

This report aims to provide the current situation on infectious and emerging diseases in the ASEAN Region. We collate various information from multiple official sources and publicly available sources and is published every week on Wednesday. For feedback and/or suggestions, please write to support@biodiaspora.org

Editorial

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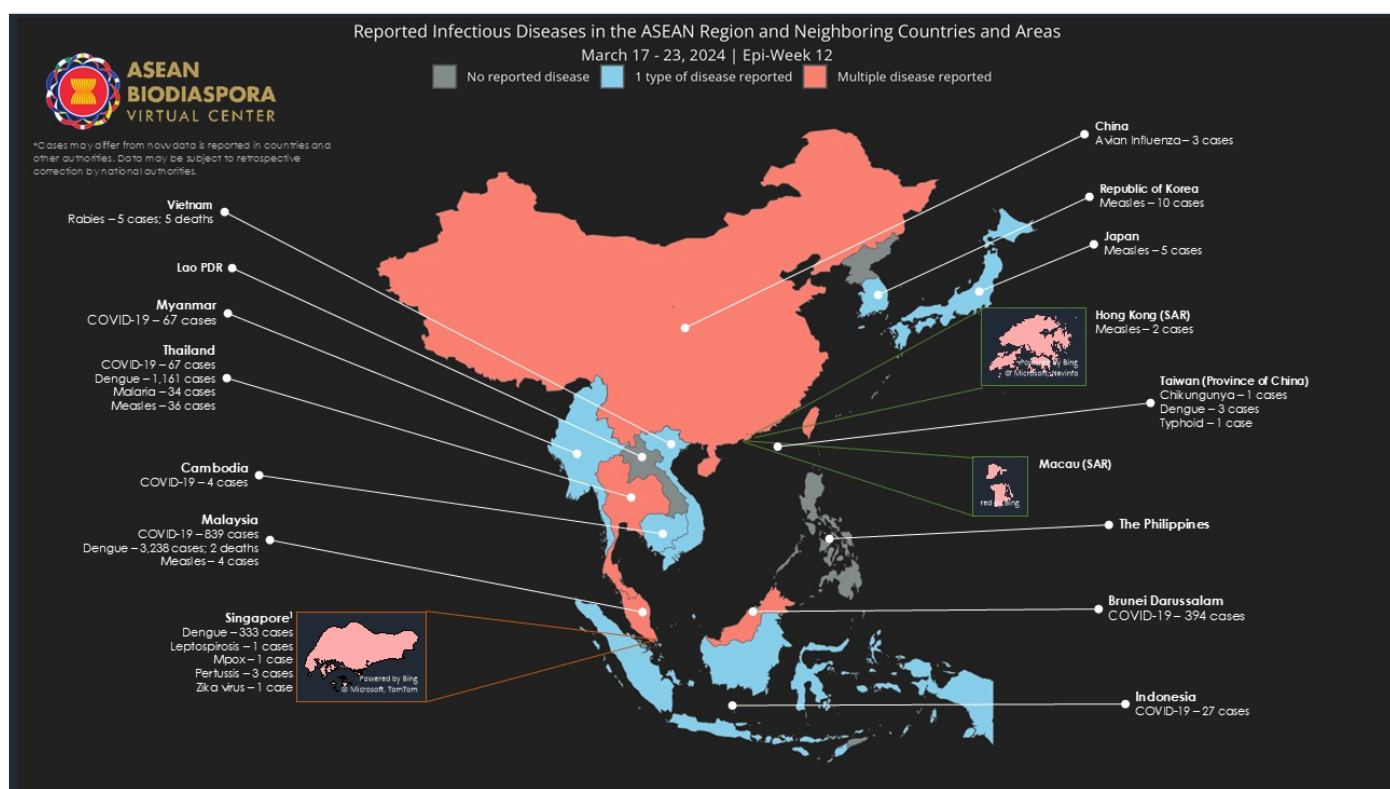
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Key Findings

- In recent months, trends of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the ASEAN region have gradually decreased.
- The **JN.1**, which is subtypes of **BA.2.86**, remains a dominant variant of interest spreading in the ASEAN region until the early of March 2024.
- There is **one** new mpox case in the ASEAN region since the last report.
- **Five** rabies cases has been detected since the last report.
- Dengue cases has increased by **4,732** since the last report. Meanwhile, **34** new malaria cases have been found since the last report for vector-borne diseases in the ASEAN region.
- There have been **36** new measles since the last report of vaccine-preventable diseases in the ASEAN region.

Reported Infectious Diseases in the ASEAN Region and Neighboring Countries

Epidemiological Week 12 | March 17 – 23, 2024



Source: AMS Official Sources, [Worldometer](#), [WHO](#), [Our World in Data](#), and [Bluedot Platform](#), accessed on March 26, 2024

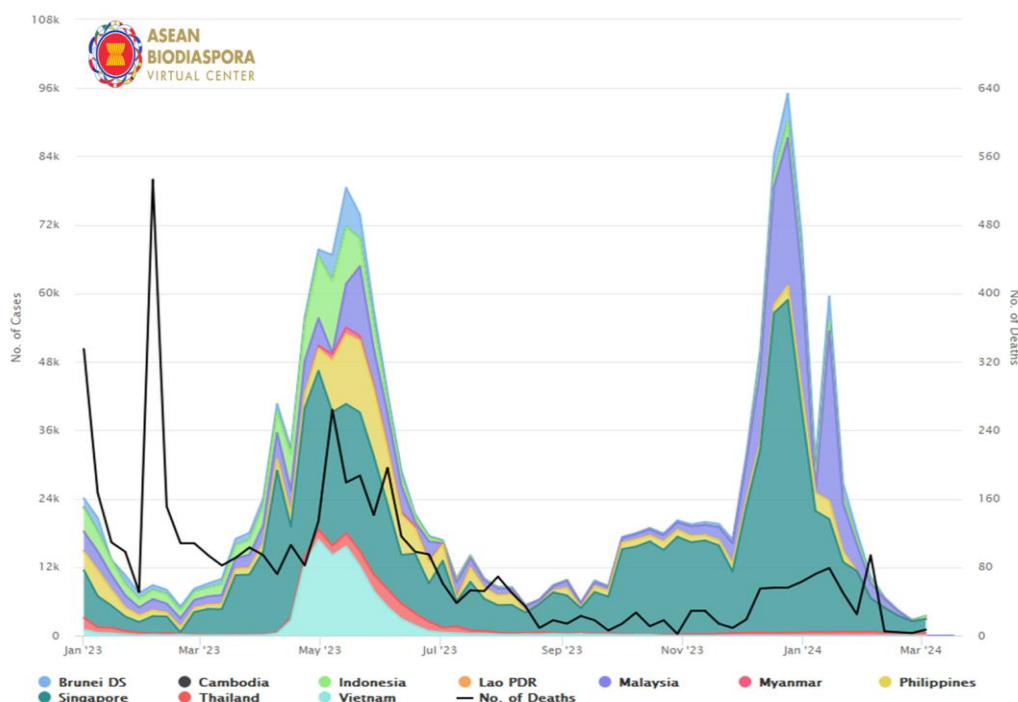
EMERGING DISEASES

COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

- As of 23 March 2024 (5PM, GMT+7), there were **704,447,038** confirmed cases **worldwide**, including **7,007,919 deaths**. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **0.99%**.
- 36,990,478 total confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN** region.
- The CFR in the **ASEAN** region was **1.00%**.

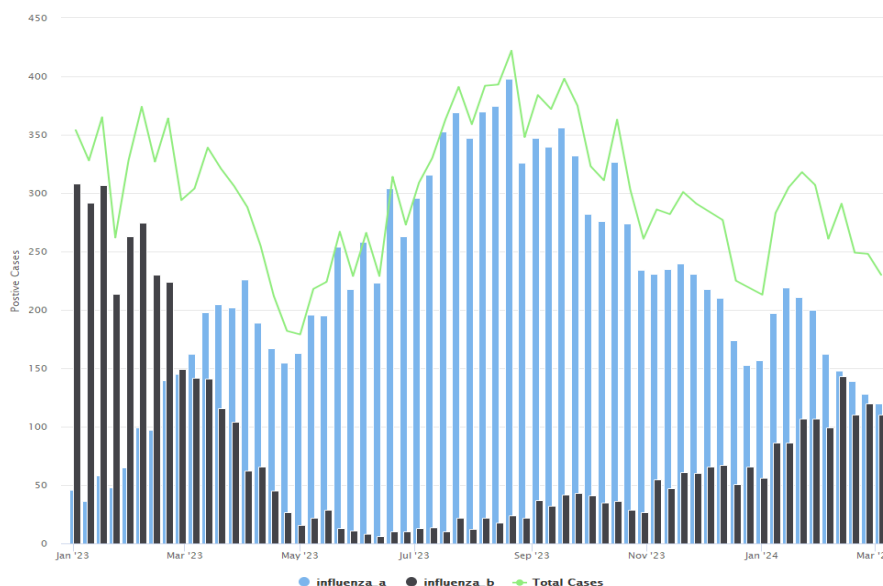
ASEAN Weekly COVID-19 Cases and Deaths

From January 1 to March 23, 2024



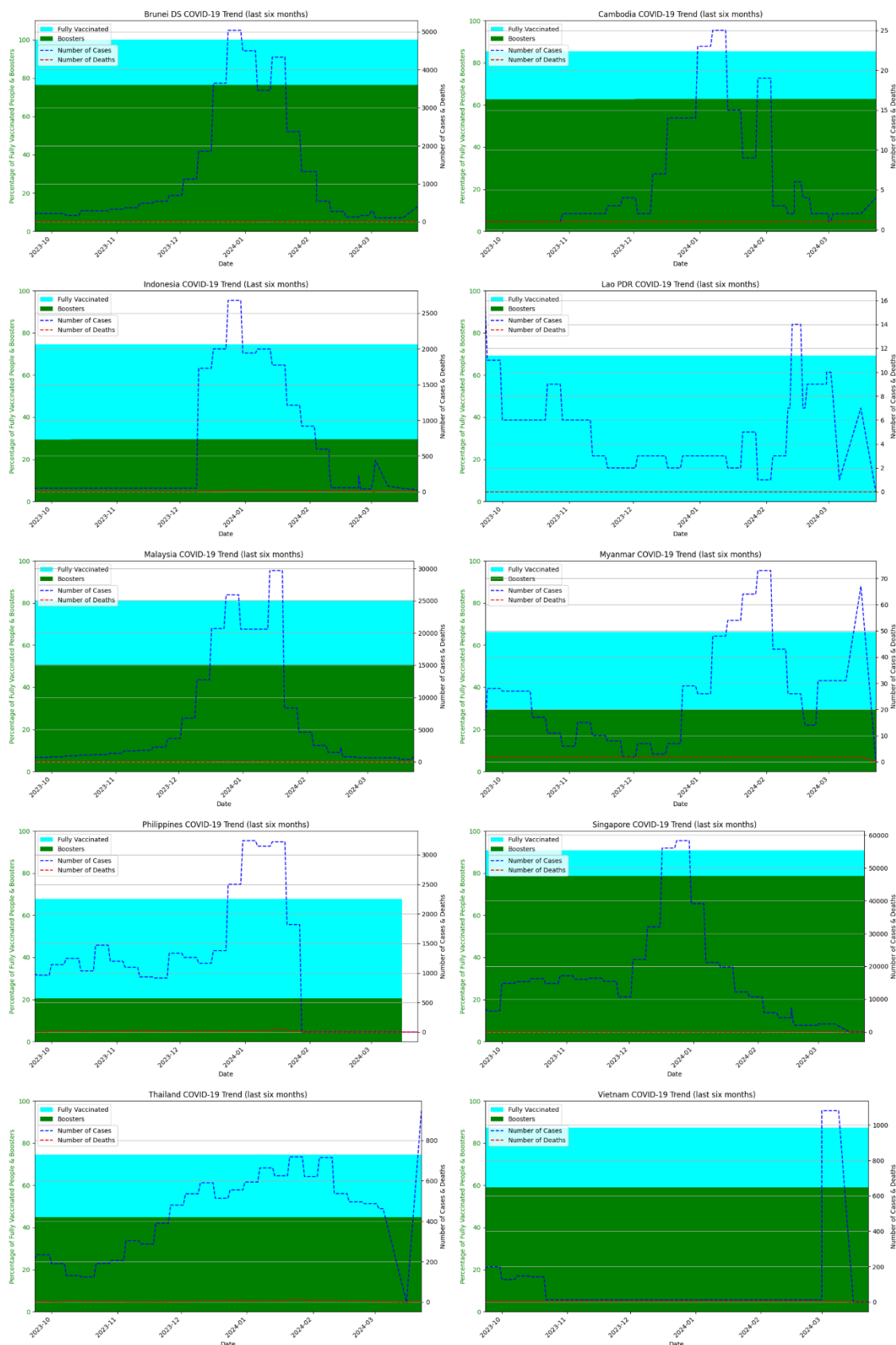
Trends of Influenza Confirmed Cases in the ASEAN region

From January 1 to March 23, 2024



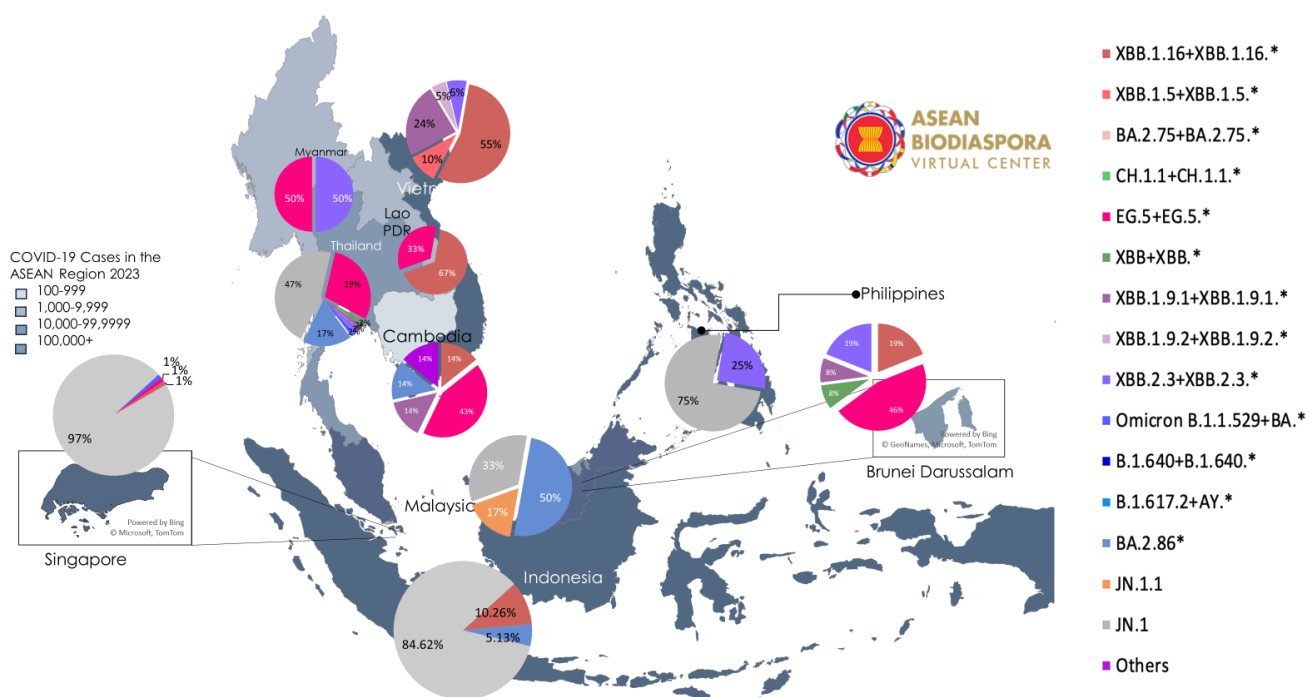
Trends of COVID-19 Cases, Deaths, and Vaccine Coverage among AMS

From September 23, 2023 to March 23, 2024



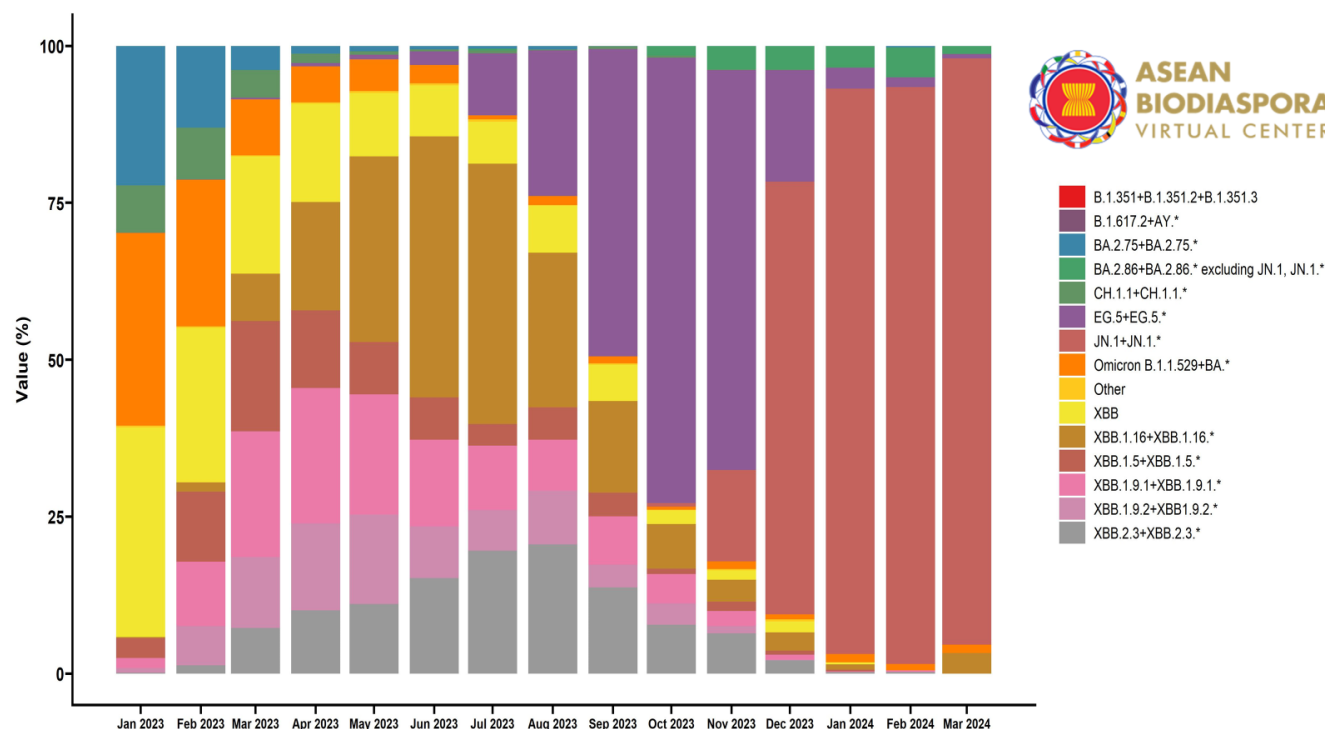
Source: [Worldometer](#), [Our World In Data](#), and [WHO](#)

COVID-19 Variants Frequencies Among the ASEAN Member States In March 2024



Source: GISAIID. "hCoV-19 Variants Dashboard," accessed on March 26, 2024 (<https://gisaid.org/hcov-19-variants-dashboard/>)

COVID-19 Variants Frequencies in the ASEAN Region From January 2023 to March 2024

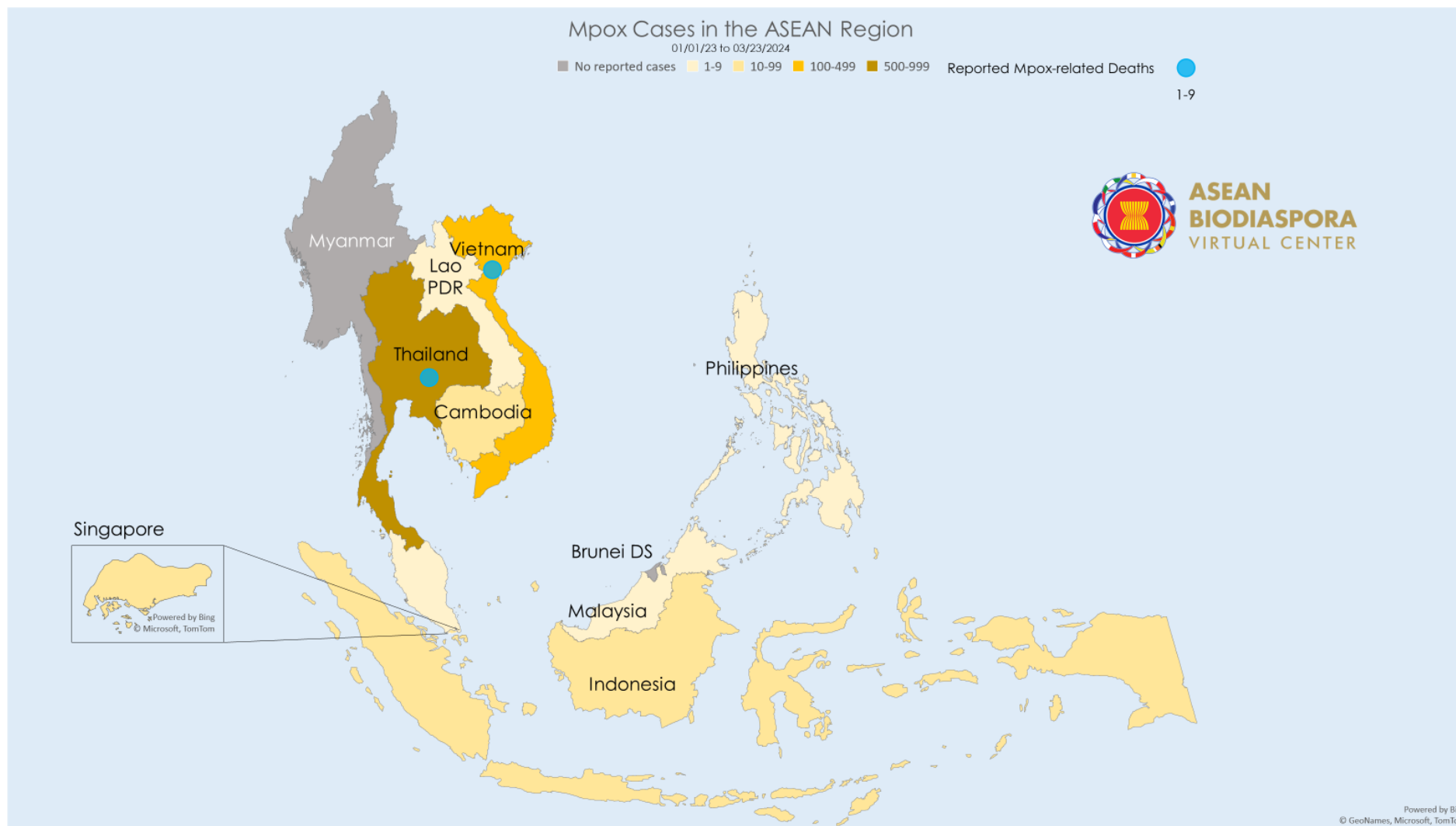


Source: GISAIID. "hCoV-19 Variants Dashboard," accessed on March 26, 2024 (<https://gisaid.org/hcov-19-variants-dashboard/>)



Mpox Cases Reported in the ASEAN Region

January 1, 2023 – March 23, 2024



Mpox: Highlights and Situation Overview

- From 1 January 2023 to 23 March 2024, **11,698** confirmed cases worldwide since 2023, including **123** deaths. Globally, the CFR was **1.05%**.
- 1037 confirmed cases** including **eight deaths** in the **ASEAN** region, with a CFR of **0.77%**.
- 10,661 confirmed cases** of mpox have been reported in **other regions** (other than the **ASEAN** region):

Mpox cases in the ASEAN region (Jan. 1, 2023 to March 23, 2024)

ASEAN Member States	Cumulative Cases 2023-2024	New Cases Since Previous Report	Cumulative Deaths 2023	CFR
Cambodia ¹	13	0	0	0.00%
Indonesia ²	85	0	0	0.00%
Lao PDR ¹	1	0	0	0.00%
Malaysia ¹	9	0	0	0.00%
Philippines ¹	5	0	0	0.00%
Singapore ³	38	1	0	0.00%
Thailand ¹	731	0	1	0.14%
Vietnam ¹	155	0	7	4.52%
ASEAN Total	1037	1	8	0.77%

Source:

1. Bluedot Platform, accessed on March 26, 2024 (<https://portal.bluedot.global/>)
2. Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia
3. Ministry of Health Singapore, accessed on March 26, 2024, (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2023/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>)

Top 5 countries with the most mpox cases globally (Jan. 1, 2023 to March 23, 2024)

Country	Cumulative Cases 2023	New Cases Since Previous Report	Cumulative Deaths 2023	CFR
People's Republic of China	2,197	0	37	1.68%
United States of America	2,028	0	1	0.05%
Democratic Republic of Congo	1,356	0	2	0.15%
Thailand	731	0	1	0.14%
Brazil	456	0	2	0.44%

Source: Our World in Data, accessed on March 26, 2024 (<https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>)

Mpox cases per region (Jan. 1, 2023 to March 23, 2024)

REGIONS	CUMULATIVE CASES 2023	NEW CASES SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT	CUMULATIVE DEATHS 2023	CFR
AFRICA	1,543	31	7	0.45%
AMERICAS	4,276	0	86	2.01%
ASEAN	1,037	1	8	0.77%
ASIA & OCEANIA	3,522	0	17	0.48%
EUROPE	1,320	0	5	0.38%
TOTAL	11,698	32	123	1.05%

Source: Our World in Data, accessed on March 26, 2024 (<https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>)

Media Monitoring for Emerging Diseases

Epidemiological Week 12 | March 17 – 23, 2024

Global Situation for Emerging Diseases

COVID-19

- **Australia:** South Australia (SA) reported 1,165 new COVID-19 cases in the past week, with 3,614 people receiving a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test (Mirage News, 2024). The number of cases has been readjusted due to data reconfiguration. SA Health encourages everyone to get the last vaccinations and to plan with their general practitioner (GP) for PCR testing and antiviral treatments if symptoms develop. [[Full article](#)]
- **Bangladesh** reported 63 more COVID-19 cases in a week, with a 6.02% positivity rate (EM, 2024). The country's total deaths is 29,493, with 2,049,287 cases and 2,016,518 recoveries. The first case was reported in March 2020. [[Full article](#)]
- **Canada:** Ottawa Public Health reports steady respiratory disease levels, with influenza being a major concern (Staff Reporter, 2024). There were 13 more hospitalizations in the seven days ending March 16, and 14 new COVID-19 hospitalizations. There were 45 more confirmed COVID-19 cases, with half in patients 65 and older. Wastewater surveillance showed high flu levels and no new flu outbreaks in healthcare settings. [[Full article](#)]
- **India:** The number of active COVID-19 cases in Jaipur has nearly doubled in 12 days, with 231 cases as of Sunday evening (TNN, 2024). Symptoms are milder and complications are less compared to previous waves. Health department officials report that many patients are reporting influenza-like illness, and some have tested positive for COVID-19. The health department has increased sampling for COVID-19 testing, with 710 samples taken across the state and 158 in Jaipur. Two people have been declared recovered from COVID-19. [[Full article](#)]
- **Italy** recorded 738 COVID-19 cases from March 7-13, a 26.1% decrease from the previous week, but 41 deaths (Prensa Latina, 2024). The positivity rate decreased to 0.6%, while the transmissibility index rose to 0.84. Bed occupancy in general hospital wards fell from 1.8% to 1.4%. The most widespread variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is Omicron JN.1, infecting 61.5% of patients. [[Full article](#)]
- **New Zealand (NZ):** New COVID-19 cases have been reported in New Zealand, with 3,865 probable cases and 3,012 reinfections (Rnz, 2024). The seven-day rolling average of new cases is 667 per day. Health NZ no longer recommends daily testing for asymptomatic household contacts. A new vaccine is available for those aged 30 and over, pregnant individuals, and those at higher risk of severe illness. Free rapid antigen tests (RAT) are also available until June. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Michigan reported 1,369 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases, down from 1,848 last week, and 35 additional deaths (Bridge Michigan, 2024). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services discontinued reporting confirmed and probable cases, bringing the state's reported case total to 3.3 million. The number of confirmed COVID-19-positive hospital patients fell to 331, the lowest since 289 in September 2023. Experts believe state-reported cases are likely a vast undercount due to people not testing or relying on home tests. [[Full article](#)]

Mpox

- **Canada:** Toronto Public Health has confirmed 21 cases of mpox since the start of 2023, with 27 cases recorded in the city (Entin, 2024). The virus is circulating among local residents and can be spread through close contact with biological fluids or skin, including sexual contact. Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, enlarged lymph nodes, and rashes. The virus is particularly pronounced among men who have sex with men. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation for Emerging Diseases

COVID-19

- **Cambodia** reported a total of 139,097 COVID-19 cases, with 136,040 recovered patients, and 3,056 fatalities, with 136,040 patients recovered as of 19 March 2024 (Pheakdey, 2024). [\[Full article\]](#)

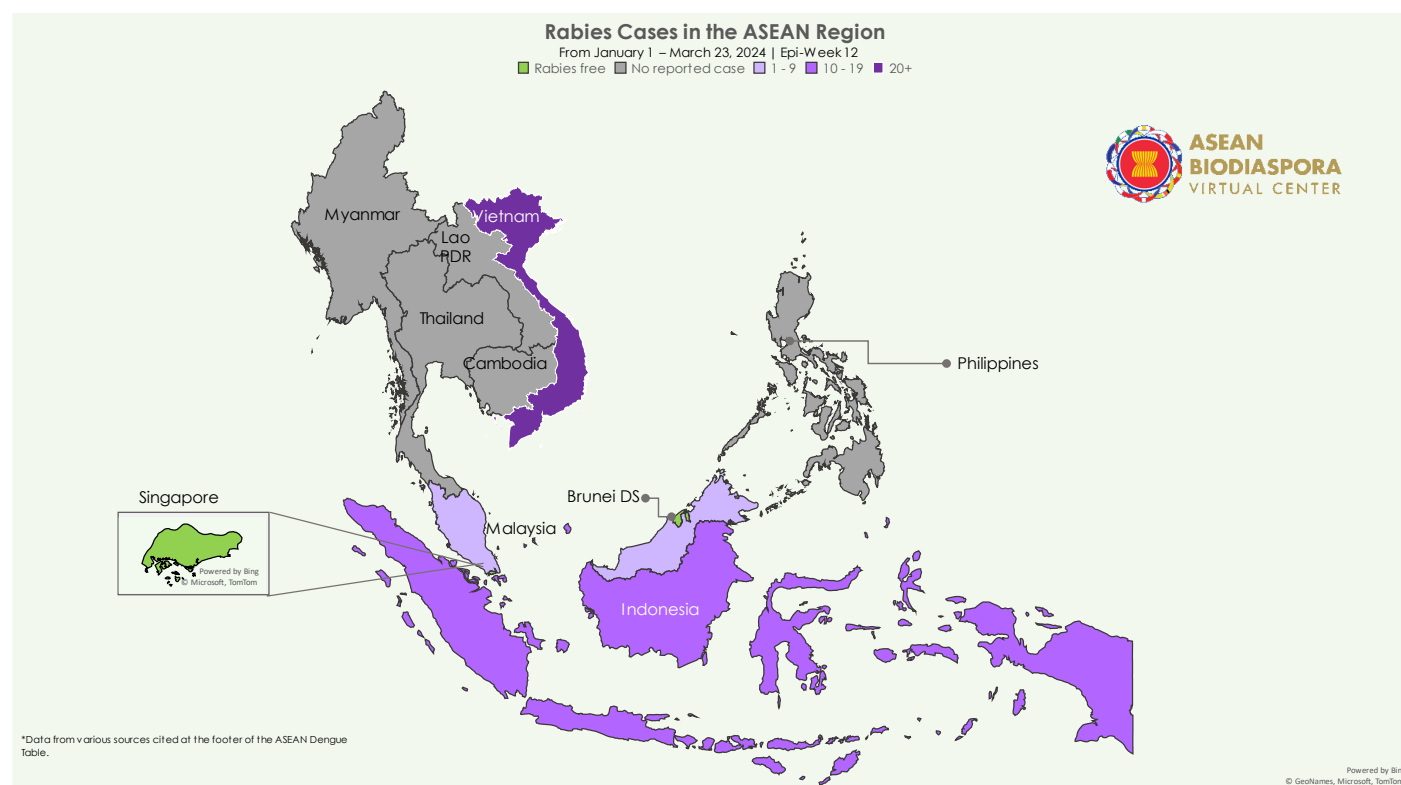
Mpox

- **Cambodia** has reported two more cases of mpox, raising the total number of infections to 14 (Huaxia, 2024). All 14 cases have been male, aged 20-39, and are currently receiving treatment at a hospital. The Ministry of Health urges people to be extra vigilant in order to prevent the cluster or large-scale transmission of the mpox. [\[Full article\]](#)

ZOONOSIS

Rabies Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to March 23, 2024 (Epi-Week 12)



Rabies cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Rabies Cases	New Cases Since Previous Report	Cumulative Deaths	CFR
Brunei Darussalam		Rabies-free country			
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia ¹	Week 8	12	0	12	100%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia ²	Week 4	3	0	3	100%
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines ³	-	-	-	-	100%
Singapore		Rabies-free country			
Thailand ⁴	Week 11	0	0	0	0%
Vietnam ²	Week 12	27	5	27	100%
Total		42	5	42	100%

1. Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia
2. BlueDot Platform, accessed March 26, 2024 (<https://portal.bluedot.global/>)
3. Department of Health Website, accessed March 26, 2024 "Statistics," (<https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>)
4. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed March 26, 2024 (<http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>)

- The **ASEAN** region reported **five** new rabies cases in Vietnam since the previous report. The region reported **42** total cases with **100%** CFR.

Media Monitoring for Zoonosis

Epidemiological Week 12 | March 17 – 23, 2024

Global Situation for Zoonosis

Avian Influenza

- **China** has reported three more H9N2 avian flu infections, all involving children, raising the country's number to four this year (Schnirring, 2024). The infections occurred in Guangxi province, Jiangxi province, and Guangdong province. H9N2 infections are typically mild and affect children, with most earlier cases linked to contact with poultry or their environments. The virus is known to circulate in China and other Asian countries. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **India:** One person died of rabies after being hospitalized after being bitten by his dog (Bureau, 2024). He was discharged after doctors had no hope for recovery. The death toll of rabies in Manipur has reached four, with no patient leaving the hospital alive. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation for Zoonosis

Anthrax

- **Laos:** Over a dozen people have been infected with anthrax in two districts of southern Champassak province, leading to restrictions on the movement and slaughtering of farm animals (RFA Lao, 2024). Anthrax, a rare infectious disease, was found in the carcasses of 97 cows, buffaloes, and goats. The 14 patients, all suffering from large, dark scabs, are receiving treatment. Authorities believe they contracted the disease by eating meat from infected cows or buffaloes. The health department has issued a notice urging local medical centers to report new cases and to see a doctor if they develop black bumps. [\[Full article\]](#)

Avian Influenza

- **Vietnam:** A 21-year-old student at Nha Trang University in Ninh Hoa town has been infected with influenza A H5 (Chien, 2024). The disease began on March 11 and has since worsened, requiring treatment at local medical facilities. The patient was transferred to Khanh Hoa Provincial General Hospital, where he was treated at the department of general internal medicine - neurology. On March 19, the patient was tested at the Pasteur Institute of Nha Trang, and the results showed he was infected with the virus. The patient is currently in serious condition and is being quarantined and treated at the Provincial Hospital of Tropical Diseases. The first case of influenza A H5 infection in Khanh Hoa province has been reported, but the source of the infection remains unknown. [\[Full article\]](#)

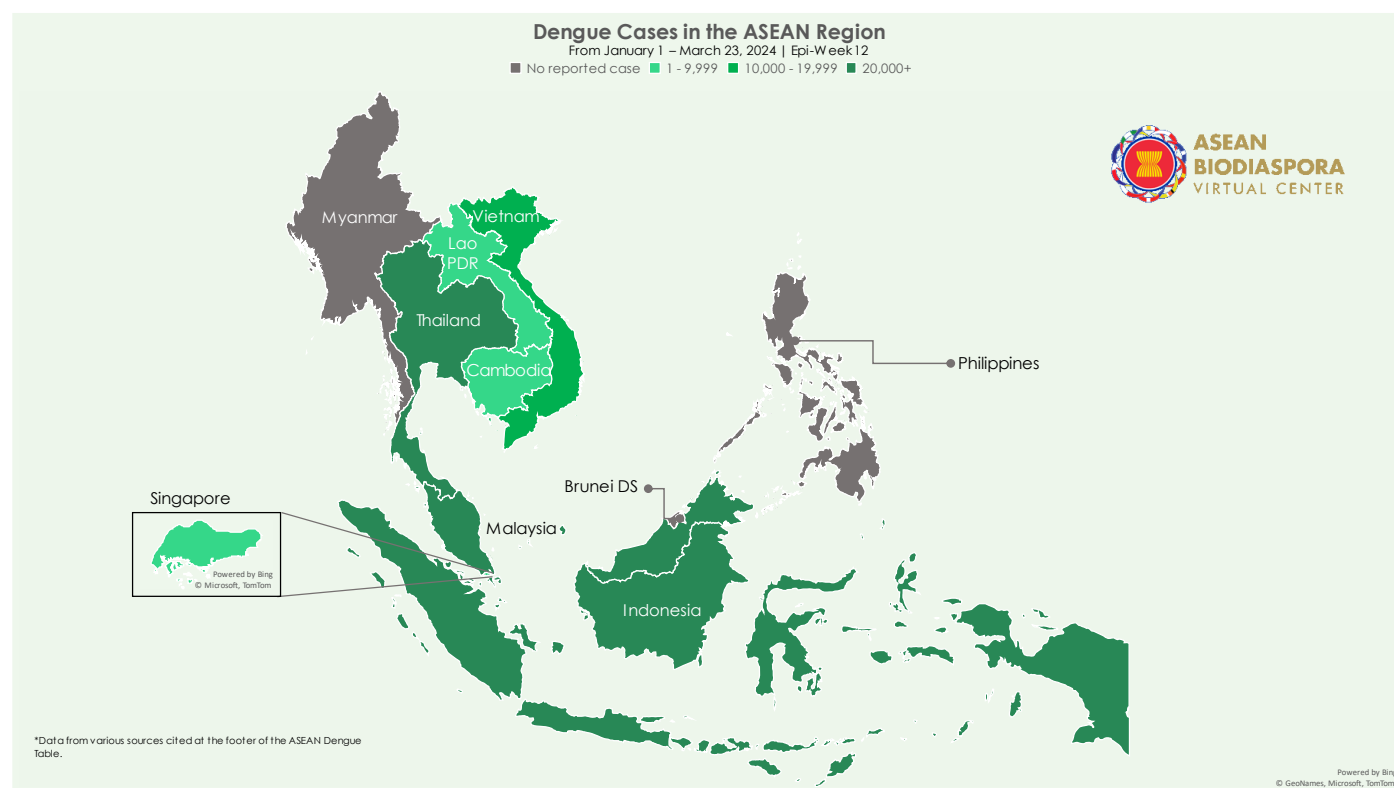
Rabies

- **Indonesia:** North Timor Tengah District Health Office reported four deaths from rabies, with the most recent being an 11-year-old boy (Hartik, 2024). He was bitten by a dog in January 2024 and was advised to seek treatment at the local Public Health Center, including an anti-rabies vaccine. However, the anti-rabies vaccine officer was not present, and he did not receive the vaccine until his death. The Patient, another victim, also suffered from rabies symptoms and died after being treated at the community health center and Kefamenanu District Hospital. North Timor Tengah District Health Office Head urged the community to be more proactive in seeking health services, especially for rabies, and to vaccinate all animal bites that transmit rabies. [\[Full article\]](#)

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

Dengue Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to March 23, 2024 (Epi-Week 12)



Dengue cases in the ASEAN region

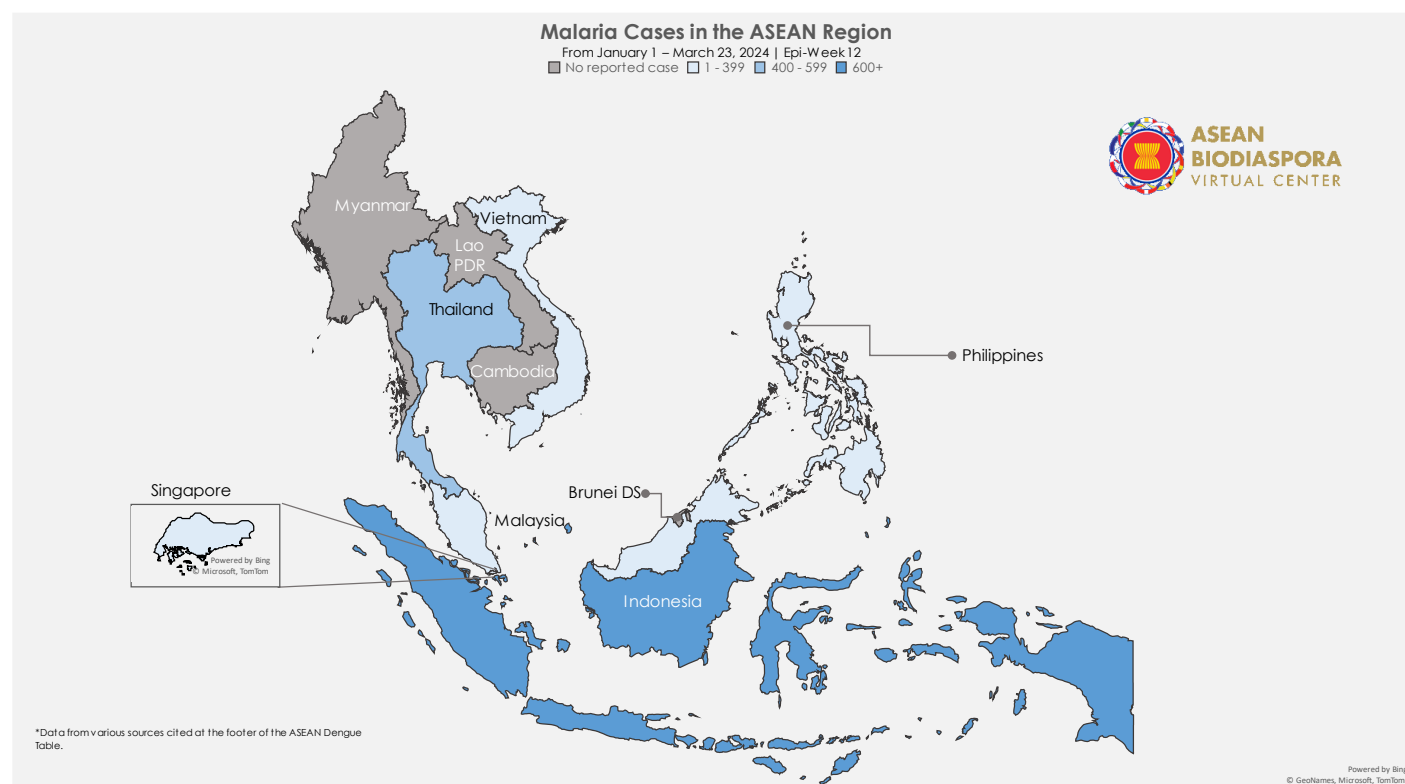
Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Dengue Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Cumulative Deaths	New Deaths	CFR
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia¹	Week 9	3,575	0	10	-	0.28%
Indonesia^{2*}	Week 10	27,417	0	250	-	0.91%
Lao PDR¹	Week 7	966	0	0	-	0.00%
Malaysia³	Week 10	35,619	3,238	21	2	0.06%
Myanmar⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines⁵	-	-	-	-	-	-
Singapore^{6**}	Week 11	4,499	333	0	-	0.00%
Thailand^{7***}	Week 11	20,969	1,161	18	1	0.09%
Vietnam¹	Week 9	11,235	0	0	-	0.00%
Total		104,280	4,732	299	3	0.29%

1. WHO WPRO, "Dengue," World Health Organization, accessed March 26, 2024 (<https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/surveillance/dengue>).
 2. Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia
 3. Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia, accessed March 26, 2024, https://www.moh.gov.my/index.php/database_stores/store_view/17
 4. Bluedot Developer Portal, accessed March 26, 2024, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
 5. Department of Health Website, accessed March 26, 2024 "Statistics," <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 6. Ministry of Health. "Weekly Infectious Disease Bulletin", accessed March 26, 2024. <https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2024/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>
 7. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed March 26, 2024, <http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>
- Data were updated and collected from official sources, which may have a 2-8 weeks delay in reporting. Data must be interpreted cautiously.
- *Notified dengue cases only includes severe cases Dengue Hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS)
- **Notified dengue cases only includes Dengue Fever (DF) and DHF
- ***Notified dengue cases include all type of cases DF, DHF, and DSS

- The **ASEAN** region reported **4,732** new dengue cases in Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. The region reported **104,280** total cases with **0.29%** CFR.

Malaria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to March 23, 2024 (Epi-Week 12)



Malaria cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Malaria Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Cumulative Deaths	CFR
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia ¹	Week 6	675	0	0	0.00%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia ¹	Week 10	2	0	0	0.00%
Myanmar ¹	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Philippines ¹	Week 6	2	0	0	0.00%
Singapore ³	Week 11	5	0	0	0.00%
Thailand ²	Week 11	439	34	0	0.00%
Vietnam ¹	Week 11	1	0	0	0.00%
Total		1,124	34	0	0.00%

1. Bluedot Platform, accessed March 26, 2024 (<https://portal.bluedot.global/>)
2. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed March 26, 2024 (<http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>)
3. Ministry of Health Singapore, accessed March 26, 2024 (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2023/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>)

- The **ASEAN** region reported **34** new malaria cases in Thailand since the previous report. The region reported **1,124** total cases with **0.00%** CFR.

Media Monitoring for Vector-borne Diseases

Epidemiological Week 12 | March 17 – 23, 2024

Global Situation for Vector-borne Diseases

Dengue

- **Bangladesh** reported no new dengue deaths in a week, but 20 more patients were hospitalized with viral fever (UNB News, 2024). Since January 1, 2024, 1,610 cases have been reported, with September, 2023 being the deadliest month with 396 deaths and 79,598 cases. Last year, 1,705 people lost their lives due to dengue. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **India:** Three leptospirosis patients were found in a Manpur district, with two children dying during treatment (Pandey, 2024). A young man is still affected and is being treated at Jabalpur Medical College. Epidemiologists reported that a girl from village Navaganwa was first affected, followed by a 13-year-old child from Semra village. Both children were sent to Jabalpur Medical College for treatment, where they died. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation for Vector-borne Diseases

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases in Bali have risen again in 2024, with the initial number of cases being 2,131 (Febriani, 2024). The trend in the last three months of 2023 is that cases continue to increase. However, cases in January and February 2024 increased sharply, reaching 709 and 885 cases respectively. The pattern of dengue fever usually increases in December, with the peak occurring in April-May following the rainy season pattern. The total number of cases in 2023 was 7,099, with 19 deaths. [[Full article](#)]

In Bandung City DHF have reached 1,741 cases in three months, from January to March 2024 (Anggana, 2024). The high number of cases has led to eight deaths from intensive treatment at Bandung City hospitals. [[Full article](#)]

- **Malaysia:** Dengue cases in Malaysia decreased to 3,238 in the 10th Epidemiology Week, with two deaths due to complications (Malay Mail, 2024). The cumulative number of cases was 35,619, compared to 21,602 in 2023. [[Full article](#)]
- **Vietnam:** Dengue fever cases in Hanoi have tripled since the beginning of 2024, with an average of 17-24 cases per week (Ngan, D., 2024). Thus, from the beginning of 2024 until March 15, Hanoi has recorded 513 cases of dengue fever, an increase of 3 times compared to the same period in 2023. The disease typically occurs in August, September, and October, with peak outbreaks in October and November. [[Full article](#)]

Leptospirosis

- **Indonesia:** A 57-year-old man in Nogosari District, Boyolali, died from leptospirosis, a zoonotic disease caused by bacteria spread through rat urine (Jarmaji, 2024). The patient was undergoing treatment at Fatmawati Soekarno Hospital, Solo, when he was declared dead. The leptospirosis rate in Boyolali was high last year, with 15 cases and four deaths. In 2022, there will be 17 cases with a death toll of three. There are 125 variants of leptospira bacteria, with deadly variants causing symptoms like hepatitis B and kidney failure. [[Full article](#)]

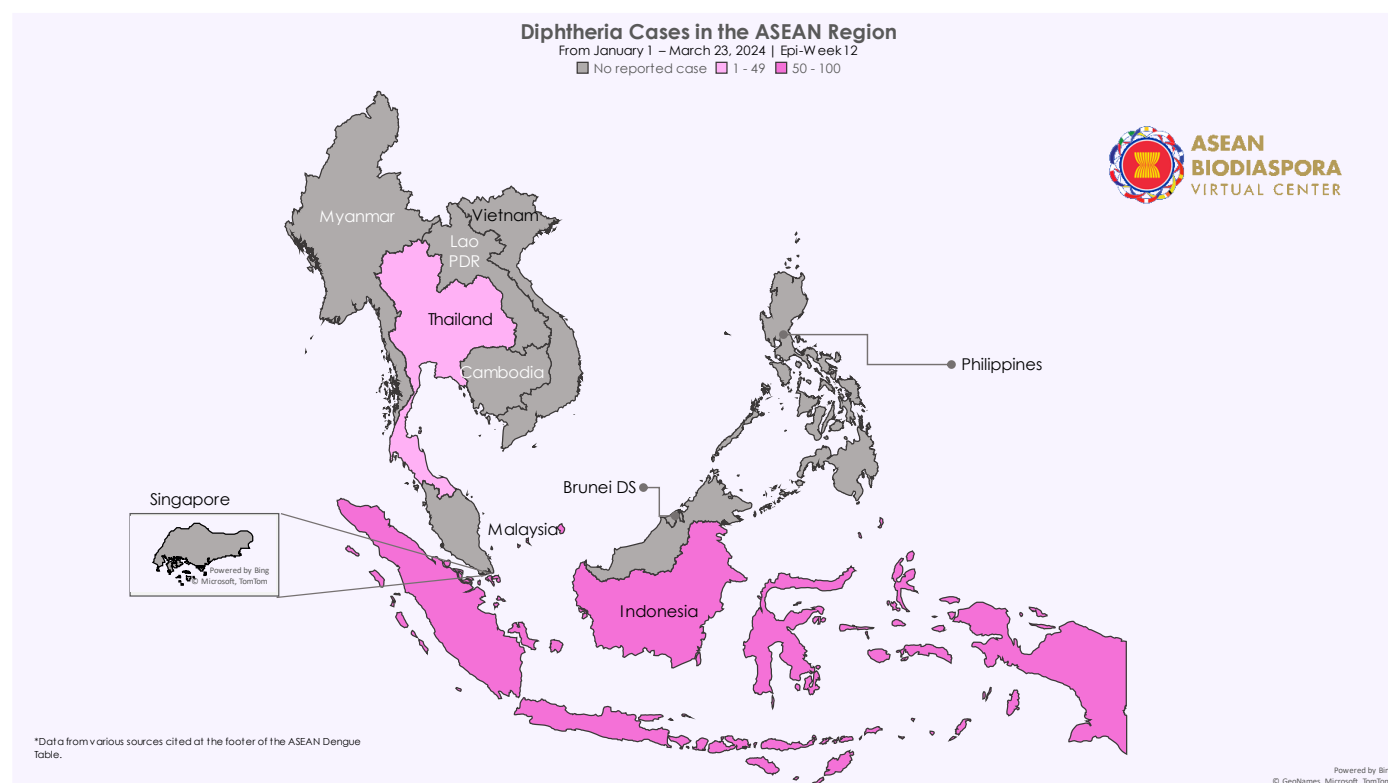
Malaria

- **Vietnam:** A 19-week pregnant woman, was diagnosed with malaria after leaving Angola for Vietnam (Le Chung, 2024). She was examined at Hue Central Hospital and hospitalized with fever, abdominal pain, fatigue, and low blood pressure. Rapid diagnostic tests by the Center for Disease Control of Thua Thien Hue province confirmed the presence of *Plasmodium falciparum*. Despite treatment, the patient's condition remained severe. The CDC of Thua Thien Hue province warns that malaria elimination does not guarantee malaria elimination, and medical facilities and individuals must increase vigilance and report malaria epidemiological factors for early detection, correct treatment, and guidance on radical treatment. [\[Full article\]](#)

VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

Diphtheria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to March 23, 2024 (Epi-Week 12)



Diphtheria cases in the ASEAN region

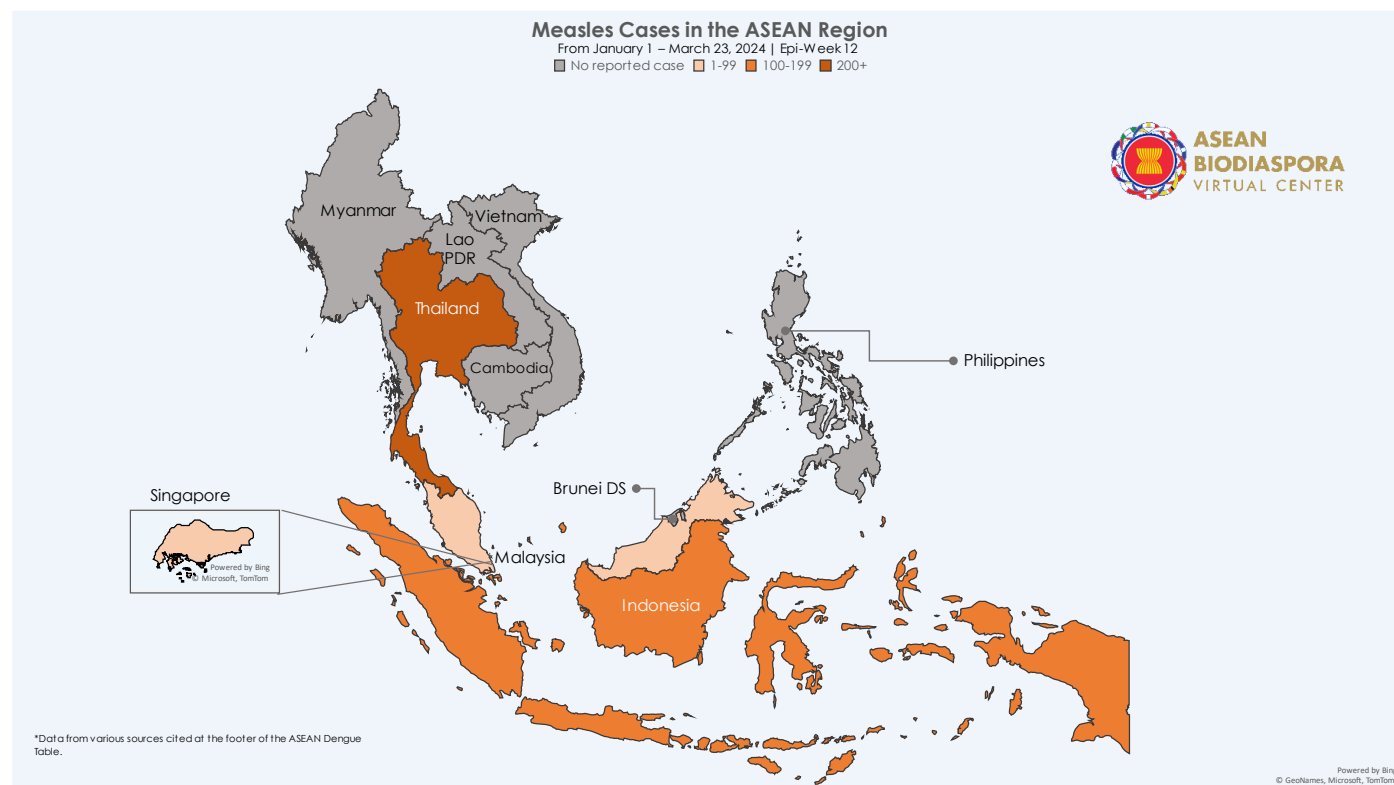
Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Diphtheria Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Cumulative Deaths	CFR
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia ¹	Week 8	83	0	3	3.61%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines ²	-	-	-	-	-
Singapore ³	Week 11	0	0	0	0.00%
Thailand ⁴	Week 11	1	0	0	0.00%
Vietnam ⁵	-	-	-	-	-
Total		84	0	3	3.57%

1. Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia.
2. Department of Health Website, accessed March 26, 2024 "Statistics" (<https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>)
3. Ministry of Health Singapore, accessed March 26, 2024 (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2023/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>)
4. Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, accessed March 26, 2024 (<http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>)
5. BlueDot Platform, accessed March 26, 2024 (<https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>)

- The ASEAN region reported **NO** new diphtheria cases since the previous report. The region reported **84** total cases with **3.75%** CFR.

Measles Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to March 23, 2024 (Epi-Week 12)



Measles cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Measles Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Cumulative Deaths	CFR
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia ¹	Week 8	157	0	0	0.00%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia ²	Week 11	34	0	0	0.00%
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines ³	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Singapore ⁴	Week 11	1	0	0	0.00%
Thailand ⁵	Week 11	282	36	0	0.00%
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-
Total		474	36	0	0.00%

1. Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia
2. Bluedot Platform, accessed March 26, 2024 (<https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>)
3. Department of Health Website, accessed March 26, 2024 "Statistics," (<https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>)
4. Ministry of Health Singapore, accessed March 26, 2024, (<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 March 26, 2024 (<http://doe.moph.go.th/surdata/index.php>)

- The **ASEAN** region reported **36** new measles cases in Thailand since the previous report. The region reported **474** total cases with **0.00%** CFR.

Media Monitoring for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Epidemiological Week 12 | March 17 – 23, 2024

Global Situation for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Measles

- **Canada:** As of March 20, 29 cases of measles were confirmed in Quebec, with less than five cases in the city (Plourde, 2024). A case was found at the Saint-Jean Garrison Clinic on March 11, and another person was found at Salon Chasse et Pêche in Saint-Hyacinthe on March 10. Those present are encouraged to monitor their symptoms until March 31. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Hong Kong (SAR):** The Center for Health Protection in the Department of Health is investigating two measles cases in Hong Kong (Hong Kong Government Press Release, 2024). The first case involved a 14-month-old baby girl who was diagnosed with measles-related symptoms. The second case involved a previously healthy sister who also developed symptoms. The Center is investigating the source of infection and initiating contact tracing of the affected areas. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Japan:** Measles cases have been increasing in Japan, with at least 14 confirmed cases this year (Kyodo News, 2024). The infection spreads among travelers who boarded the same plane. Experts urge high-risk travelers to get vaccinated to prevent further spread. A 20-year-old man was infected in Higashiosaka City, and women on the same flight were also found to be infected. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Netherlands:** The GGD Brabant-Zuidoost (Public Health Department) has reported six new measles infections since last week, bringing the total to 21 (RTL News, 2024). All cases are children, aged five and above, and all are unvaccinated. The outbreak is currently limited to Eindhoven and the surrounding area. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that vaccinating more children is crucial to prevent further measles outbreaks. The disease is on the rise worldwide, with the WHO stating that vaccinating more children is crucial to prevent further increase. In the Netherlands, 1 in 10,000 cases of measles are fatal, with young children at a higher risk of death. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Spain:** Measles has returned to Spain, with over 20 confirmed cases and four under investigation since January (Iglesias, 2024). The outbreak has caused chaos in seven autonomous communities, double the number registered in 2023. The virus was eradicated in 2017, but the new wave of infections is believed to be from other European countries. Nine people have died in recent months due to the disease, including a two-year-old girl in Caspe who received only one dose of the vaccine. The regional government has closed daycare classrooms until after Easter. Seven autonomous communities have registered at least one contagion of the virus this year. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Sweden:** A measles case has been discovered in Sweden for the first time since 2019 (Aftonbladet, 2024). The case is likely at a children's intensive care unit in Lund, according to a confirmed case from the infectious disease prevention doctor. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United Kingdom (UK):** Health chiefs are warning of measles outbreaks in two new cluster areas in Britain, as parents are urged to vaccinate their children (Hanlon, 2024). The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) reports that 59 laboratory-confirmed measles cases have been found in England, bringing the total since October 1 last year to 789. New clusters have emerged in areas like London and the North West. The West Midlands has been the most affected, with 59% of cases reported in the region. The UKHSA also noted that small clusters of cases have emerged in other regions. [\[Full article\]](#)

- The **United States (US)**: A second measles case has been identified in Washtenaw County, with potential exposure locations including Ann Arbor pharmacies, medical offices, a hospital, an urgent care facility, and the University of Michigan dormitory (Larson, 2024). The adult without prior immunity to measles was exposed to the first local case on March 3. The Washtenaw County Health Department has issued a list of exposure locations and timeframes for the second case, which can live for up to two hours in the air. Anyone at the exposure sites during the timeframes listed may have been exposed. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- **Canada**: Estrie province has seen the highest number of whooping cough cases, with 242 cases reported since the start of the year (M105, 2024). Public health has identified 37 probable cases, with 19-38 diagnosed over the past six weeks. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Spain**: The Institute of Public and Occupational Health of Navarra reported a high incidence of whooping cough in 2024, with 44 confirmed cases, seven in children under one year of age (Efe, 2024). Despite this, good vaccination coverage in pregnant women prevents serious cases in newborns. *Bordetella pertussis* also circulated, with 44 confirmed cases in 2024. The disease's presentation varies with age and vaccination history. Acute respiratory infections in primary care reached 592 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, with 19 cases of flu syndrome and 2 cases of COVID-19. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Taiwan (Province of China)**: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported the first local cases of pertussis and meningococcal meningitis in Taiwan this year (I-chia, 2024). The first case was a one-month-old boy, who was not old enough to receive the government-funded whooping cough vaccine for newborns. The second case was a four-year-old girl, who had severe inflammation and abnormal coagulation. The CDC states that the cases were reported each year from 2015 to last year, with 33% of the cases aged 25 to 64 years. [\[Full article\]](#)

Poliomyelitis

- **Pakistan**: A child in Dera Bugti district of Balochistan has been paralyzed by wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), marking the first polio case in 2024 (Herriman, 2024). The virus was detected in stool samples from a 30-month-old child and a 52-month-old child in Chaman district. The Polio Programme has conducted two nationwide polio vaccination drives since 2024 to vaccinate over 45 million children and boost immunity. In 2023, Pakistan reported six WPV1 cases and nine sewage samples tested positive for WPV1. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Pertussis

- **Philippines**: Iloilo City's disaster risk reduction and management council will declare a pertussis outbreak in Molo and Jaro districts before the end of the month (Lena, 2024). At least 10 cases of respiratory illness were reported as of March 16, with five confirmed cases, two negative, and three pending polymerase chain reaction test results. The most affected age group is from zero to four months. The health and sanitation cluster will respond to the situation, contacting barangay officials to help locate children with missed vaccinations and spread awareness on preventing pertussis. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Vietnam**: Hanoi has recorded two more cases of whooping cough, a dangerous disease that is more contagious than the flu (Baomoi, 2024). The first case was a one-month-old boy in Bac Son commune, not yet old enough to be vaccinated. The second case was a four-week-old boy in Canh Nau commune. Medical experts warn that if a child presents with symptoms like drooping cough, fits, poor appetite, vomiting, sleep disturbances, and rapid breathing, they should be taken to the hospital for an early examination. [\[Full article\]](#)



Annex 1. Infectious Diseases in the ASEAN Region – Summary Table

Epidemiological Week 12 | From January 1 to March 23, 2024

Infectious Diseases	COVID-19			Mpox			Rabies			Dengue		
	Cum. Cases	Cum. Deaths	CFR	Cum. Cases	Cum. Deaths	CFR	Cum. Cases	Cum. Deaths	CFR	Cum. Cases	Cum. Deaths	CFR
Brunei Darussalam	82,029	77	0.10%	-	-	-	Rabies-free Country			-	-	-
Cambodia	662	0	0%	13	0	0%	-	-	-	3,575	10	0.28%
Indonesia	117,459	1,451	1.26%	85	0	0%	12	12	100%	27,417	250	0.91%
Lao PDR	1,372	87	6.55%	1	0	0%	-	-	-	966	0	0%
Malaysia	258,141	491	0.20%	9	0	0%	3	3	100%	35,619	21	0.06%
Myanmar	8,293	5	0.06%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines	141,371	1,467	1.04%	5	0	0%	-	-	100%	-	-	-
Singapore	819,481	313	0.04%	38	0	0%	Rabies-free Country			4,166	0	0%
Thailand	49,739	907	1.97%	731	1	0.14%	0	0	0%	20,969	18	0.09%
Vietnam	101,828	20	0.02%	155	7	4.52%	27	27	100%	11,235	0	0.00%
ASEAN Region	1,580,375	4,818	0.31%	1,036	8	0.77%	42	42	100%	104,280	299	0.29%

Infectious Diseases	Malaria			Measles			Diphtheria		
	Cum. Cases	Cum. Deaths	CFR	Cum. Cases	Cum. Deaths	CFR	Cum. Cases	Cum. Deaths	CFR
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	675	0	0%	157	0	0%	83	3	3.61%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	2	0	0%	34	0	0%	-	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines	2	0	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Singapore	5	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0	0%
Thailand	439	0	0%	282	0	0%	1	0	0%
Vietnam	1	0	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASEAN Region	1,124	0	0%	474	0	0%	84	3	3.57%

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