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Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report in the ASEAN Region

_____ Infectious Diseases

August 28, 2023 | MMWR 2023-34
Epidemiological Week 34



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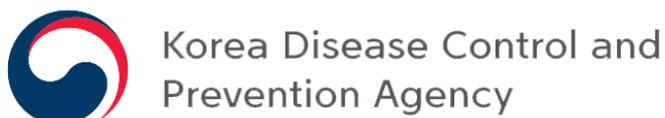


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Weekly Issue





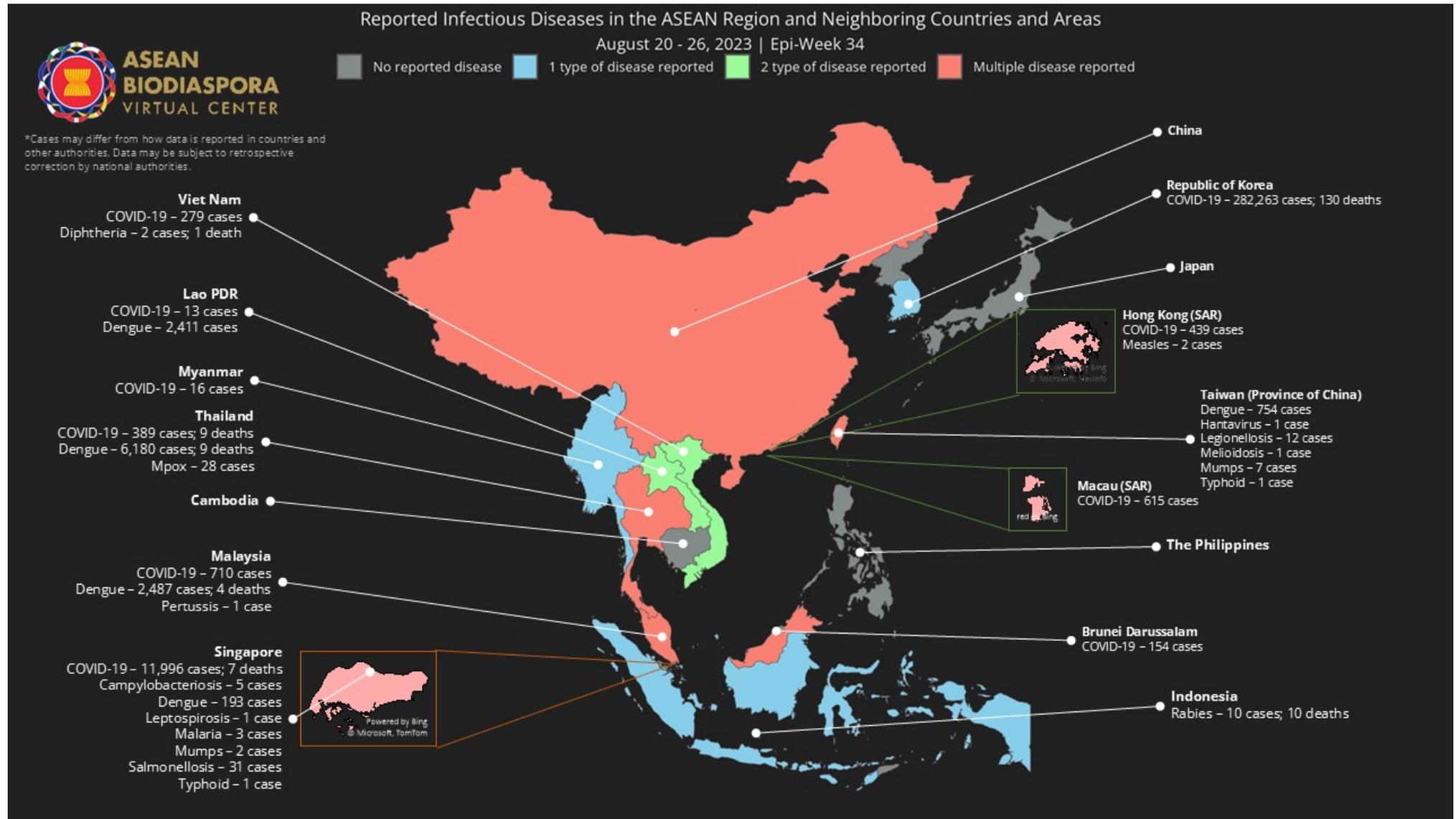
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Reported Infectious Diseases in the ASEAN Region and Neighboring Countries

Epidemiological Week 34 | August 20-26, 2023



1. Ministry of Health Singapore, "Weekly Infectious Diseases Bulletin," Ministry of Health, August 19, 2023, <https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/infectious-disease-statistics/2023/weekly-infectious-diseases-bulletin>.



Reported Infectious Diseases

Epidemiological Week 34 | August 20-26, 2023

Infectious Disease Global Updates

Diphtheria

- **Europe:** From January 2022 to August 2023, 281 cases of diphtheria were confirmed in EU/EEA countries, with most cases in migrant-related facilities (Outbreak News Today, 2023). The ECDC reported most cases in Germany and Switzerland. The cases were caused by *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* and 53 by *Corynebacterium ulcerans*. The age range of cases was 0 to 92 years. Of the 228 cases, 199 had the cutaneous form, 18 had the respiratory form, three had both, and three had the nasal form. Three deaths were attributed to *C. diphtheriae* and one to *C. ulcerans*. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** Since the first week of 2023, 15,525 measles cases and 655 deaths have been reported in Kasai province, with Luebo health zone being the most affected (News Desk, 2023d). The health zone of Kanzala has reported 282 cases of death. All notified cases are treated free of charge in nearest health facilities. Measures to prevent the spread include strengthening epidemiological surveillance and routine vaccination. The DPS plans to launch a measles campaign next month and urges parents to get their children vaccinated. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Dengue has claimed 548 lives and 114,511 were infected this year, making it the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000 (Star Digital Report, 2023). At least 11 more people died from the disease in 24 hours, with eight reported in Dhaka. At least 2,327 dengue patients were hospitalized in the 24-hour period. The government has taken initiatives to limit the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, but there is no specific vaccine or drug for dengue. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Colombia** has reported 67,944 dengue cases, with 1.5% severe cases (News Desk, 2023a). The incidence is 90.0 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, with 62.8% from Meta, Tolima, Santander, Cali, Cesar, Bolívar, Antioquia, Cundinamarca, Sucre, and Cordoba. At epidemiological week 32, 44 deaths were confirmed, with the highest fatalities in Amazonas, Norte, La Guajira, Magdalena, Sucre, Arauca, Chocó, and Nariño. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Taiwan (Province of China):** The Taiwan Department of Disease Control reported 556 new local cases of dengue fever in Taiwan from August 15th to August 21st this year (News Desk, 2023c). The cases included 471 in Tainan City, 61 in Yunlin County, 17 in Kaohsiung City, and 17 in New Taipei City. As of August 21, there were 2,135 local cases reported, including 1,781 in Tainan City, 236 in Yunlin County, and 75 in Kaohsiung City. Pingtung County had 21 cases, while Chiayi County, Taichung City, Hsinchu City, Nantou County, and Taipei City each had one case. Health officials also recorded the second local dengue fever death case in this year, involving a woman in her 80s with chronic diseases. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **USA:** Dengue outbreaks cause about 400 million infections annually, with 2,997,097 cases reported in the Americas and 1,302 deaths reported in the region (Hackett, 2023). To limit these deaths, two dengue vaccines have been approved and deployed in 2023. Dengvaxia has shown an efficacy of 60.8% against symptomatic, virologically confirmed



dengue (VCD) caused by any of dengue's four serotypes more than 28 days after the third dose in Asia and Latin America. QDENGGA has shown around 80.2% efficacy. A phase 1 clinical trial showed 79.6% efficacy against VCD at 28 days after a single dose of a U.S. NIH-developed vaccine candidate. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **India:** Two consecutive incidents of dogs biting two children in Chandan Nagar have raised concerns about the Pune Municipal Corporation's (PMC) failure to curb the stray dog menace (Shaikh, 2023). The affected children have been traumatized and refuse to return home, and residents are living with a sense of fear due to the back-to-back cases. The incidents have affected children in the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Bhaji Mandai area, Hanuman Vyayam Shala, and Shivraj Chowk near Medi Point Hospital. The Children was attacked by a stray dog while playing in an open passage near his house, causing serious injuries and leaving bite marks on his buttocks. The victim's mother, Sheetal Sasane, said her child is now in a mental trauma and avoids going out of the house. Residents claim that dog lovers should take responsibility for the attacks and that they pressurize the authorities when they come to impound the strays. Imran Shaikh, a local resident and trustee of a mosque next to Kalyani Hospital, said the dogs chase those who come for morning prayers and have made it difficult to walk on the road. [\[Full article\]](#)

Vector-Borne Diseases

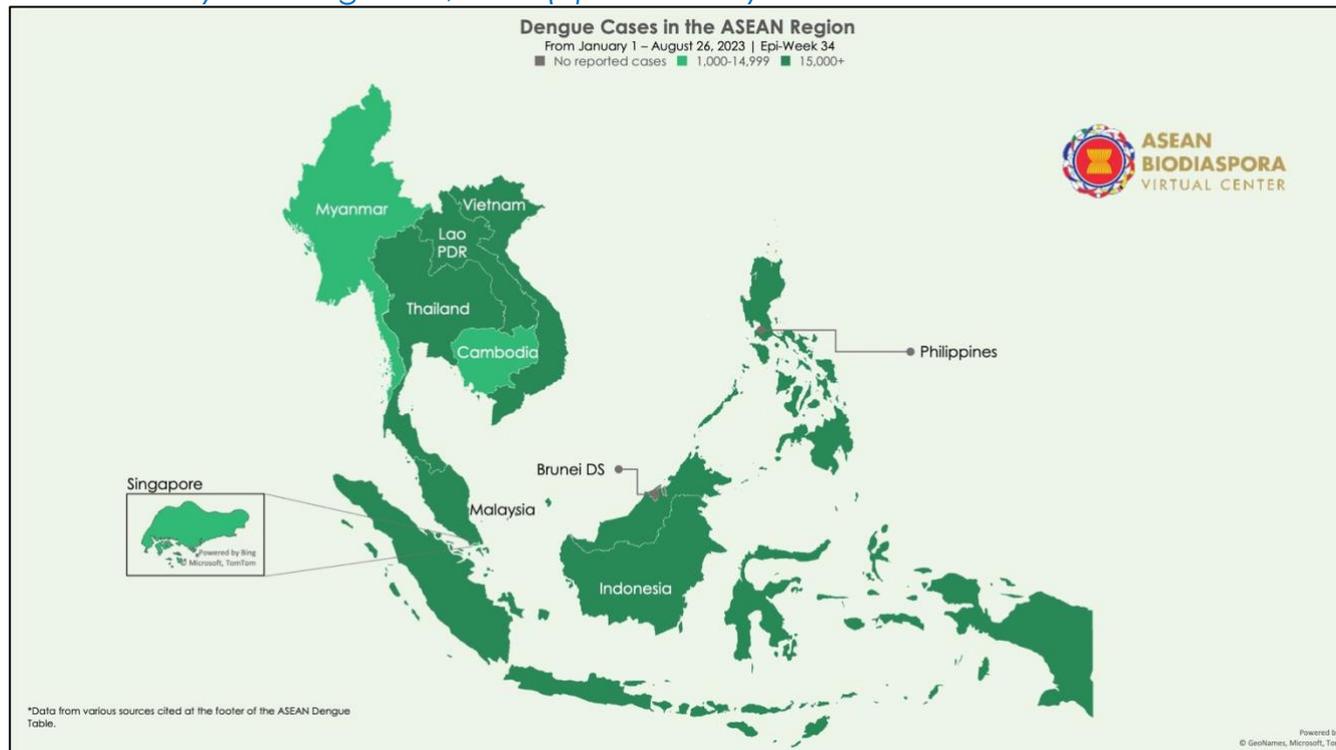


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Dengue Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to August 26, 2023 (Epi-Week 34)



Dengue cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Dengue Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia⁵	Week 30	11,824	0	32	0.27%
Indonesia⁶	Week 33	57,884	1,699	422	0.73%
Lao PDR⁵	Week 31	16,413	0	12	0.07%
Malaysia⁵	Week 31	71,193	0	49	0.07%
Myanmar¹	Week 28	6,685	0	30	0.45%
Philippines³	Week 29	85,692	5,374	324	0.38%
Singapore⁴	Week 33	5,759	193	0	0.00%
Thailand²	Week 27	27,235	0	1	0.003%
Vietnam⁵	Week 31	57,698	0	14	0.02%
Total		340,383	7,266	884	0.26%

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed August 28, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
 2. Asian Dengue Voice and Action, "Asian Dengue Dashboard," accessed August 28, 2023, <https://www.adva.asia/asian-dengue-dashboard/>.
 3. Department of Health Website, accessed August 28, 2023 "Statistics," July 22, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 4. National Environment Agency (NEA), accessed August 28, 2023, Dengue cases, August 12, 2023, <https://www.nea.gov.sg/dengue-zika/dengue/dengue-cases>.
 5. WHO WPRO, "Dengue," World Health Organization, accessed August 28, 2023, <https://www.who.int/westpacific/emergencies/surveillance/dengue>.
 6. Ministry of Health Indonesia

*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 **7,266** new dengue cases in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore since the previous report. The region reported **340,383** total cases and **884** total deaths in 2023 with **0.26%** CFR.



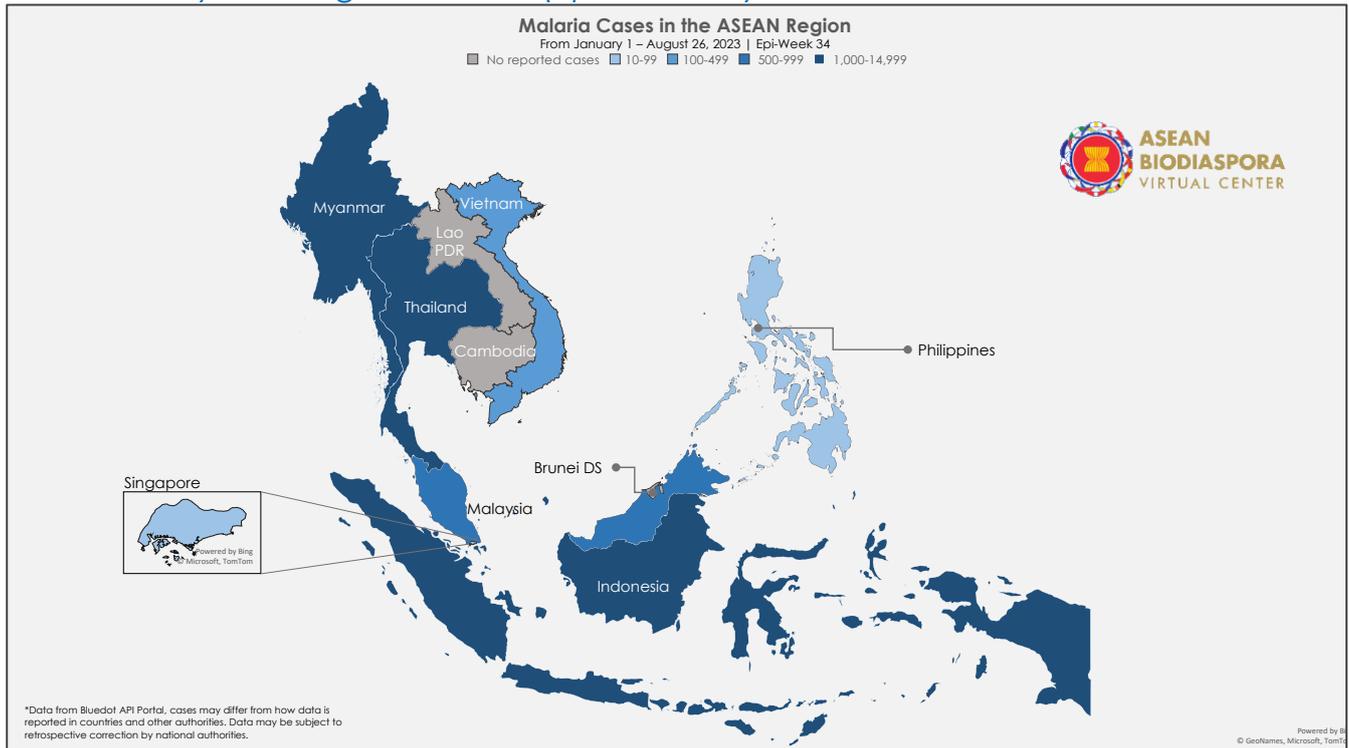
Dengue

- Lao PDR:** Dengue fever is a significant threat in Laos, with 23,347 cases reported as of August 26, including 14 fatalities (News Desk, 2023b). The region hit hardest is Oudomxay Province, with 4,499 cases. The Lao Ministry of Health urges residents to implement preventative measures and seek immediate medical treatment. The disease, spread through mosquito bites, can cause fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, rash, muscle and joint pain, and minor bleeding. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Malaysia:** Dengue fever cases in Malaysia have decreased by 2.2% to 2,487 cases in the 32nd epidemiological week (ME32) from Aug 6 to Aug 12, compared to 2,542 cases the previous week (Azmi, 2023). Four deaths due to complications were reported in ME32. The cumulative number of cases increased by 117.3% to 73,680 cases, with 53 deaths due to complications. Dengue fever hotspots decreased to 73 localities. Surveillance for chikungunya and Zika has been negative. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Philippines:** The Bacolod City Health Office reported 61 suspected leptospirosis cases and nine deaths, a 238.9% increase from last year (Beltran, 2023). Dengue cases in Bacolod City reached 292, with three deaths, a 54.4% increase from last year. Clustering cases occurred in Taculing, Mansilingan, Singcang, and Estefania. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Thailand's** dengue epidemic has reached its highest level in three years, with 65,552 cases and 58 deaths recorded since the start of the year (AFP, 2023). The highest incidence was observed in children aged 5-14 and young people aged 15-24. Deaths are mainly due to patients not catching the disease in time and taking nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs to reduce fever. Thailand's Ministry of Public Health predicts the upward trend will begin to decline in September. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Vietnam's** capital city Hanoi has reported 3,180 dengue fever cases this year, 5.7 times higher than the previous year (Xinhua, 2023). The city could become a hotspot due to its high population density and rapid transmission rate. The Hanoi Centre for Disease Control predicts a complicated situation due to the epidemic's earlier appearance. Since the beginning of the year, nearly 57,300 cases have been reported, with 13 deaths. [\[Full article\]](#)



Malaria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to August 26, 2023 (Epi-Week 34)



Malaria cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Malaria Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	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 ¹	Week 30	13	3	0	0.00%
Thailand ¹	Week 27	9,300	0	3	0.03%
Vietnam ¹	Week 30	146	0	0	0.00%
Total		15,921	3	3	0.02%

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed August 26, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.

- The ASEAN region reported **3** new malaria cases in Singapore since the previous report. The region reported **15,921** total cases and **3** total deaths in 2023 with **0.02%** CFR.

Vaccine- Preventable Diseases

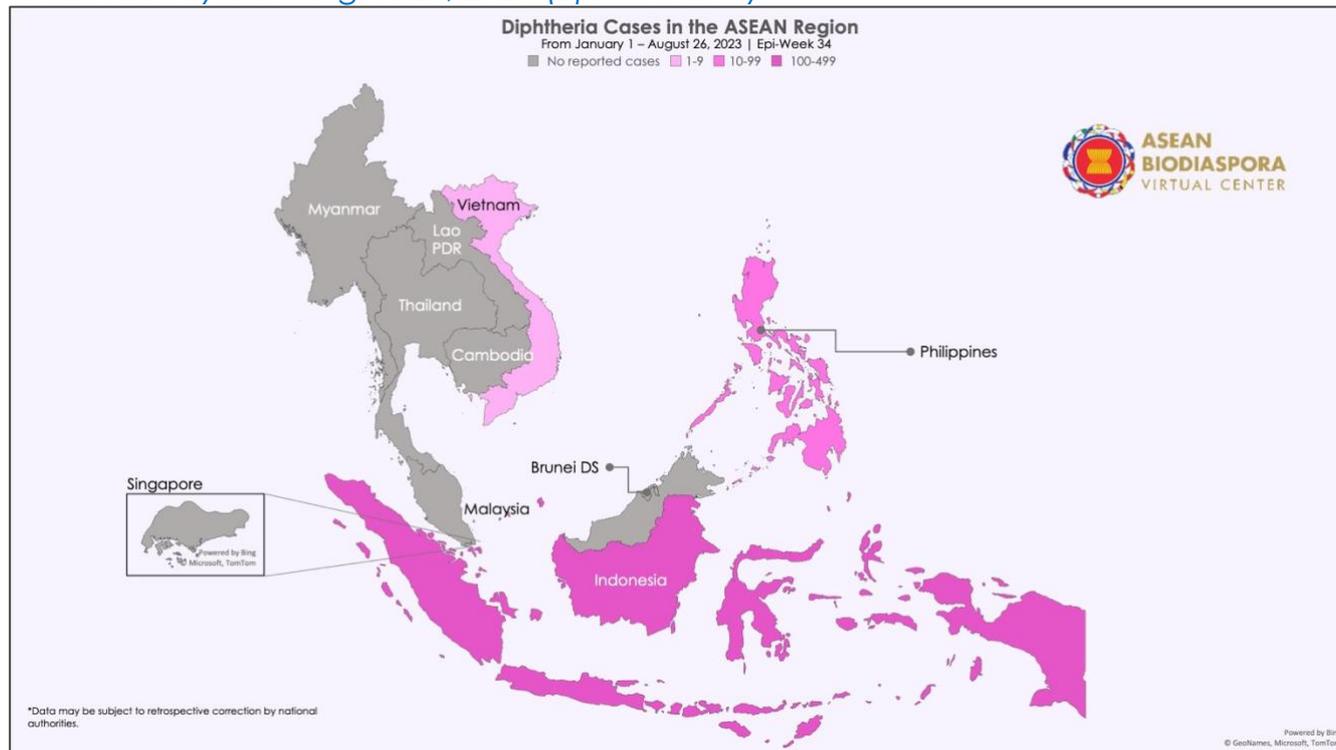


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Diphtheria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to August 26, 2023 (Epi-Week 34)



Diphtheria cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Cumulative Diphtheria Cases	New Cases Since the Previous Report	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia³	Week 32	416	0	29	6.97%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines²	Week 29	97	5	19	19.59%
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-
Vietnam¹	Week 34	5	2	2	33.33%
Total		511		48	9.39%

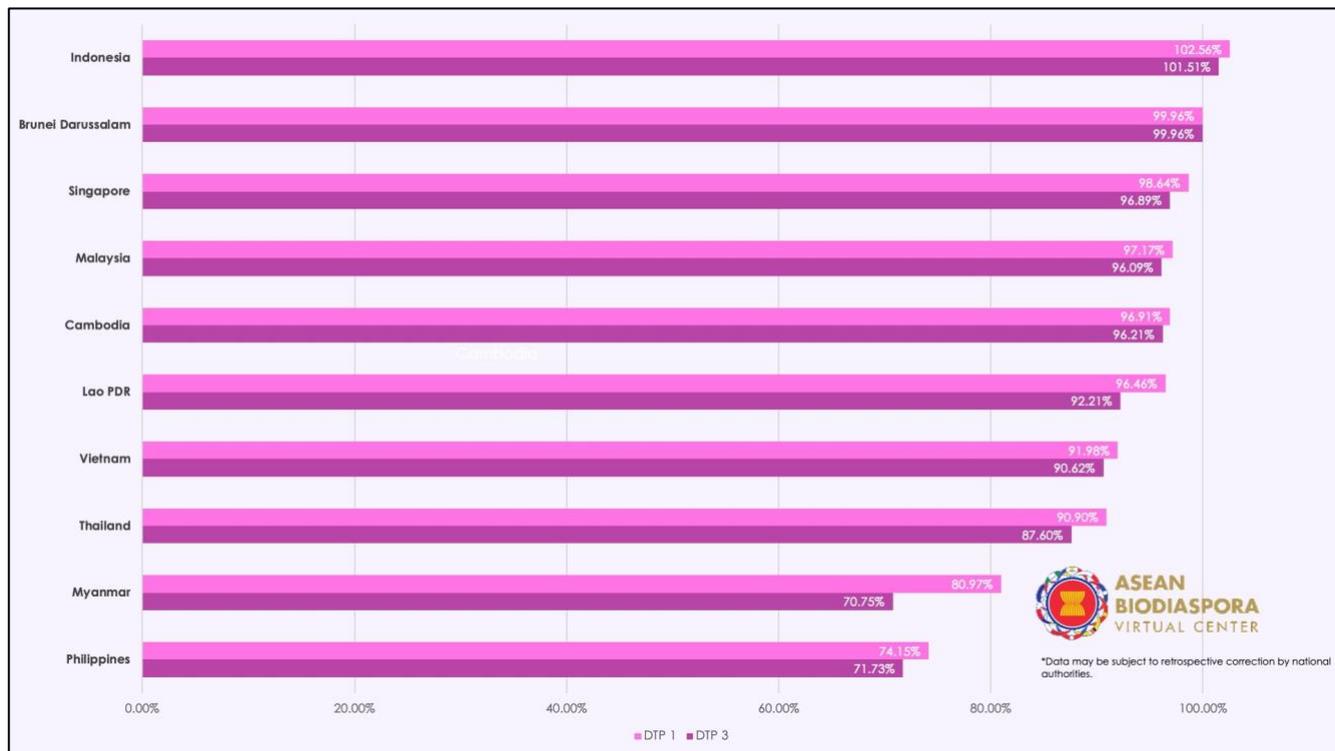
1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed August 28, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
2. Department of Health Website, accessed August 28, 2023 "Statistics," July 22, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
3. Ministry of Health Indonesia

The ASEAN region reported **26** new diphtheria cases in Indonesia and the Philippines since the previous report. The region reported **511** total cases and **48** total deaths in 2023 with **9.39%** CFR.



Diphtheria, Tetanus Toxoid, and Pertussis Vaccination Coverage in the ASEAN Region

As of 2022



Reference: WHO, "Diphtheria Tetanus Toxoid and Pertussis (DTP) Vaccination Coverage," World Health Organization, 2022, <https://immunizationdata.who.int/pages/coverage/dtp.html?CODE=global>.

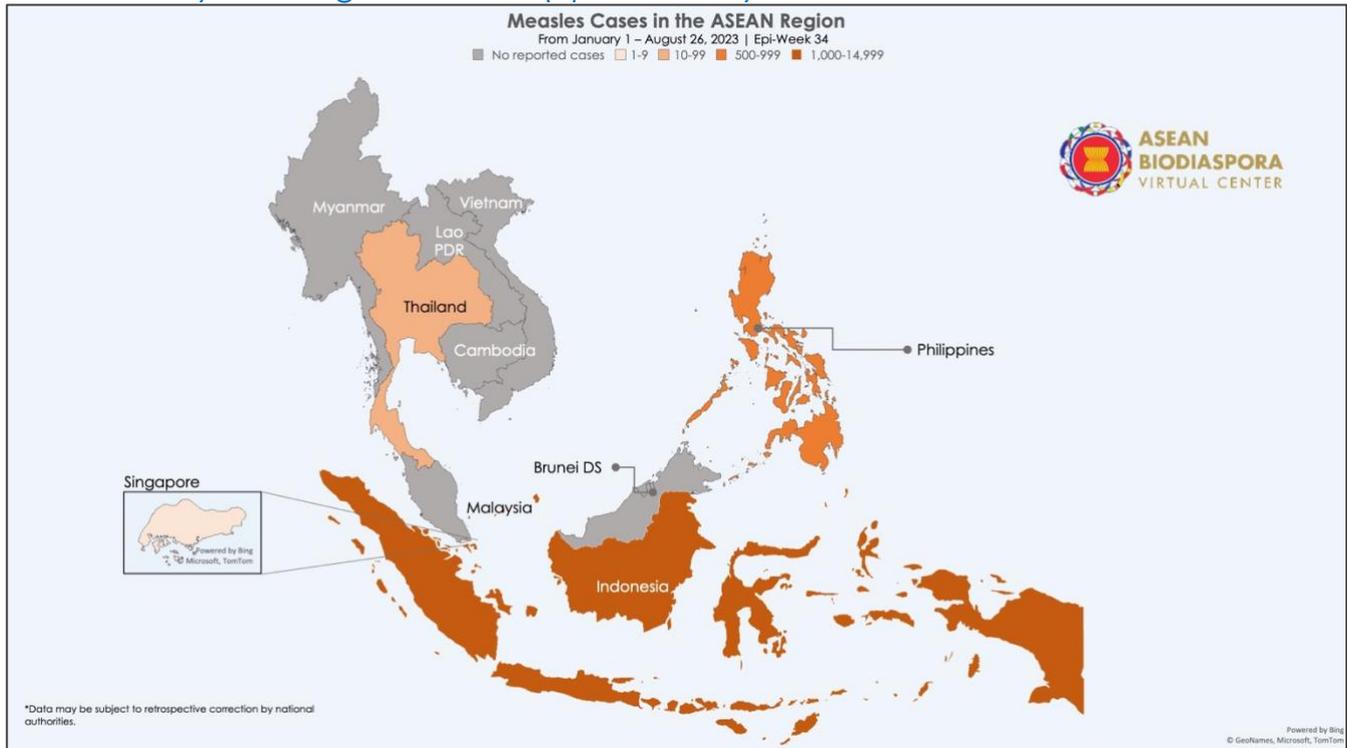
Diphtheria

- Vietnam:** A 15-year-old boy in Ha Giang, has died from diphtheria, the first case in recent years (Bác, 2023). The Department of Health confirmed the death on August 25. D. had a sore throat and was examined at Meo Vac District General Hospital. He was transferred to Ha Giang Provincial General Hospital for treatment. On August 24, the Central Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology confirmed D.'s death due to being positive for diphtheria bacteria. Currently, there are six suspected diphtheria cases in Khau Vai, Can Chu Phin, and Giang Chu Phin communes being monitored and treated at the Center. The functional sector sent samples to the Central Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology for testing. In Ha Giang, there have been no diphtheria cases for many years, and epidemic prevention measures are being urgently implemented by the local health sector. [\[Full article\]](#)



Measles Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to August 26, 2023 (Epi-Week 34)



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 ³	Week 32	3,527	0	17	0.48%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines ²	Week 29	921	0	3	0.33%
Singapore ¹	Week 24	6	0	0	0.00%
Thailand ¹	Week 16	73	0	0	0.00%
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-
Total		4,483	0	20	0.45%

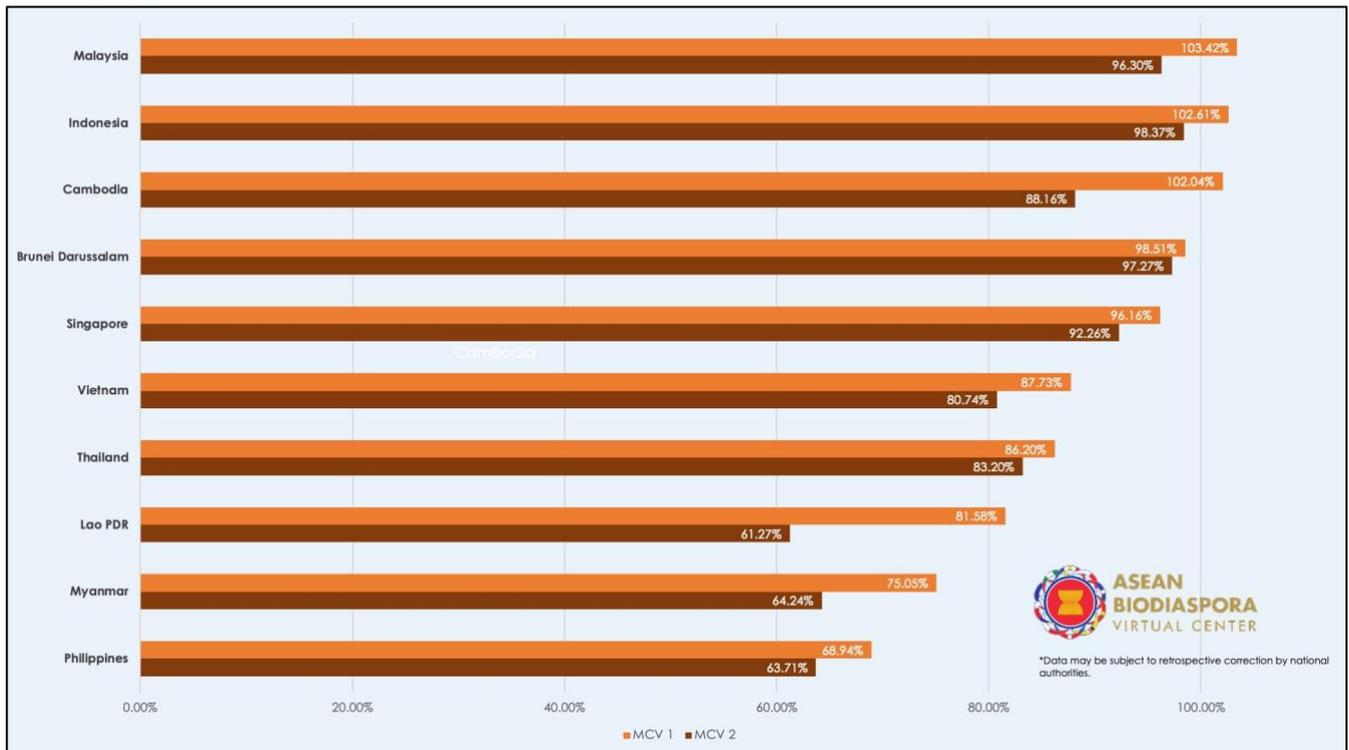
1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed August 28, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
2. Department of Health Website, accessed August 28, 2023 "Statistics," July 22, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
3. Ministry of Health Indonesia

- The ASEAN region reported **NO** new measles cases since the previous report. The region reported **4,483** total cases and **20** total deaths in 2023 with **0.45%** CFR.



Measles Vaccination Coverage in the ASEAN Region

As of 2022

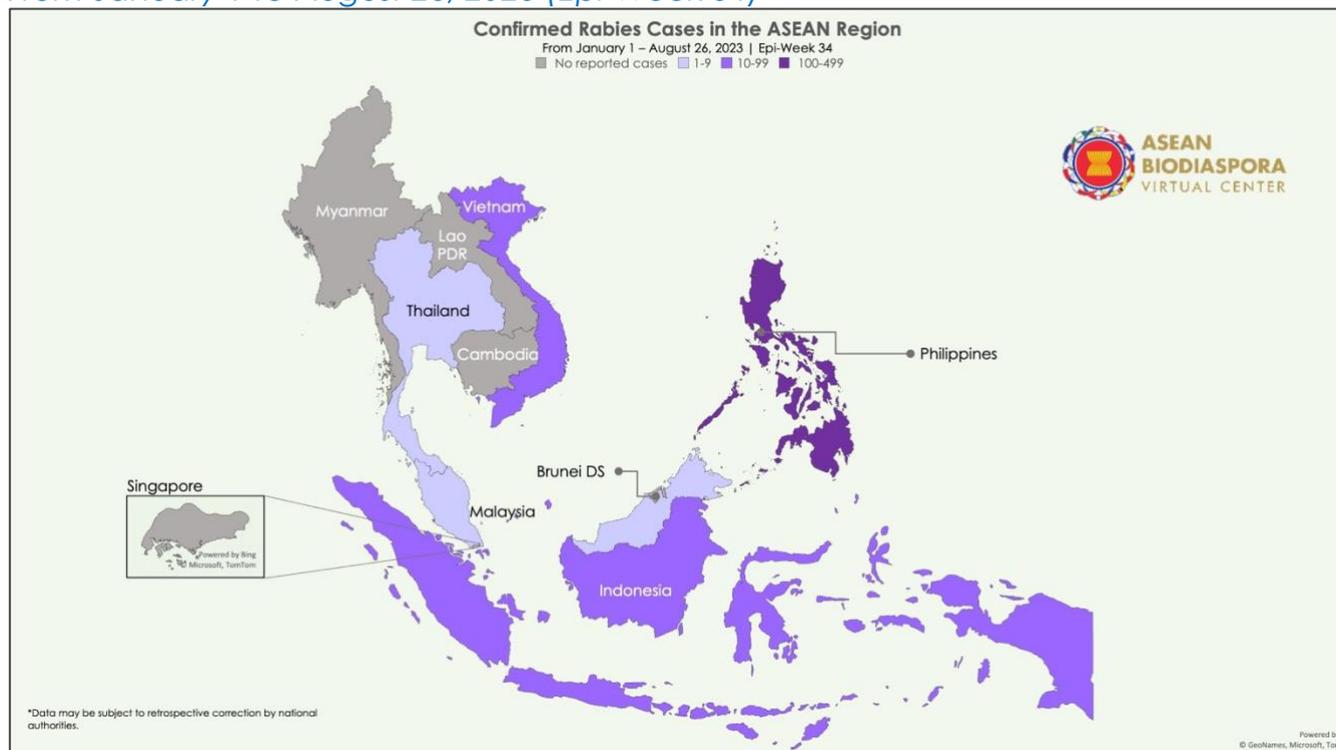


Reference: WHO, "Measles Vaccination Coverage," World Health Organization, 2022, <https://immunizationdata.who.int/pages/coverage/mcv.html?CODE=global>.



Rabies Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to August 26, 2023 (Epi-Week 34)



Rabies cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Reported Rabies Cases	Confirmed Rabies Cases	Rabies-Related Deaths
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-
Indonesia¹	Week 34	315	17	47
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-
Malaysia¹	Week 32	19	9	17
Myanmar	-	-	-	-
Philippines²	Week 29	211	211	211
Singapore	-	-	-	-
Thailand¹	Week 21	3	3	3
Vietnam¹	Week 31	11	10	8
Total		559	251	282

1. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed August 28, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
2. Department of Health Website, accessed August 28, 2023 "Statistics," July 22, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.

- The ASEAN region reported **558** rabies cases, **251** confirmed rabies cases, and **282** rabies-related deaths.



Rabies

- **Indonesia:** The Sikka Regency government has requested the immediate elimination of rabies-transmitting animals (HPR), particularly dogs that roam around (Jehadu, 2023). The number of cases of dog bites increased during 2023, with 68 cases reported until mid-August 2023 and 46 cases of which tested positive for rabies in humans. The animal health officer urges residents to tie up or put animals in cages immediately and continues vaccination efforts. The number of HPR in Sikka Regency reached 55,000, and the Flores and Lembata Rabies Committee has called for a speedy implementation of vaccinations for at least 70% of the population. The increasing trend of dog bite cases has led to fatalities, and residents are encouraged to be responsible owners and ensure routine rabies vaccinations annually. [[Full article](#)]



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