of emergency room visits related to COVID-19. As of July 21, an average of 0.73% of the past week's ER visits were attributed to COVID-19, an increase from 0.49% reported through June 21. These new figures come after a period of relatively slowing COVID-19 trends across the country since the last wave of infections during the winter. However, it is worth noting that only the Midwestern region, comprising Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, did not record an increase in hospitalizations last week compared to the previous week. The rest of the nation is experiencing an upward trend in COVID-19 hospitalizations, underscoring the ongoing importance of preventive measures and vaccination efforts to curb the spread of the virus. [[Full report](#)]

A new program, known as the "Bridge Access Program," will give uninsured and underinsured adults in the US access to free COVID-19 vaccines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced. While partnering with state and local health programs, the CDC will also work with manufacturers and certain pharmacy chains—including CVS, Walgreens, and eTrueNorth—to ensure the availability and distribution of the vaccines. "The pandemic highlighted longstanding barriers to adult vaccination, including lack of accessibility, lack of availability, and lack of confidence," the agency wrote in a statement, noting that between 25 million and 30 million people aged 18 through 64 years are currently uninsured. The initiative, which will launch this fall when COVID-19 vaccines shift to the commercial market, is a "temporary bridge" that is set to end in December 2024. A proposal to provide all recommended adult vaccinations at no cost for people without insurance has yet to be enacted.

Regional Update

- **Philippines:** The President of the Philippines has officially lifted the state of public health emergency that was declared in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic (Gita-Carlos, 2023). As per Proclamation 297, all government agencies are now required to adjust their policies, rules, and regulations to reflect the end of the state of public health emergency. Additionally, any previous orders, memoranda, or issuances that were specifically applicable during the State of Public Health Emergency are considered withdrawn, revoked, or canceled and will no longer be in effect. This move signifies a significant step towards normalcy and indicates a shift in the country's approach to managing the COVID-19 situation. Furthermore, The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has announced that face masks and physical distancing are no longer required in public transportation following the lifting of the state of public health emergency in the country (Bautista, 2023). Moreover, all physical distancing protocols have been lifted, allowing all passenger vehicles to operate at full capacity. These changes signify a shift in the country's approach to managing the COVID-19 situation, providing more convenience for commuters while emphasizing the importance of vaccination and other preventive measures. [Full article: [Gita-Carlos](#), [Bautista](#)]



Research Updates (Published and peer-reviewed studies)

- **A Systematic Review of Persistent Clinical Features After SARS-CoV-2 in the Pediatric Population** reveals that persistent symptoms 3 months after confirmed COVID-19 infections, or "long COVID," affect 16% of children and adolescents (Jiang et al., 2023). The 31 studies included 15,000 children, and researchers recorded more than 20 persistent symptoms. Among the studies included in the present analysis, 16.2% of the pediatric participants experienced 1 or more persistent symptoms at least 3 months post COVID-19. Symptoms included fatigue, depression, sleep disturbance, cough, throat pain, and gastrointestinal symptoms. The three most common persistent symptoms seen in the studies were sore throat with a pooled estimate of 14.8%; persistent fever, with an estimate of 10.9%; and sleep disturbance, with an estimate of 10.3%. According to authors, long COVID in children and adolescents has been reported with a very wide symptom spectrum and with great heterogeneity among studies included in this review. [\[Full text\]](#)
- The study **A population-scale temporal case-control evaluation of COVID-19 disease phenotype and related outcome rates in patients with cancer in England (UKCCP)** analyzed the outcomes of COVID-19 in 127,322 UK cancer patients and 15,801,004 controls without cancer who tested positive for the virus from November 2020 to August 2022 (Starkey et al., 2023). Among the cancer patients, 39,033 positive COVID-19 tests resulted in hospital assessments, while 28,061 were hospitalized, 2,168 required ICU admission, and 15,278 resulted in infection-related deaths. During the study period, both cancer patients and controls showed a rise in receiving at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, exceeding 90%. Notably, the death rate in cancer patients decreased significantly from 20.5% to 3.3%, marking an 84% reduction, and the death rate in controls decreased from 4.2% to 0.4%. However, the study revealed that these rates were still 2.1-fold higher in cancer patients and 2.5-fold higher in controls in 2022 compared to each other. Hospitalization rates for cancer patients decreased from 30.6% in early 2021 to 7.5% in 2022, with similar trends in controls. Early 2021 also saw a decline in ICU admissions from 2.54% and 1.52% among cancer patients and controls, respectively, to less than 0.5% in both groups. Patients with blood cancer, especially leukemia, and those with stage 4 cancer or those who had received specific cancer treatments, such as cytotoxic therapy, B/T cell antibody, and targeted therapy (SACT), had a significantly higher risk of poor COVID-19 outcomes. Age was a better predictor of death than the type of cancer, with a COVID-19 death rate of 10.3% in cancer patients aged 80 and older compared to 2.8% in younger individuals. [\[Full text\]](#)
- This observational cohort study with a time series analysis, **Use of Wastewater Metrics to Track COVID-19 in the US**, examined the association of county-level wastewater metrics with high case and hospitalization rates nationwide both before and after widespread use of at-home tests (Varkila et al., 2023). This was conducted from January to September 2022 in 268 US counties in 22 states participating in the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Wastewater Surveillance System. Participants included the populations of those US counties. SARS-CoV-2 wastewater metrics accurately reflected high clinical rates of disease early in 2022, but this association declined over time as home testing and vaccination increased. These findings suggest that wastewater surveillance can provide an accurate assessment of county SARS[1]CoV-2 incidence and may be the best metric for monitoring amount of circulating virus as home testing increases and disease acuity decreases because of vaccination and treatment. [\[Full text\]](#)
- This retrospective cohort study, **Vaccine Uptake in Immigrant, Refugee, and Nonimmigrant Children and Adolescents in Ontario, Canada** described characteristics in immigrant, refugee, and nonimmigrant minors associated with vaccination (Brandenberger et al., 2023). The study used linked, population based demographic



and health care data from Ontario, Canada, including all children aged 4 to 17 years registered for universal health insurance on January 1, 2021, across 2 distinct campaigns: for adolescents (ages 12-17 years), starting May 23, 2021, and for children (ages 5-11 years), starting November 25, 2021, through April 24, 2022. In this cohort study of 2.2 million minors, vaccine coverage was 53.1% for children (≥ 1 dose) and 79.2% for adolescents (≥ 2 doses), and uptake was higher in immigrants and lower in refugees compared with nonimmigrants. There was significant heterogeneity by region of origin in first and second-generation immigrants and refugees, even after adjusting for immigration category and other sociodemographic factors. These findings suggest that precision public health approaches are warranted to increase vaccination in some immigrant subgroups. [\[Full text\]](#)



ASEAN Travel Advisories (new update/s) as of 27 July 2023

ASEAN Country	Published	Foreign travelers allowed	COVID-19 vaccination requirement	Required COVID-19 testing for fully vaccinated	Required COVID-19 testing for NOT fully vaccinated	Quarantine upon arrival	Health insurance requirement	Arrival health declaration/ registration/ documents
Brunei Darussalam	December 1, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Cambodia	October 6, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Indonesia	June 10, 2023	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Laos	December 29, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Malaysia	August 2, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Myanmar	July 3, 2023	Yes	No	Passengers are subject to medical screening and could be subject to a test upon arrival.	No	No	Printed COVID-19 medical insurance.	Passengers must present a Health Declaration Form upon arrival.
Philippines	July 25, 2023	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Singapore	February 13, 2023	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Thailand	March 1, 2023	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Vietnam	May 16, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No

- Reference: [IATA Travel Centre](#)



Cases and Deaths as of 27 July 2023

- As of 27 July 2023 (5PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were **692,168,291** confirmed cases, including **6,902,958** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.0%**.
- 36,324,165 total confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN Region**.
- The Case Fatality Rate in the **ASEAN Region** was **1.01%**.

COVID-19 cases in ASEAN region

REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASES	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	CONFIRMED CASES IN 2023	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CUMULATIVE CASES/100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTED	FULLY VACCINATED PER 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei Darussalam	10-Mar-20	03-Jul-23	309,561	48,121	-	225		65,870	451,032	446,630	340,379	95.0
	Cambodia	27-Jan-20	19-Jul-23	138,937	499	1	3,056	-	793	15,301,258	14,674,372	10,716,594	83.8
	Indonesia	02-Mar-20	20-Jul-23	6,812,670	100,967	543	161,879	15	2,518	203,870,827	174,942,792	69,165,596	64.7
	Lao PDR	24-Mar-20	27-Jul-23	218,731	1,145	13	758	-	2,887	6,324,678	5,691,962	2,451,034	75.1
	Malaysia	25-Jan-20	20-Jul-23	5,119,647	100,247	958	37,163	3	15,647	28,134,784	27,550,446	16,336,861	84.2
	Myanmar	23-Mar-20	25-Jul-23	640,998	7,423	13	19,494	-	1,137	40,354,937	35,196,377	13,903,599	62.4
	Philippines	30-Jan-20	26-Jul-23	4,172,169	114,540	213	66,555	13	3,822	82,684,774	79,164,840	24,178,325	72.5
	Singapore	23-Jan-20	24-Jul-23	2,534,940	348,266	4,738	1,872	-	43,406	5,287,005	5,250,426	4,766,768	89.9
	Thailand	13-Jan-20	24-Jul-23	4,754,784	35,876	556	34,418	8	6,794	57,658,679	54,173,539	27,369,493	77.4
	Vietnam	23-Jan-20	26-Jul-23	11,621,728	98,361	20	43,206	-	11,356	90,270,583	85,958,364	57,958,886	84.0
ASEAN COUNTRIES				36,324,165	855,445	7,055	368,626	39	154,230	530,338,557	483,049,748	227,187,535	78.9

REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS
ASIA	197,203,789	1,217	1,209,133	22
AFRICA	12,833,868	99	258,815	2
AMERICAS	196,086,511	2,997	2,998,137	8
EUROPE	249,719,958	253	2,068,247	10
TOTAL	655,844,126	4,566	6,534,332	42

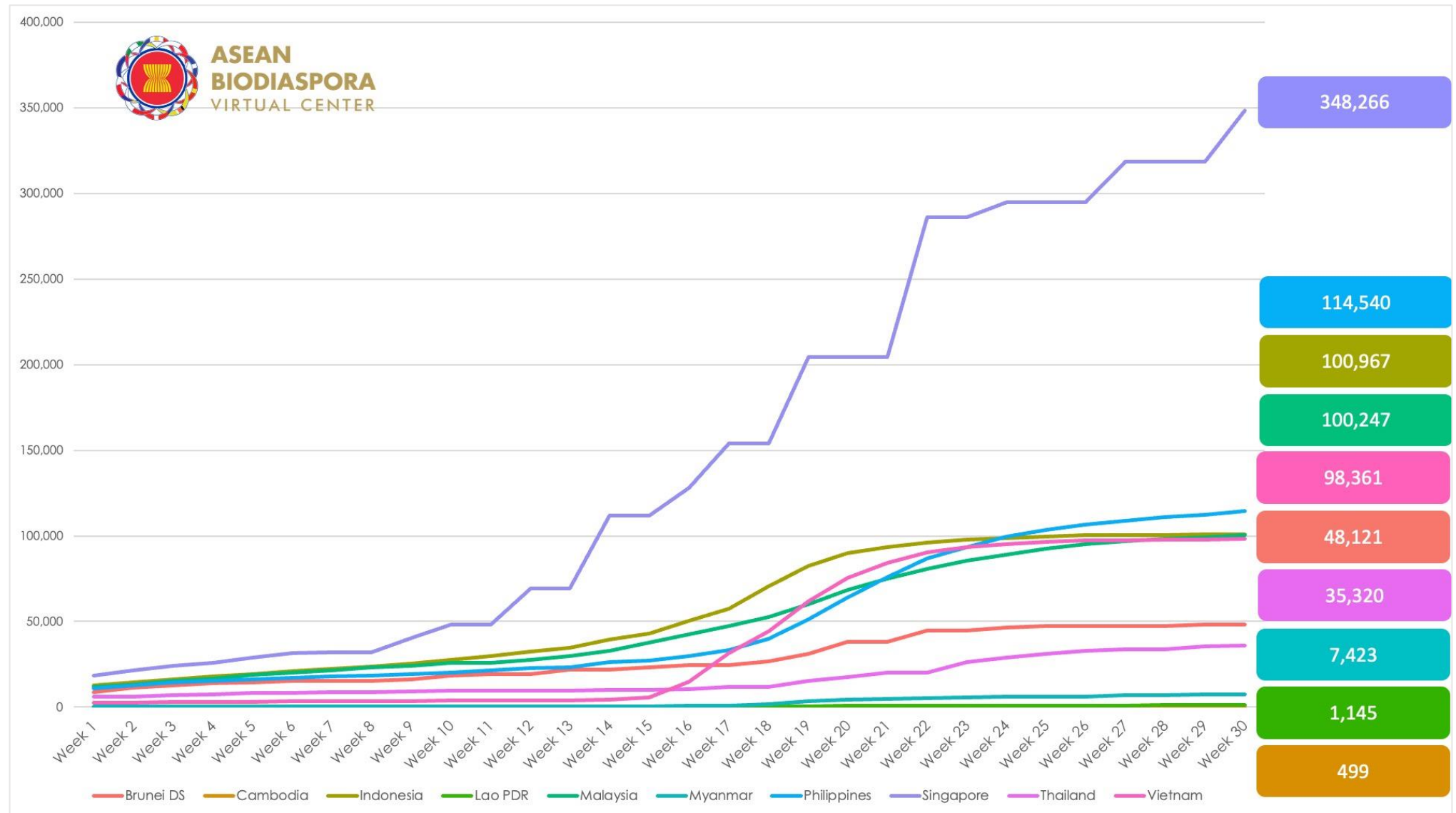
**Data References: [Andra Farm](#), [Worldometer](#), and the [WHO](#)



COVID-19 Epidemic Curve Among ASEAN Countries

From January 1 to July 27, 2023

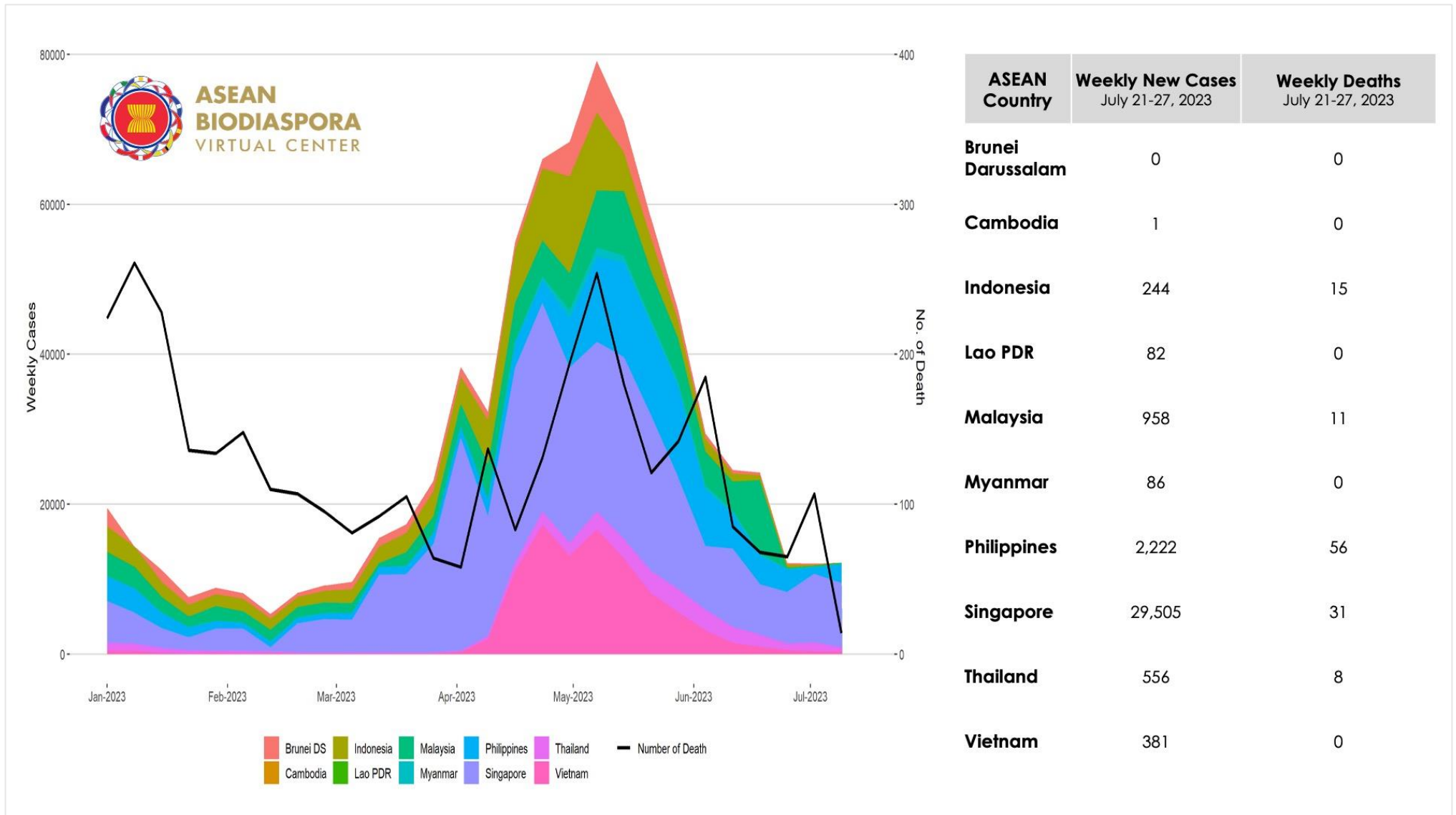
*Weeks based on ABVC reporting weeks





ASEAN Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and Deaths

From January 1, 2023 to July 27, 2023

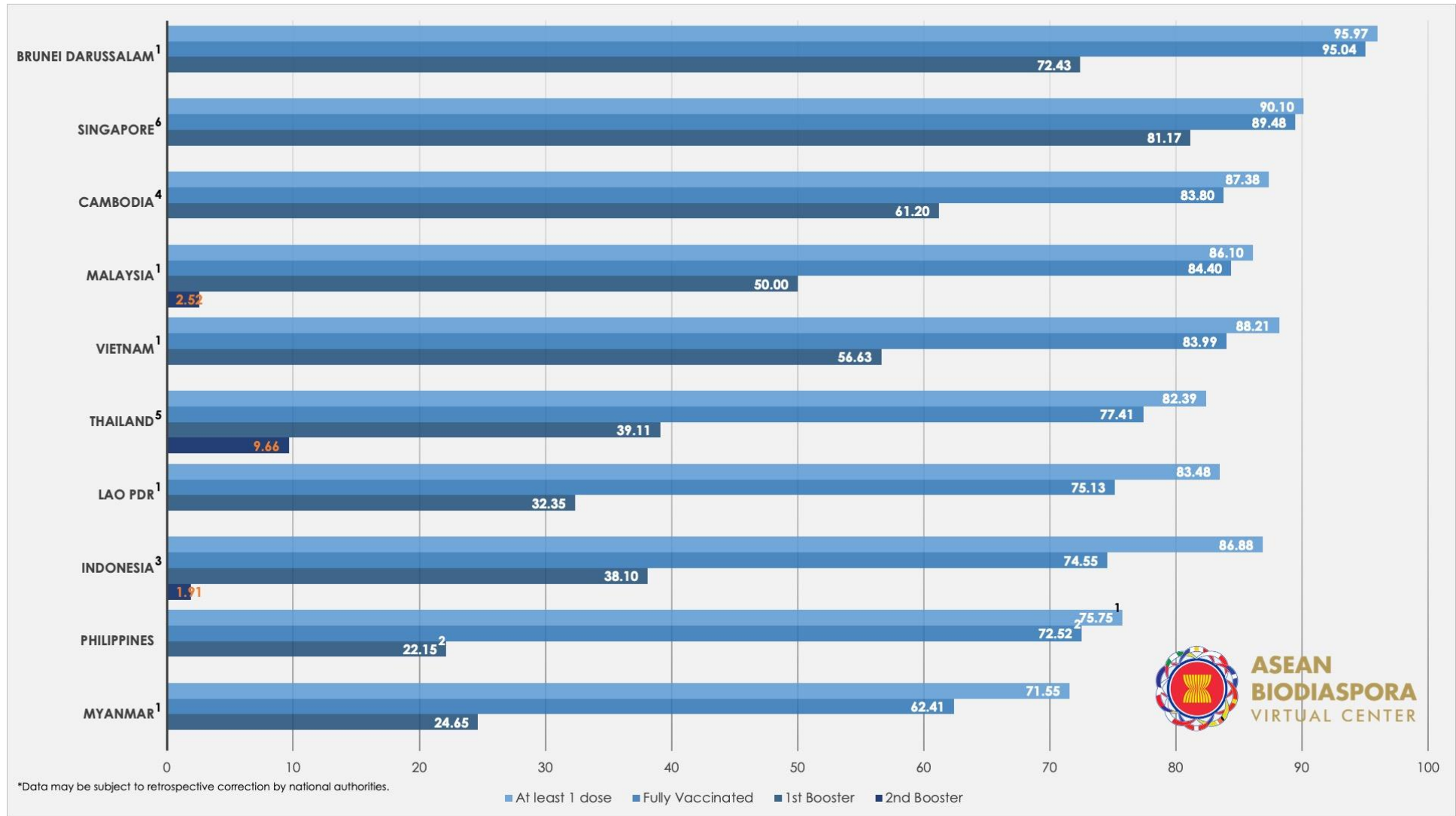


**Data References: [Andra Farm](#), [Worldometer](#), and the [WHO](#)



ASEAN COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 27 July 2023



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Dominique Faget/AFP/Getty Images

MPOX

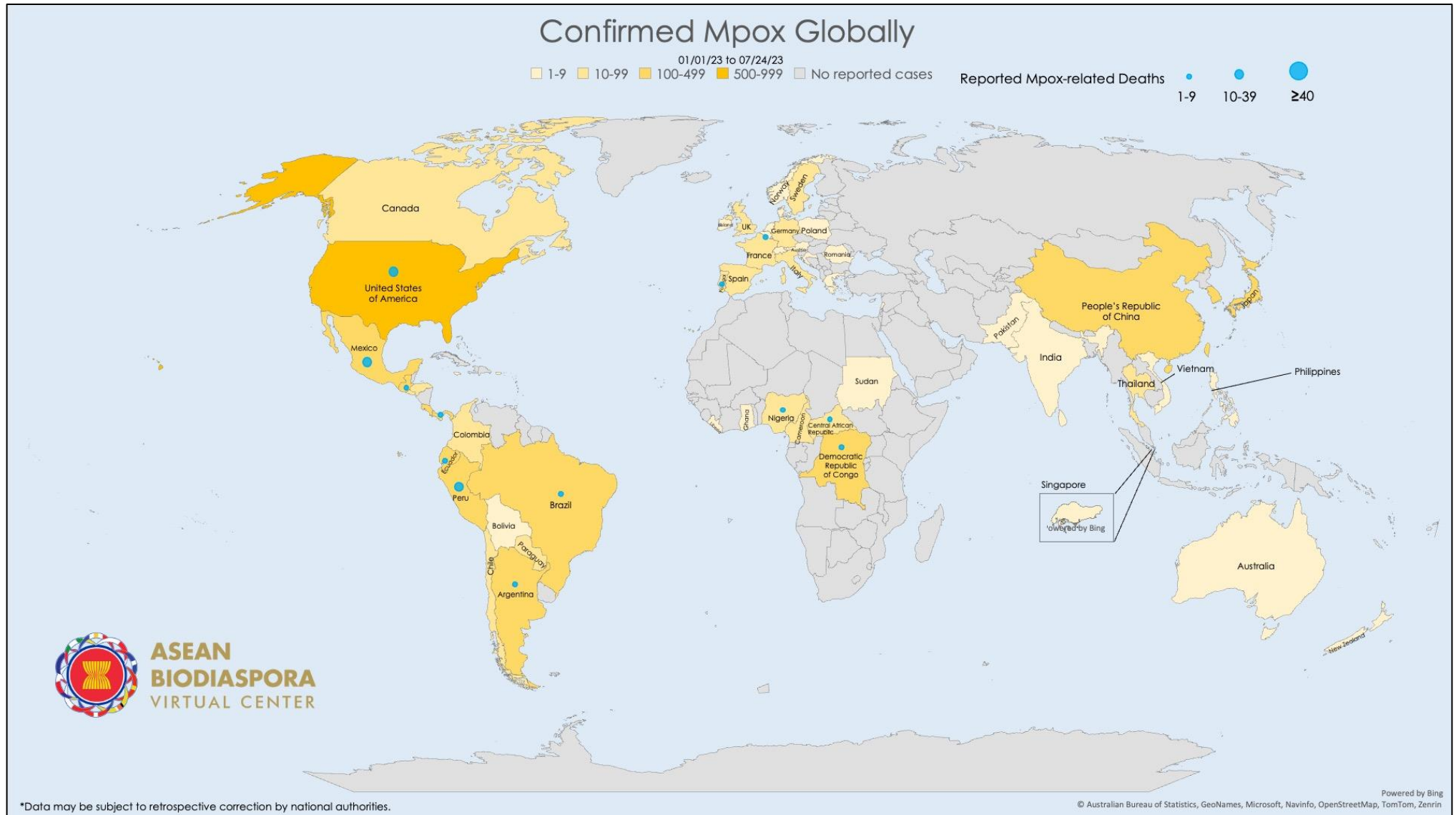


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Mpox Cases Reported Globally

as of July 24, 2023

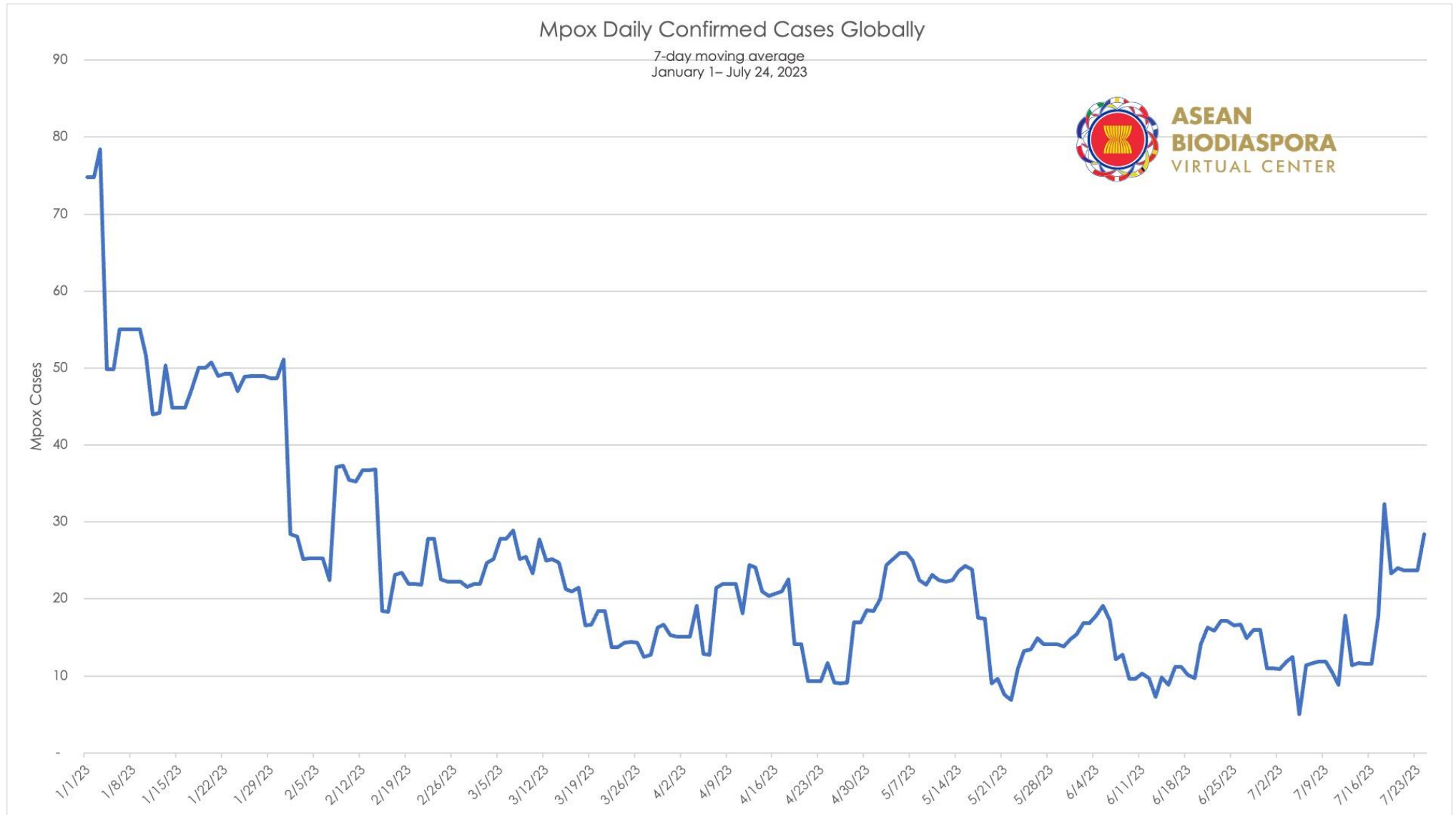


Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed July 27, 2023, <https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>.



Mpox Daily Trend Globally

January 1 – July 24, 2023



Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed July 27, 2023, <https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>.



Mpox: Highlights and Situation Overview

- As of 27 July 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), there were **4,485** confirmed cases worldwide in 2023, including **78** deaths. Globally, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.74%**.
- **116 confirmed cases** in the ASEAN region in 2023, with a CFR of **0%**.
- **4,369 confirmed cases** of Mpox have been reported in other **5 regions** in 2023 (other than the ASEAN region):

Mpox cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Philippines	1	-	-	0.00%
Singapore	7	1	-	0.00%
Thailand	79	-	-	0.00%
Vietnam	1	-	-	0.00%
ASEAN Total	116	1	-	0.00%

Mpox cases in the Asia-Pacific region

Country/Territory	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Australia	1	-	-	0.00%
India	2	-	-	0.00%
Japan	185	2	-	0.00%
Nepal	1	-	-	0.00%
New Zealand	1	-	-	0.00%
People's Republic of China*	124	4	-	0.00%
The Republic of China*	240	11	-	0.00%
The Republic of Korea*	122	2	-	0.00%
Sri Lanka	2	-	-	0.00%
Asia Pacific Total	677	19	-	0.00%

*People's Republic of China – China, Hong Kong (SAR), and Macao (SAR); Republic of China – Taiwan, Republic of Korea – South Korea

Top 5 countries with the most mpox cases globally

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
United States of America	801	51	25	3.12%
Brazil	456	-	2	0.44%
Democratic Republic of Congo	455	-	3	0.66%
Mexico	402	-	26	6.47%
Republic of China	240	11	-	0.00%



Mpox cases per region

REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2023	NEW CASES SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT	TOTAL DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE
AFRICA	586	-	6	1.02%
AMERICAS	2,851	122	70	2.46%
ASEAN	116	1	-	0.00%
ASIA PACIFIC	677	135	-	0.00%
EUROPE	245	25	2	0.82%
MIDDLE EAST	10	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL	4,485	283	78	1.74%

Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed July 27, 2023, <https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>.

Research Updates (Published and peer-reviewed studies)

- In the study **Progress and prospects on vaccine development against monkeypox infection**, existing vaccines for MPOX are not specific to the causative virus and their effectiveness in preventing the multi-country outbreak is still uncertain (Saadh et al., 2023). The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends using affordable MPOX vaccines within a coordinated clinical effectiveness and safety evaluation framework. Currently, WHO-approved vaccines for MPOX include replicating (ACAM2000), low replicating (LC16m8), and non-replicating (MVA-BN). Smallpox vaccination is 85% effective in inhibiting MPOX, and developing new vaccine methods can help prevent the infection. Assessment of effects, including reactogenicity, safety, cytotoxicity, and vaccine-associated side effects, is crucial for high-risk and vulnerable individuals. Several orthopoxvirus vaccines are being developed and evaluated, including inactivated, live-attenuated, virus-like particles, recombinant protein, nucleic acid, and nanoparticle-based vaccines. [\[Full text\]](#)
- Although transmitted mainly through direct (sexual) contact, mpox virus (MPXV) can be detected in ambient air (Raymenants et al., 2023). This study, **Detection of mpox virus in ambient air in a sexual health clinic**, explored the use of air sampling for diagnosis or (genomic) surveillance of mpox in a sexual health clinic. Between September 1 and October 21, 2022, ambient air in an ambulatory examination room in a sexual health clinic during visits of a total of 20 patients with suspected mpox were examined. During each visit, air was sampled for 20 min using a 200 L/min active air sampler. The HEPA-filter based ventilation unit generated 10.4 air changes per hour in the examination room. Samples from skin lesions, anal swabs, and saliva were also collected. All surfaces in the sampling room were cleaned using alcohol-based rapid disinfectant between patient visits. For six out of six patients who were infected with MPXV, all four of the ambient air PCR tests were positive. For 14 uninfected patients, PCR was positive in three ambient air samples, albeit with higher cycle threshold (Ct) values. Genomic sequencing of samples from two positive patients showed matching sequences between air and clinical samples. Findings indicate that in high-risk settings, ambient air sampling might be used for non-invasive surveillance – including genomic surveillance – or even diagnosis of MPXV. More than for surveillance, however, high test specificity is needed for diagnosis. [\[Full text\]](#)



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