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Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report in the ASEAN Region

— Infectious Diseases

July 31, 2023 | MMWR 2023-30
Epidemiological Week 30



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Weekly Issue





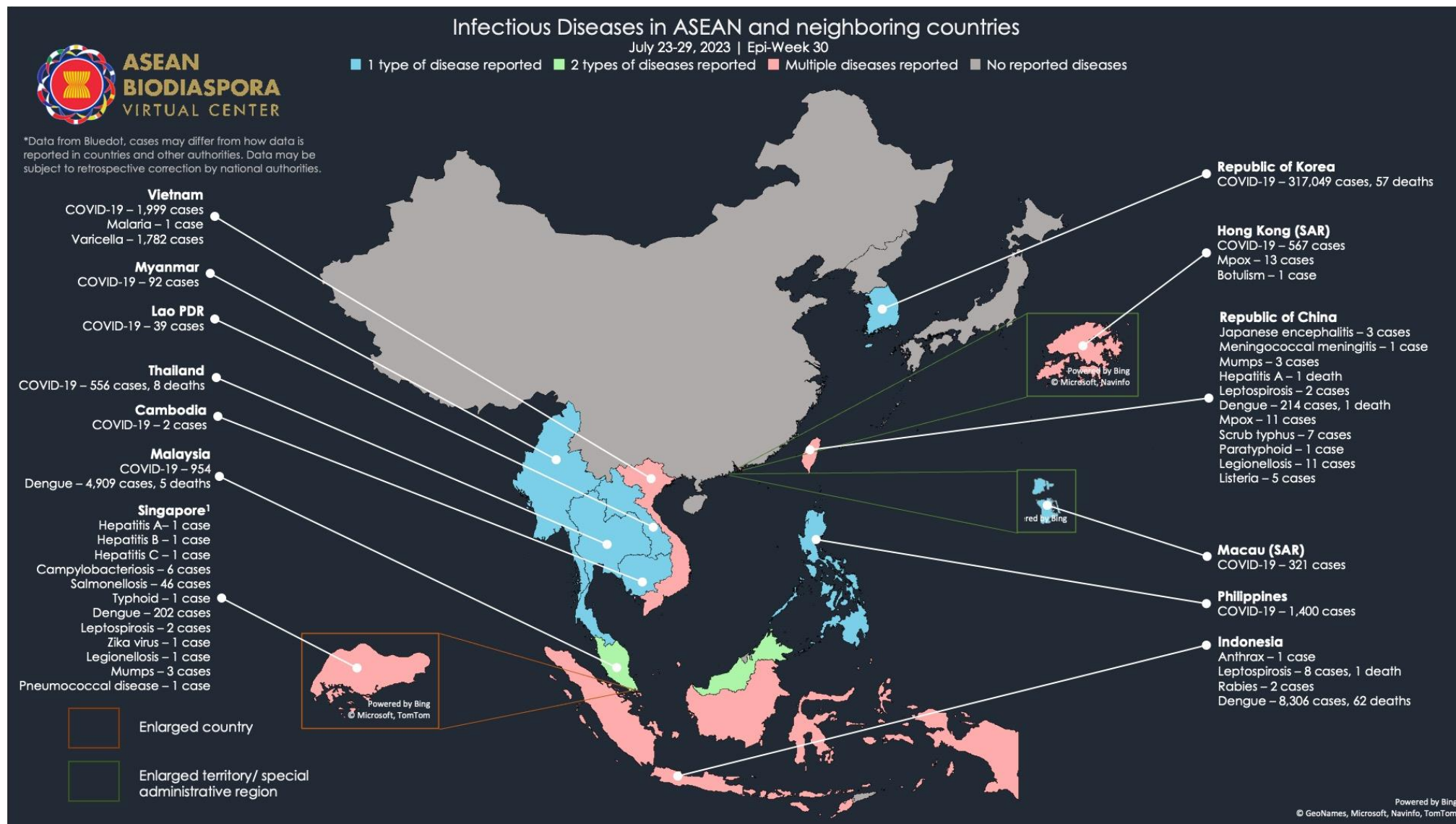
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Reported Infectious Diseases in the ASEAN Region and Neighboring Countries

Epidemiological Week 30 | July 23-29, 2023





Reported Infectious Diseases

Epidemiological Week 30 | July 23-29, 2023

Infectious Disease Global Updates

H5N6 Avian Influenza

- **Hong Kong (SAR)** health officials have reported a human case of avian influenza A(H5N6) in the Mainland, involving a 64-year-old male in Guilin, Guangxi (News Desk, 2023b). The case, the 85th since 2012 and the 60th in the past three years, involves a 64-year-old male who had raised domestic poultry before the onset of symptoms. He developed symptoms on July 3 and was admitted for treatment the following day, in serious condition. Avian influenza is caused by influenza viruses that mainly affect birds and poultry, such as chickens or ducks. The incubation period ranges from 7 to 10 days. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) recommends strict personal, hand, food, and environmental hygiene when handling poultry. The advice includes avoiding touching poultry, buying live chickens, washing eggs with detergent, cooking eggs thoroughly, washing hands frequently, and wearing a mask if fever or respiratory symptoms develop. [[Full article](#)]

Circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Type 2 (cVDPV2)

- **Africa:** The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has reported two cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in Kenya and Tanzania (News Desk, 2023a). The first case was a 34-month-old male with acute flaccid paralysis, while the second was a 19-month-old female with paralysis. Genetic sequencing confirmed the isolated cVDPV2s are linked to cVDPV2s circulating in Banadir, Somalia. Kenya remains wild poliovirus-free since 2013, while Tanzania reported its first case since 2000. The virus isolate had undergone 15 nucleotide changes and is genetically related to cVDPV2 circulating in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. [[Full article](#)]

Diphtheria

- **Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC)** issued a public health advisory in January due to a diphtheria outbreak in several states (News Desk, 2023d). From May 2022 to June 2023, Nigeria reported 2,455 suspected cases, with 836 confirmed cases. The US CDC issued a travel notice. Health officials advise travelers to be up-to-date with their diphtheria vaccines, avoid contact with individuals with diphtheria symptoms, and wash their hands frequently. If sick during travel, seek medical care immediately, and if unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated, start treatment with antitoxin and antibiotics. [[Full article](#)]

Avian Influenza Outbreaks in Animals

- **Republic of Korea.** South Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5 type) in a cat in a cat shelter in Gwanak-gu, Seoul (News Desk, 2023c). This follows two H5N1 type cases in two cats at a shelter in Yongsan-gu. The cat died during treatment and was reported to the Agriculture, Forestry and Livestock Quarantine Headquarters. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Korea CDC) and local governments are implementing measures to prevent human infection, including contact investigations on cats. The symptoms of veterinary hospital workers and protection place officials have been confirmed, and no symptoms have been reported among exposed persons. [[Full article](#)]

Japanese Encephalitis

- **Republic of Korea:** The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Korean CDC) issued a Japanese encephalitis alert on July 27, 2023, after over 50% of collected



mosquitoes were confirmed to be small red house mosquitoes (News Desk, 2023e). The alert was issued due to the large number of rainy days in Busan. Japanese encephalitis infects about 20 people annually between September and October, with 87% of the population in their 50s or older. Symptoms include fever, headache, and neurological complications. Vaccination is recommended for those living in high-risk areas and countries with long-term rural stays. [\[Full article\]](#)

Infectious Disease Updates in the ASEAN Region

Anthrax

- Indonesia:** The Health Office of Gunungkidul Regency has reported that residents of Semuluh Lor who tested positive for anthrax had come into contact with livestock (Aprita, 2023). The head of the Gunungkidul Health Office, Dewi Irawaty, stated that 87 people in the area had tested seropositive for anthrax, meaning they had been exposed to anthrax but did not show clinical symptoms. She urged the public to maintain cleanliness and prevent the spread of the disease by avoiding contact with contaminated water. The Health Ministry's data previously reported that three people had died of anthrax in Candirejo District, but after further investigation, it was discovered that only one person had been confirmed to have died because of anthrax based on laboratory tests at Dr. Sardjito Central General Hospital. [\[Full article\]](#)

Leptospirosis

- Indonesia:** Gunungkidul, Indonesia has seen a significant increase in leptospirosis cases this year (Kurniawan, 2023). The Head of Gunungkidul Health Office, Dewi Irawaty, stated that there have been 22 cases of leptospirosis and four deaths from the disease in the region since January 2022. The disease is spread through water contaminated with urine from infected animals, particularly rats. Dewi Irawaty urged the public to maintain cleanliness and prevent the spread of the disease by avoiding contact with contaminated water. She also recommended that people working in agriculture be more careful during the rainy season, as leptospirosis cases tend to increase during this time. [\[Full article\]](#)
- Philippines:** The number of leptospirosis cases in Bacolod City, Philippines has increased by 188.2% from January to July 15, 2023, compared to the same period in 2022 (Pedrosa, 2023). The City Health Office (CHO) recorded 49 leptospirosis cases with five deaths in the period compared to 17 cases with four deaths in 2022. Dr. Grace Tan, head of the CHO Environment Sanitation Division, said they were conducting information dissemination on appropriate garbage management and disposal to prevent the spread of leptospirosis. She said the Department of Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) was also conducting the clearing of water runaways and drainage or sewerage. The City Council earlier approved a resolution requesting the CHO to conduct information and prevention on the health risk imposed by leptospirosis. [\[Full article\]](#)

Varicella

- Vietnam:** The Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi has reported that many patients with severe symptoms of dengue fever have been admitted to the hospital, with two deaths in the past month (News 24h, 2023). Dengue fever is a viral infection transmitted by the Aedes mosquito, which is common in tropical and subtropical regions. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, joint and muscle pain, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and skin rash. In severe cases, dengue fever can cause dengue hemorrhagic fever or dengue shock syndrome, which can be fatal. The hospital's director of the Center for Tropical Diseases, Dr. Do Duy Cuong, said that the disease has become more complicated and that patients with underlying conditions are at higher risk of complications. He urged people



to get vaccinated against dengue fever and to take precautions such as wearing masks and limiting contact with others during outbreaks. [\[Full article\]](#)

Vector-Borne Diseases



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Dengue Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to July 29, 2023 (Epi-Week 30)



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	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia ³	Week 24	4,668	0	9	0.19%
Indonesia ²	Week 29	44,000	8,306	332	0.75%
Lao PDR ³	Week 25	5,310	0	1	0.02%
Malaysia ³	Week 24	54,139	0	39	0.07%
Myanmar ²	Week 28	6,685	4,968	30	0.45%
Philippines ⁴	Week 24	72,333	0	249	0.34%
Singapore ⁵	Week 29	4,993	200	0	0.00%
Thailand ³	Week 27	27,235	0	1	0.003%
Vietnam ³	Week 24	37,714	0	8	0.02%
Total		257,077	13,474	669	0.26%

2. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 31, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.
 3. Asian Dengue Voice and Action, "Asian Dengue Dashboard," accessed July 31, 2023, <https://www.adva.asia/asian-dengue-dashboard/>.
 4. Department of Health Website, accessed July 31, 2023 "Statistics," June 17, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.
 5. National Environment Agency (NEA), accessed July 31, 2023, Dengue cases, July 22, 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 **13,474** new dengue cases in Indonesia, Myanmar, and Singapore since the previous report. The region reported **257,077** total cases and **669** total deaths in 2023 with **0.26%** CFR.



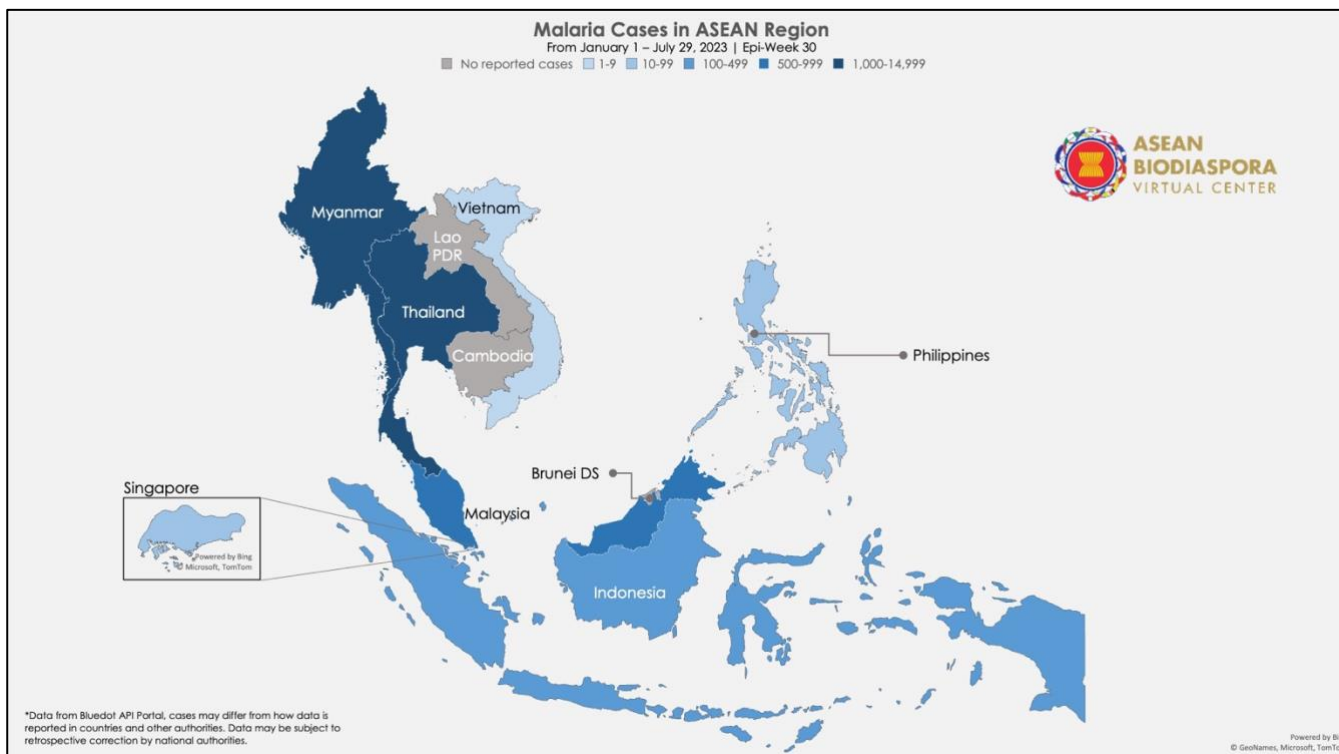
Dengue

- Indonesia:** The Indonesia Ministry of Health has reported that the number of dengue fever cases in Indonesia has reached 44,000 from January to July 2023 (Rini, 2023). The highest number of cases was recorded in East Java, followed by Central Java and West Java. The ministry has urged the public to maintain a clean environment and prevent *Aedes* mosquitoes from breeding. Dengue fever is a viral infection transmitted by the *Aedes* mosquito, which is common in tropical and subtropical regions. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, joint and muscle pain, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and skin rash. In severe cases, dengue fever can cause dengue hemorrhagic fever or dengue shock syndrome, which can be fatal. [[Full article](#)]
- Malaysia** has recorded 63,966 dengue fever cases and 45 deaths from January to mid-July this year, which is a significant increase from the same period last year (Bernama, 2023). The Health Minister, Dr. Zaliha Mustafa, urges the public to maintain a clean environment and prevent *Aedes* mosquitoes from breeding. She also mentions the ministry's efforts to control dengue through the release of *Wolbachia*-infected mosquitoes and the involvement of MyCHAMPION Combi volunteers. She recommends that all parties in Terengganu participate in a monthly cleaning day to curb the spread of dengue cases. [[Full article](#)]
- Philippines:** The Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (PESU) has recorded 169 dengue cases in Cagayan, Philippine from January to July 2023 (IÑIGO, 2023). Nestor Santiago, PESU program manager, said the number is lower than the same period in 2022. He said April and May had 46 and 43 cases; January, 19; February, six; March, 3; June, 37, and July, 13. Santiago said cases were high in April and May due to rains. Dengue fever is a viral infection transmitted by the *Aedes* mosquito, which is common in tropical and subtropical regions. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, joint and muscle pain, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and skin rash. In severe cases, dengue fever can cause dengue hemorrhagic fever or dengue shock syndrome, which can be fatal. [[Full article](#)]
- Singapore** has recorded two deaths from dengue fever between April and June 2023, marking the first deaths from local dengue infections for 2023 (Qing, 2023). The National Environment Agency (NEA) reported that 1,989 cases were recorded in the second quarter of 2023, a 15.7% decrease from the previous quarter. Dengue is spread through the bite of a female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the same species that carries yellow fever and Zika. Symptoms can appear three to 14 days after a person is bitten. They include joint and muscle pain, skin rash, and severe headache with pain behind the eyes. The number of dengue clusters identified from April to June dropped by about 34% compared with the previous quarter, according to the latest NEA data. Of the 213 clusters detected, 170 were closed in the same period. People can be infected with dengue up to four times as there are four serotypes of the dengue virus. Repeated infections increase the risk of severe dengue and death. [[Full article](#)]



Malaria Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to July 29, 2023 (Epi-Week 30)



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 ⁶	Week 28	369	0	0	0.00%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia ⁶	Week 22	866	0	0	0.00%
Myanmar ⁶	Week 23	4,510	0	0	0.00%
Philippines ⁶	Week 28	31	0	0	0.00%
Singapore ⁶	Week 28	8	0	0	0.00%
Thailand ⁶	Week 27	9,300	0	3	0.03%
Vietnam ⁶	Week 29	1	1	0	0.00%
Total		15,085	1	3	0.02%

6. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 31, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.

- The ASEAN region reported **1** new malaria case in Vietnam since the previous report. The region reported **15,085** total cases and **3** total deaths in 2023 with **0.02%** CFR.

Vaccine- Preventable Diseases

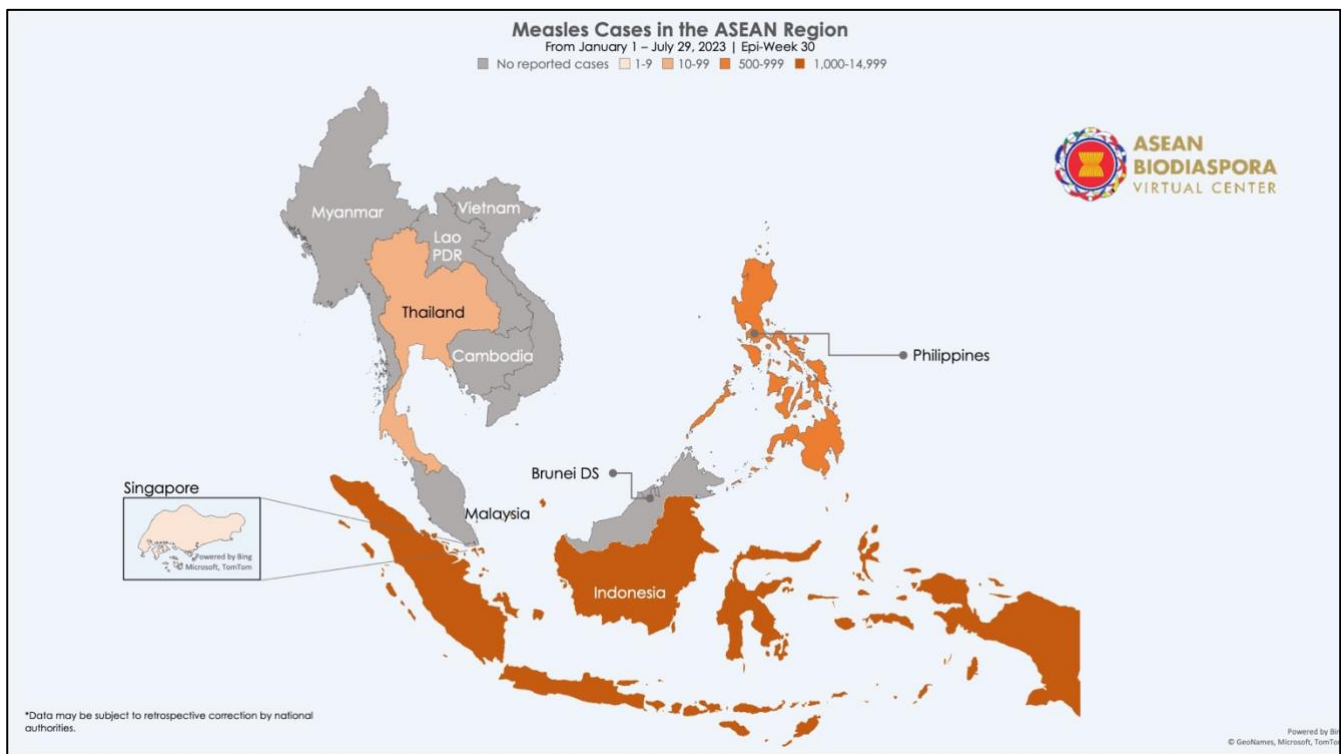


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Measles Cases in the ASEAN Region

From January 1 to July 29, 2023 (Epi-Week 30)



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 ⁷	Week 14	2,161	0	17	0.79%
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines ⁸	Week 24	730	0	2	0.27%
Singapore ⁷	Week 24	6	0	0	0.00%
Thailand ⁷	Week 16	73	0	0	0.00%
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-
Total		2,970	0	19	0.64%

7. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 31, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.

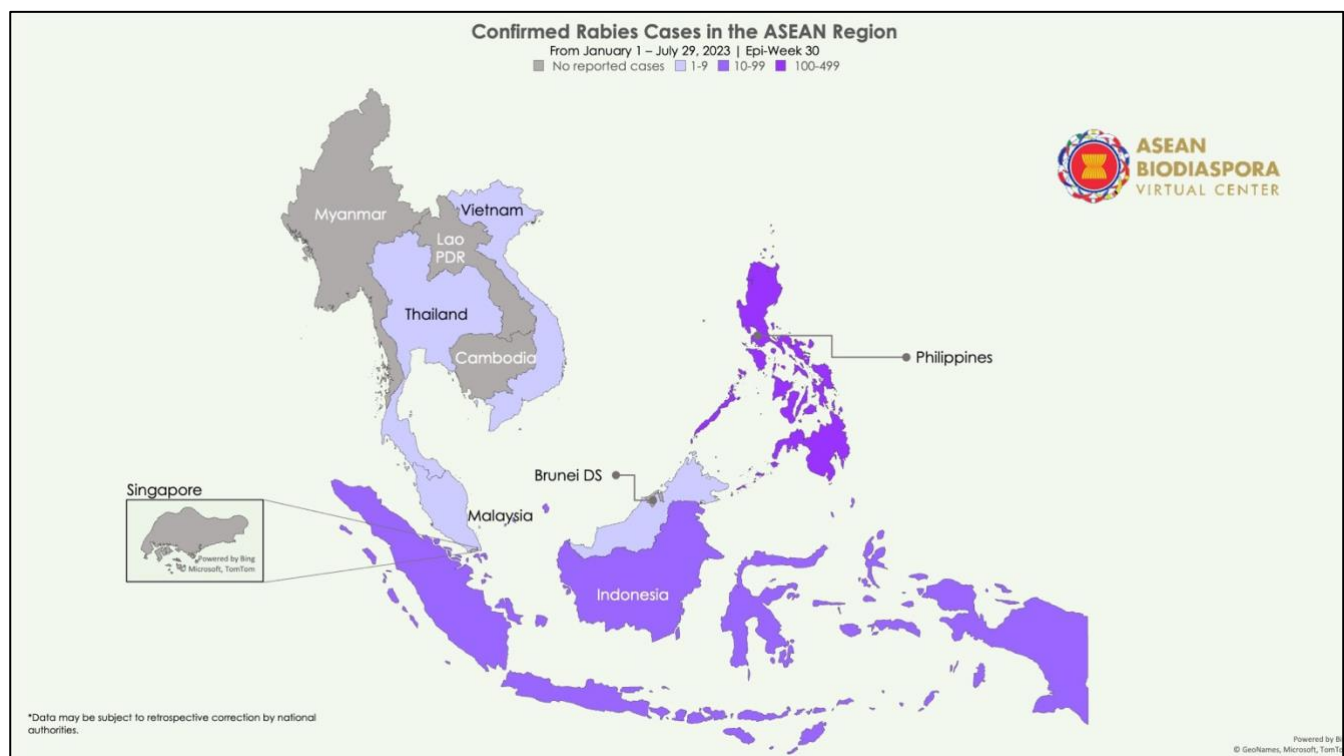
8. Department of Health Website, accessed July 31, 2023 "Statistics," June 17, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.

- The ASEAN region reported **NO** new measles cases 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 29, 2023 (Epi-Week 30)



Rabies cases in the ASEAN region

Country	Epi-Week Reported	Reported Rabies Cases	Confirmed Rabies Cases	Rabies-Related Deaths
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-
Indonesia ⁹	Week 29	304	17	47
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-
Malaysia ⁹	Week 26	15	9	13
Myanmar	-	-	-	-
Philippines ¹⁰	Week 24	171	171	171
Singapore	-	-	-	-
Thailand ⁹	Week 21	3	3	3
Vietnam ⁹	Week 29	9	8	6
Total		502	207	240

9. BlueDot Developer Portal, accessed July 31, 2023, <https://developer-portal.bluedot.global/>.

10. Department of Health Website, accessed July 31, 2023 "Statistics," June 17, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/statistics>.

- The ASEAN region reported **502** rabies cases, **207** confirmed rabies cases, and **240** rabies-related deaths.



Rabies

- **Indonesia:** Three children in Sikka, Indonesia died after being bitten by a dog infected with rabies (Lewanmeru, 2023). The dog was not vaccinated and has been eliminated. In another region in Inhil, a resident has died after being bitten by a rabid dog. The dog has not been culled yet, but the local government has been conducting routine vaccinations (Johanes, 2023). The local government's Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry has sent a team to Inhil to vaccinate dogs and eliminate those that are infected with rabies. It is important to remember that rabies is a serious disease that can be fatal if left untreated. It is essential to seek medical attention immediately if you are bitten by an animal, especially if the animal is wild or unvaccinated (Misgio, 2023). [Full article: [Lewanmeru](#), [Johanes](#), [Misgio](#)]



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