

COVID-19, Mpox, and Other Infectious Diseases Situational Report in the ASEAN Region

– ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

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Table of Contents

COVID-19	. 1
Highlights and Situation Overview	.1
<u>Global Update</u>	.1
<u>Regional Update</u>	.1
Vaccine Update	.1
<u>Research Update</u>	.2
<u>Travel Update</u>	.2
Cases and Deaths Table	.3
COVID-19 Cases in ASEAN Region Table	.3
COVID-19 Cases in Asia-Pacific Region Table	.3
Epi curve Among ASEAN Countries	.5
Vaccination Status in ASEAN	.6
ASEAN Outlook Assessment	.7
Infectious Diseases	.8
Infectious Diseases Map in ASEAN Region and Neighboring Countries	.8
Infectious Diseases Other than COVID-19, Mpox, and Dengue	.9
Infectious Disease Global Updates	.9
<u>Measles</u>	.9
Infectious Disease in ASEAN and Neighboring Countries Updates	.9
Melioidosis	.9
Diphtheria	.9
Leptospirosis	10
<u>Measles</u>	10
<u>Chikungunya</u>	11
Rabies	11
HFMD	12
Avian Influenza (H5N6)	12
Dengue	13
Dengue Cases in ASEAN Region Map	13
Dengue Cases in ASEAN Region Table	13
Dengue Narrative Report	14
Мрох	15
Mpox Cases Globally Map	15
Mpox Daily Trend Globally	16
Highlights and Situation Overview	17
Mpox Cases in ASEAN Region Table	17
Mpox Cases in Asia-Pacific Region Table	17
Top 5 Countries with Most Mpox Cases Globally	17



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<u>Global Upda</u>	<u>ate</u>	
References		



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 666 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- South Korea's new COVID-19 cases remained at over 12,000 for the second straight day on March 8 (Wednesday). The country reported 12,798 new COVID-19 infections, including 12 cases from overseas, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases to 30,594,297. According to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), South Korea added 12 COVID-19-related deaths, raising the cumulative death toll to 34,061, while the number of critically ill patients was 139, down from 158 the previous day.

Regional Update

- **Myanmar:** Scientists have discovered the closest known relatives of COVID in more than 12% of persons living in rural Myanmar for the first time, indicating that "zoonotic spillover" is occurring.¹⁸ Between 2017 and 2020, an international team of experts from the United States, Singapore, and Myanmar examined the blood of 693 persons in Myanmar.¹⁸ The participants came from villages in rural Myanmar that were involved in extractive industries and bat guano gathering.¹⁸ The data, published in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases, revealed that 12.1% of people were seropositive for sarbecoviruses the Coronavirus family to which SARS-CoV belongs.¹⁸ These viruses, which have the ability to spread from animals to humans, had never been found in humans before.¹⁸ Thus yet, they have only been found in bats.¹⁸ [Full article]
- **Philippines:** Based on the most recent sequencing results, the Department of Health (DOH) has identified 671 new cases of Omicron subvariants throughout the country.¹⁹ According to the DOH, the University of the Philippines Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC) sequenced at least 761 samples on February 27.¹⁹ According to the DOH, 468 of the 761 samples were classified as BA.2.3.20, 149 as XBB (including three cases classified as XBB.1.5), and nine as XBC.¹⁹ According to the Health Department, it also reported eight cases of BA.5 (six of which were categorized as BQ.1), four cases of BN.1 (classified as BA.2.75), and 33 other Omicron sublineages.¹⁹ [Full article]

Vaccine Update

- **Cambodia:** Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, has agreed to repatriate to China 15 million doses of immunizations against the country's COVID-19 pandemic. Hun Sen stated that because the 15 million medicines had not yet been delivered to Cambodia, the Chinese could donate them to other countries. As of March 6, more over 14.6 million of Cambodia's total population of 16 million had received the basic doses of vaccination. Almost 10.6 million people received the third dose, 5 million received the fourth dose, over 1.73 million received the fifth dose, and nearly 300,000 received the sixth dose.
- **Malaysia:** The public's reaction to the COVID-19 vaccination booster dose remains poor, according to the Dewan Rakyat today.¹⁷ Nonetheless, according to Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa, there has been an increase in the number of Malaysians taking the booster dose as a result of the Health Ministry's initiatives (MOH).¹⁷ [Full article]
- Africa: The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that COVID-19 vaccination coverage is on the rise in some of Africa's most fragile humanitarian settings as a two-



year project funded by the European Union enters its last four months.¹⁴ According to the WHO, the COVID-19 vaccination rate was less than 5% on average in the 16 participating countries at the start of 2022.¹⁴ That rate is now closing in on 30%, the continent's average among the 14 countries whose data was available in January.¹⁴ Some of the target countries now have an even higher rate of fully vaccinated people than Africa's average.¹⁴ These are the Central African Republic, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Mozambique, Somalia, and Tanzania.¹⁴ [Full article]

Research Update (Published and peer-reviewed studies)

The study on Long-term gastrointestinal outcomes of COVID-19 suggests that COVID-19 • survivors are at increased risk for a range of gastrointestinal disorders at 1 year.¹⁶ Researchers from the Veterans Affairs Saint Louis Health Care System used their national healthcare database to compare the asstrointestinal outcomes of 154,068 COVID-19 survivors with those of 5,638,795 contemporary uninfected controls and 5,859,621 prepandemic controls.¹⁶ At 1-year post-infection, COVID-19 patients were more likely than controls to have gastroesophageal reflux disease, peptic ulcer disease, pancreatitis, functional dyspepsia, gastritis, irritable bowel syndrome, and cholangitis.¹⁶ The respective risk and burdens of a composite of any diagnosis were 1.37 and 17.37.¹⁶ Signs and symptoms were constipation, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, and bloating. The risk and burden of a composite of all signs and symptoms were 1.54 and 24.02, respectively.¹⁶ Compared with the contemporary control group, the risk of having any gastrointestinal outcome was elevated among COVID-19 patients regardless of age, sex, race, and underlying medical conditions.¹⁶ The risks were also heightened relative to historical controls, and a comparative analysis suggested that hospitalized COVID-19 patients were at increased risk of severe gastrointestinal symptoms relative to those hospitalized with flu.¹⁶ While non-hospitalized patients were also at elevated risk, the likelihood of gastrointestinal disorders gradually rose along with COVID-19 severity, with the greatest risk among those who were hospitalized or admitted to an intensive care unit.¹⁶ [Full text]

Travel Update

• The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is set to end on March 10 mandatory COVID-19 tests for travelers from China, joining other countries in dropping the requirements.¹⁵ The CDC, however, would continue the voluntary genomic sequencing program known as the Traveler-based Genomic Surveillance Program (TGS), which asks travelers to volunteer to help with the early detection of new variants at select airports.¹⁵ TGS will continue to monitor flights from China and regional transportation hubs, as well as flights from more than 30 other countries.¹⁵ [Full article]

Cases and Deaths as of 07 March 2023

- As of 07 March 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were 666,112,692 confirmed cases, including 6,787,494 deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was 1.2%.
- 35,609,259 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the ASEAN Region.
- The Case Fatality Rate in the ASEAN Region is range between 0.1 to 3.1%

COVID-19 cases in ASEAN region

REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED/ 100
ASEAN	Brunei Darussalam	10 Mar 20	07-Mar-23	277,531	-	225	-	64,053	450,404	445,929	338,987	99.3
REGION	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	07-Mar-23	138,718	-	3,056	-	841	15,244,858	14,609,937	10,433,215	87.1
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	07-Mar-23	6,737,394	303	160,932	2	2,490	203,657,535	172,693,321	67,952,274	62.7
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	07-Mar-23	218,018	-	758	-	3,041	5,888,649	5,222,417		69.4
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	07-Mar-23	5,044,204	226	36,966	-	15,788	28,125,245	27,536,657	17,056,957	81.1
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	07-Mar-23	633,947	1	19,490	-	1,173	34,777,314	27,545,329	2,227,351	50.8
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	07-Mar-23	4,077,128	74	66,155	7	3,771	78,369,243	73,937,435	21,341,197	64.0
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	07-Mar-23	2,227,187	-	1,722	-	39,049	5,161,990	5,120,768	4,440,289	90.8
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	07-Mar-23	4,728,182	-	33,918	-	6,791	57,005,497	53,486,086	32,143,431	74.6
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	07-Mar-23	11,526,950	20	43,186	-	11,950	90,450,881	85,848,363	57,452,750	87.4
		-	EAN COUNTRIES	35,609,259	624	366,408	9	148,946	519,131,616	466,446,242	213,386,451	

*There have been no tests reported in the last 14 days in the ASEAN Region.

COVID-19 cases in Asia-Pacific region

REGION	COUNTRY/ TERRITORY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED/ 100
ASIA-	Afghanistan	24-Feb-20	07-Mar-23	209,402	30	7,896	-	550	11,606,705	10,894,509		26.5
PACIFIC	Australia	25-Jan-20	01-Mar-23	11,368,356	-	19,373	-	44,321	22,236,871	21,655,312	19,762,423	82.7
REGION	Bangladesh	08-Mar-20	01-Mar-23	2,037,794	-	29,445	-	1,250	150,629,515	131,182,263	65,897,152	76.6
	Bhutan	05-Mar-20	01-Mar-23	62,616	-	21	-	8,206	699,116	677,669	634,641	86.6
	People's Republic of China*		07-Mar-23	13,482,602	11,102	37,040	0	82,027	1,339,608,531	1,304,575,996	214,031,616	89.7
	Cook Islands	17-Feb-22	03-Mar-23	7,030	-	2	-	32,869	15,084	14,715	10,209	86.4
	Fiji	18-Mar-20	03-Mar-23	68,897	-	883	-	7,742	711,686	640,712	170,632	68.9
	French Polynesia	12-Mar-20	04-Jan-23	77,957	-	649	-	27,913	190,765	186,059	112,237	60.8
	Guam	15-Mar-20	03-Mar-23	60,989	-	419	-	36,456	158,611	144,042		85.5
	India	30-Jan-20	07-Mar-23	44,688,174	266	530,774	-	3,270	1,027,279,394	951,464,506	224,093,416	67.1



Japan	16-Jan-20	19-Oct-22	21,858,528	-	46,014	-	17,312	104,612,252	103,222,040	169,610,887	83.3
Kiribati	25-Jan-22	15-Feb-23	5,012	-	18	-	4,262	96,184	73,888	23,419	56.3
Maldives	07-Mar-20	07-Mar-23	185,738	6	311	-	34,982	399,151	385,081	167,187	73.5
Marshall Islands	26-Oct-20	02-Mar-23	15,618	-	17	-	26,565	43,310	34,694		44.6
Micronesia	11-Jan-21	02-Mar-23	23,948	-	61	-	21,041	84,729	71,253		69.6
Mongolia	10-Mar-20	02-Mar-23	1,007,896	-	2,179	-	31,251	2,272,965	2,175,617	1,044,337	64.0
Nepal	24-Jan-20	02-Mar-23	1,001,146	-	12,020	-	3,499	27,678,479	24,159,118	8,951,403	79.1
New Caledonia	17-Mar-20	28-Feb-23	79,881	-	314	-	27,756	192,229	184,660	101,849	63.7
New Zealand	28-Feb-20	06-Mar-23	2,228,291	-	3,922	-	45,318	4,300,097	4,138,926	3,523,903	79.8
Niue	03-Sep-21	05-Mar-23	791	-	-	-	36,519	1,636	1,634	1,224	83.7
Northern Mariana Islands	28-Mar-20	03-Mar-23	13,666	-	41	-	23,885	46,567	43,873		84.6
Pakistan	26-Feb-20	07-Mar-23	1,577,185	30	30,643	-	728	154,665,740	131,368,973	49,551,181	55.7
Palau	31-May-21	02-Mar-23	5,989	-	9	-	33,257	20,750	18,497		85.9
Papua New Guinea	21-Mar-20	01-Mar-23	46,809	-	670	-	533	369,998	310,717	32,384	3.
Samoa	18-Nov-20	22-Feb-23	16,607	-	29	-	8,426	191,171	177,741	79,360	79.9
Solomon Islands	03-Oct-20	24-Nov-22	24,575	-	153	-	3,669	343,821	254,352	27,783	35.
Republic of Korea**	20-Jan-20	07-Mar-23	30,570,654	12,284	34,029	15	59,120	44,867,046	44,448,105	41,325,954	85.8
Sri Lanka	27-Jan-20	07-Mar-23	672,036	2	16,830	-	3,082	17,143,761	14,752,827	8,220,002	67.0
Timor Leste	21-Mar-20	16-Feb-23	23,418	-	138	-	1,811	878,845	790,466	315,249	58.9
Tonga	05-Nov-21	02-Mar-23	16,807	-	13	-	16,084	91,949	77,464	38,331	72.
Türkiye	10-Mar-20	12-Dec-22	17,041,315	-	101,487	-	20,426	57,941,051	53,176,961	41,425,329	62.3
Vanuatu	11-Nov-20	06-Jan-23	12,014	-	14	-	4,006	144,824	131,697	16,996	40.3
Wallis et Futuna	17-Oct-20	31-Dec-22	3,427	-	7	-	21,385	7,150	6,803	3,766	58.7
		ASIA PACIFIC	148,495,168	23,720	875,421	15	689,524	2,969,529,983	2,801,441,170	849,172,870	

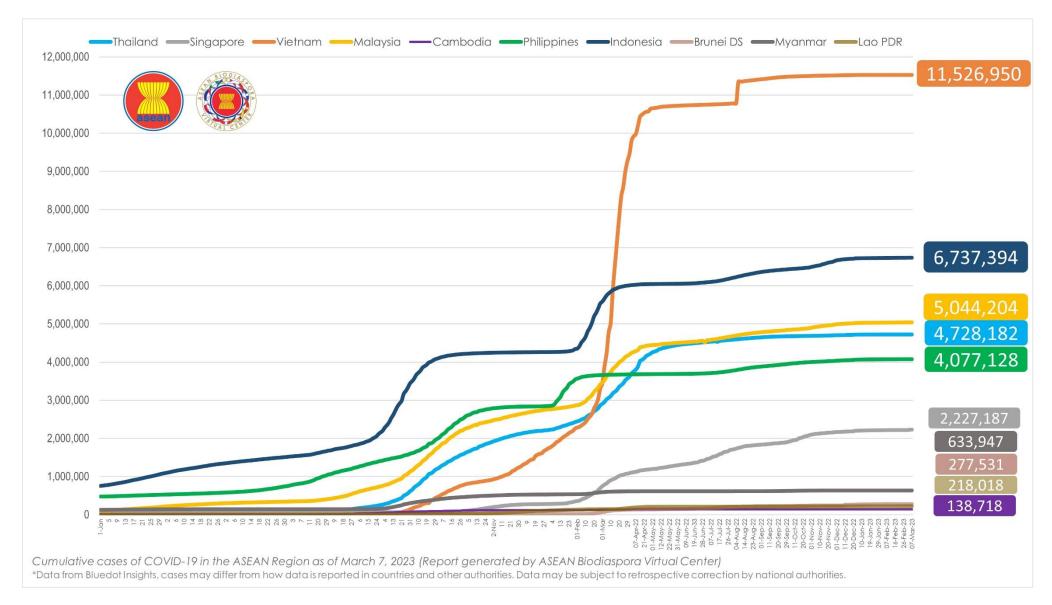
*Includes cases from Hong Kong (SAR), Macau (SAR), and Taiwan (Province of China) **Republic of Korea – South Korea

• 482,008,265 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in other 4 regions (other than ASEAN and Asia-Pacific countries):

REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED
AFRICA	13,057,668	80	259,541	-	248,964	484,058,451	398,811,838	66,003,692
AMERICAS	193,799,414	4,132	2,968,176	30	1,242,944	835,447,892	731,893,384	495,237,137
EUROPE	252,412,212	25,421	2,077,977	109	2,116,302	569,620,774	541,040,894	383,756,585
MIDDLE EAST	22,738,971	986	239,971	1	216,792	144,725,560	130,012,483	60,203,464
TOTAL	482,008,265	30,619	5,545,665	140	3,825,002	2,033,852,677	1,801,758,599	1,005,200,878

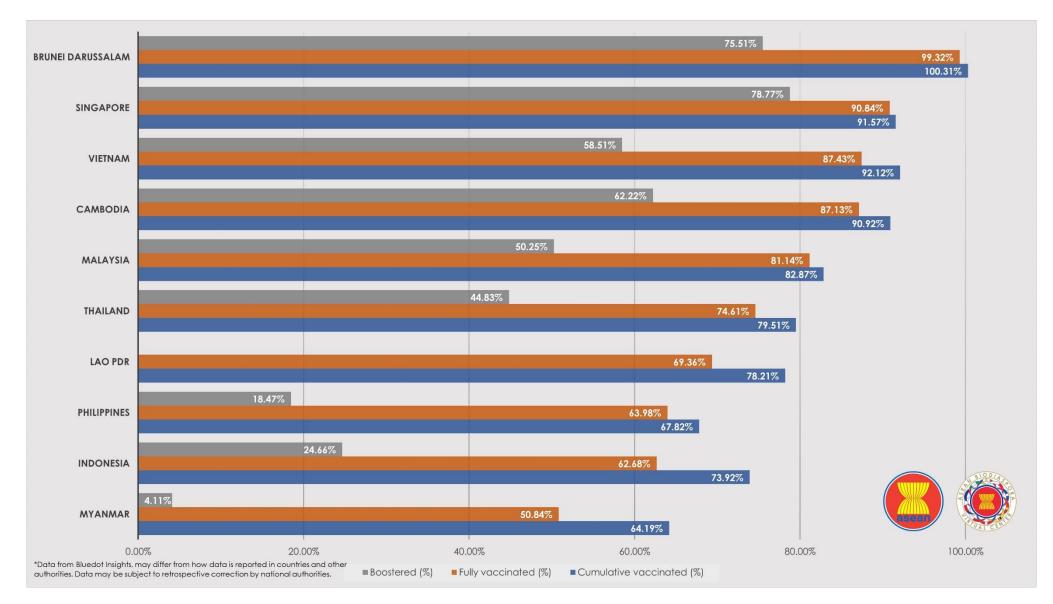
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to March 7, 2023



ASEAN COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 07 March 2023





ASEAN COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

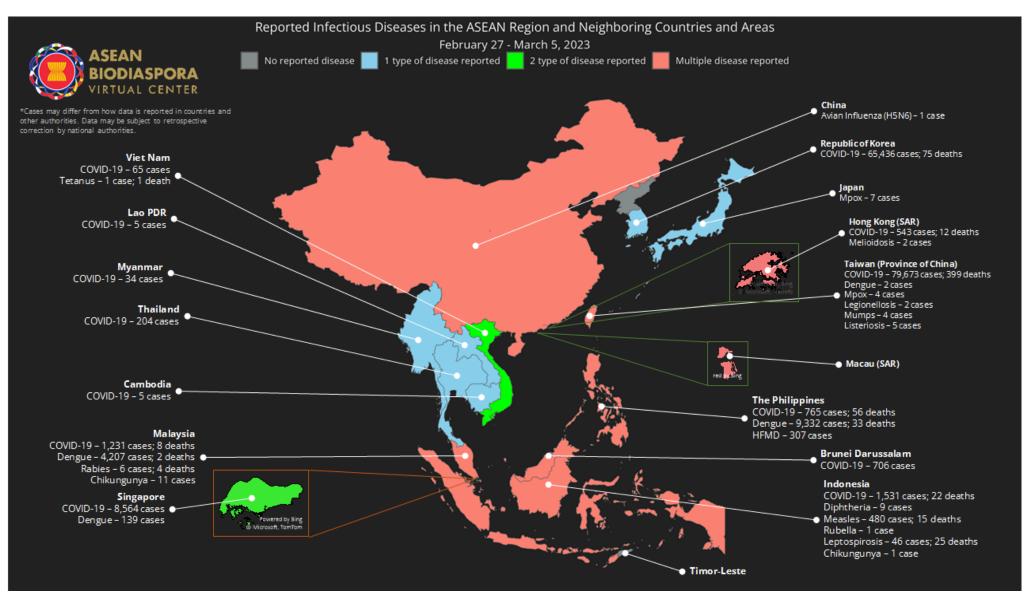
as of 05 March 2023

ASEAN MEMBER STATE	immunity to COVID-19; eith 19 or have been vaccinate	population has a level of her recovered from COVID- ed with at least one dose of 9 vaccine.	Case levels are generally low (a 7-day rolling average number of daily new cases that is <10 cases per 100,000, with each day's past-14-day test positivity is consistently <5%).	Government Policy on containment and health (strictness and comprehensiveness in COVID-19 related government policies)
	% of Total population fu	ly vaccinated / boosted	Daily cases/ 100,000	Containment and health index score - Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)
Brunei Darussalam	≥90.0	75.5	0.00	31.0/100
Cambodia	≥90.0	62.2	0.01	31.5/100
Indonesia	66.1	24.7	0.07	54.2/100
Lao PDR	77.3	ND	0.02	61.6/100
Malaysia	84.5	50.3	0.67	51.8/100
Myanmar	52.1	4.1	0.01	69.1/100
Philippines	71.6	18.5	0.10	55.4/100
Singapore	≥90.0	78.8	0.00	58.9/100
Thailand	77.7	44.8	0.04	31.5/100
Vietnam	≥90.0	58.5	0.01	43.5/100

All of the countries have achieved the Population vaccinated/ day (7-day average) except Vietnam

Infectious Diseases in ASEAN Region and Neighboring Countries

From February 27-March 5, 2023





Infectious Diseases Other than COVID-19, Mpox, and Dengue February 27-March 5, 2023

Infectious Disease Global Updates

Measles

• Ukraine: Measles vaccine coverage rates in Ukraine have dipped sharply since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of the country on Feb 24, 2022, raising fears of a large outbreak. Measles is endemic in Ukraine, and there have been two major outbreaks in the past decade. In 2017–19, more than 115 000 people were infected and 41 died. Most infections were among those who were either unvaccinated or whose vaccination status was undetermined. Professor Andrii Loboda of the Department of Pediatrics at Sumy State University in Ukraine warned that any outbreak "could be more severe than the last one". "In the 2017–2019 outbreak, 65–67% of the affected were children and 33– 35% were adults...but now we have a new risk group among adults— our military forces. Our soldiers are suffering from cold, rain, respiratory infections, and stress that predisposes to a lack of immunity; crowds of soldiers and insufficient infection control on the front line of military operations could prompt the rapid spread of measles."

Infectious Disease in ASEAN region and Neighboring Countries Updates

Melioidosis

Hongkong: The Center for Health Protection of the Department of Health said on March • 3 that in the past week (February 25 to March 3), the CHP recorded a new confirmed case of melioid infection. A total of 3 cases of melioidosis have been recorded in Hong Kong this year.³ A total of 46 cases of melioidosis were recorded last year, including 30 cases recorded in Sham Shui Po District since August of the same year.³ The new case involves a 68-year-old man with diabetes and hyperlipidemia who lives in Shau Kei Wan. He went to the Accident and Emergency Department of Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital on February 24 due to fever, dizziness, headache, cough and swollen lymph nodes and was admitted on the same day.³ The patient is currently in stable condition.³ His blood samples were assayed positive for Burkholderia pseudomallei.³ The epidemiological investigation of individual cases is still in progress. The CHP will continue to work closely with the Hospital Authority to step up surveillance of melioid cases.³ The spokesman of the center reiterated that melioidosis bacteria generally cannot be transmitted from person to person or through animals, but melioidosis bacteria can survive in the local environment.³ Melioidosis is an endemic disease in Hong Kong, and human cases of melioidosis have been recorded every year in Hong Kong.³ According to the literature, infection cases are more common after typhoons or heavy rains.³ After a typhoon or heavy rain, Burkholderia pseudomallei in soil and muddy water may be exposed to the ground, and with strong winds or heavy rains, the melioidosis bacteria will be more likely to spread, which may increase the number of melioidosis cases.³ [Full article]

Diphtheria

• Indonesia: The Health Office of Garut Regency, West Java, reports that so far ten positive cases of diphtheria have been recorded.⁴ Seven of them are children and three are adults. Garut District Health Office Secretary Leli Yuliani said, until Wednesday (1/3/2023), four positive diphtheria patients were still undergoing treatment at the hospital.⁴ "There are already three (other patients) who have returned from the hospital," Leli told *Republika*. The remaining three people are undergoing independent isolation in their respective homes because they are asymptomatic.⁴ In addition to the positive cases, the Garut



District Health Office reported six suspected cases of diphtheria.⁴ Of the six suspected cases, two people are being treated at home, one person is undergoing independent isolation, and three people have been discharged from the hospital. Initially, the diphtheria case was found in Sukahurip Village, Pangatikan District.⁴ Out of a total of ten positive cases so far, nine cases are in Pangatikan District.⁴ Meanwhile, one other case was in Tarogong Kidul District.⁴ According to Leli, there were also suspected cases of diphtheria in Bayongbong District.⁴ Regarding the death case, Leli said, until now eight people have died.⁴ One more from the previous report Last Sunday.⁴ The case was not known because the parents did not report it, even though (the child) was sick," said Leli.⁴ According to Leli, his party could not confirm the cause of death of the patient.⁴ This is because the patient has not yet undergone further examination to confirm the disease.⁴ That way, the eight cases of death still have the status of an epidemiological link, where the death is suspected to be due to diphtheria, but without a complete medical record.⁴ [Full article]

Leptospirosis

Indonesia: Three residents in Pacitan Regency, East Java, died as a result of contracting Leptospirosis.⁵ "The results of the Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) are suspected to be 24 positive, three of whom have died," said Coordinator of Communicable Disease Control at the Nawangan Health Center, Tri Widodo, Tuesday (28/2/2023).⁵ According to Tri Widodo, the leptospirosis has been spreading since the last three weeks.⁵ There were 112 residents who were suspected with leptospirosis.⁵ As many as 24 of them were positive for leptospirosis.⁵ "According to our records, there are 112 suspected cases," said Tri Widodo. These cases were found in five villages in Nawangan District, Pacitan Regency, East Java.⁵ "The five villages are Mujing Village, Nawangan Village, Gondang Village, Sempu Village and Jetis Lor Village," he said.⁵ Of the 24 residents who were positive for leptospirosis, three residents in the Nawangan sub-district, died.⁵ [Full article]

Measles

- Indonesia: The Ministry of Health reported cases of measles in the province Central Papua increased in the last three months due to low immunization coverage.⁶ "As of March 3, 2023, there were 397 reported cases spread across seven districts in Central Papua," said Director General of Disease Prevention and Control of the Indonesian Ministry of Health Maxi Rein Rondonuwu in Jakarta, Sunday (5/3).⁶ Seven districts that have experienced an increase in cases measles among them are Nabire, Paniai, Puncak Jaya, Mimika, Puncak, and Intan Jaya.⁶ "About 48 people have confirmed positive laboratory for measles, mostly in Mimika Regency with 25 cases, Nabire Regency with 16 cases, and Paniai Regency with 7 cases," he said.⁶ The results of the examination also found one confirmed case of rubella in Mimika Regency.⁶ Of the confirmed cases of measles and rubella, said Maxi, 19 people were still undergoing treatment, while 182 people had been declared cured and two people had died.⁶ "Two cases of death were recorded, one case came from Nabire Regency and one from Paniai Regency," he said.⁶ Director General Maxi said the increase in measles cases in Central Papua Province was due to the low coverage of MR immunization for children in 2022.⁶ [Full article]
- **Philippines:** The Philippines Department of Health reported in their latest EDCS Surveillance Report that the country's measles tally has reached 100 through February 4.7 This is a 900% increase compared to the 10 cases reported during the same period in 2022.7 Region IX, Zamboanga Peninsula accounts for 38 of the cases, the most of any regions.⁷ Other regions reporting an increase in cases include Calabarzon (14) and Central Luzon (11) among several others in single digits.⁷ The Philippines reported 589 confirmed measles cases in all of 2022 and 206 cases in 2021.⁷ [Full article]



Chikungunya

- Indonesia: As many as 80 residents in Pasir Wareng Hamlet, Ranggasari Village, Surian District, Sumedang Regency, West Java, are suspected of Chikungunya.⁸ Head of the Sumedang District Health Office, Dadan Sulaeman, said the 80 residents had undergone examinations at the Surian Health Center.⁸ They were examined because of symptoms of Chikungunya, a disease caused by a viral infection caused by mosquitoes.⁸ "Most of the residents who were examined complained of symptoms of aches and pains, then 8 of them were accompanied by symptoms of fever," Dadang told Kompas.com via telephone, Friday (3/3/2023) afternoon.⁸ Of the 80 residents of the same village who were examined by the Surian Health Center medical team, one of them was positive for chikungunya by rapid test.⁸ "For positive confirmation of Chikungunya, of course, you have to wait for the lab (lab) results, and now we are still waiting for the lab results," said Dadang.⁸ "Because the spread of this disease is through mosquitoes, on March 2, we also started efforts to eradicate mosquito nests (PSN) in the hamlet area," said Dadang.⁸ [Full article]
- Malaysia: Dr. Noor Hisham said Chikungunya surveillance recorded two cases in the ninth epidemiological week (ME) with one case each in Penang and Selangor while the cumulative number of Chikungunya cases to date is 97 cases.⁹ For Zika surveillance, he said a total of 448 blood samples and one urine sample had been screened for Zika and the results were all negative.⁹ He said the floods in several states caused a lot of garbage and containers to be washed away and washed up in the environment and intermittent hot weather has the potential to become a breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes and cause dengue outbreaks.⁹ Therefore, Dr. Noor Hisham said several actions need to be taken to control the incidence of dengue fever in flood-affected areas, among which residents in the neighborhood together with the local authorities (PBT) should immediately dispose of containers in the environment immediately after the flood recedes.⁹ He said that residents in flooded areas are advised to add larva-killing substances in puddles or reservoirs for puddles or former water reservoirs that are difficult to dispose of, as well as use repellants.⁹ [Full article]

Rabies

- **Philippines:** Despite the summer season still weeks ahead, rabies cases in the country are already higher in 2023 when compared to the first five weeks last year.¹⁰ Data from the Department of Health (DOH) showed that there are already 33 rabies cases from January 1 to February 4, 2023.¹⁰ This is 38% higher compared to the 24 rabies cases during the same period in 2022.¹⁰ Having the highest number of rabies cases are Central Luzon with six, Calabarzon with five, and Bicol Region and Davao Region with four each.¹⁰ Davao Region has seen the highest increase at 300% (from 1 to 4), followed by Eastern Visayas at 200 percent (from 1 to 3).¹⁰ The DOH said that similar to last year (24), all rabies patients have died (33) this year.¹⁰ [Full article]
- **Malaysia**: Sarawak recorded six rabies cases, four of which resulted in fatalities between Jan 1 and March 5 this year, say Datuk Seri Dr Sim Kui Hian.¹¹ The Sarawak Deputy Premier, who is also the state Public Health, Housing and Local Government Minister, said the deaths were reported in the Siburan, Kanowit, Sibu and Bintulu districts.¹¹ "Last year, a total of 12 rabies cases with 10 deaths were recorded in Sarawak," he told a press conference here Monday (March 6).¹¹ According to him, since the start of the rabies outbreak in Sarawak in 2017, a total of 48 deaths due to the infection have been reported and he urged the public to take the disease seriously.¹¹ "Early vaccination against rabies can save lives," he said. Dr. Sim also advised the public to get their pet dogs or cats vaccinated, which is provided free by the Sarawak Veterinary Services Department (DVS).¹¹ He said Sarawak also recorded a total of 2,210 animal bite cases



from January to March 5 this year, of which 1,205 were dog bites, 985 were cat bites, and 20 were other bite cases.¹¹ DVS also took 40 dog and cat samples during that period, of which 16 dog samples and two cat samples tested positive for rabies.¹¹ "In addition to that, a total of 514 animals including 492 dogs and 22 cats have been vaccinated by the DVS this year," he said.¹¹ [Full article]

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

• **Philippines:** The City Health Office (CHO) of Iloilo City recorded 307 cases of hand-footand-mouth disease (HFMD) from Jan. 1 to Feb. 27.¹² Dr. Roland Jay Fortuna, CHO Medical Officer IV, said of the 307 cases, 16 are still active and currently under home management while 291 already recovered. Majority of the cases belong to the 1 to 10 years old age group, he said.¹² CHO data further showed Arevalo district has the highest number of cases with 113, followed by Mandurriao district (106), Sto. Rosario District Health Center (City Proper) (33), Lapuz and Molo districts (18 cases each), Tanza Health Center (15 cases), La Paz and Jaro I (two cases each), and Jaro II (one case).¹² Dr. June Frances Umani, CHO medical officer, cited the return of face-to-face classes for the increasing cases of HFMD where children or students have more interaction and direct contact with each other.¹² Umani said the number of cases for the first two months is higher compared to only five and 58 cases logged for the whole of 2021 and 2022, respectively. Despite the surge in cases, Fortuna explained there is no criteria for the declaration of HFMD outbreak.¹² [Full article]

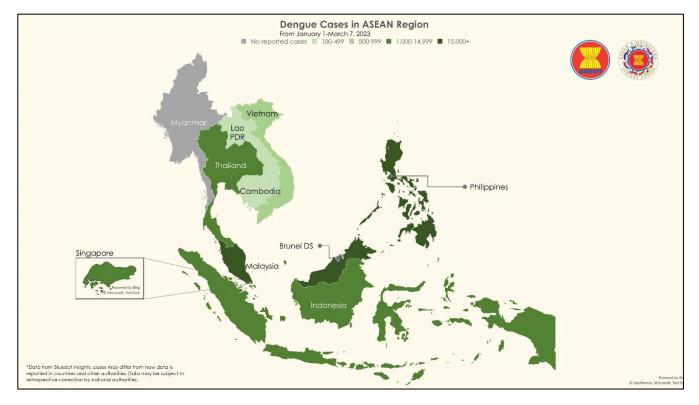
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N6)

People's Republic of China: A man infected with H5N6 Avian Influenza A in Qingyuan, Guangdong is closely monitored by CHP.¹² The case involved a 49-year-old man living in Qingyuan, Guangdong, who had contact with live poultry before becoming ill.¹² He developed symptoms on December 17 last year and was admitted to hospital for treatment on December 21 in serious condition.¹² Since 2014, Mainland health authorities have notified a total of 83 cases of human infection with Avian Influenza A (H5N6).¹² A spokesman for the CHP said: "All new types of influenza A, including H5N6, are notifiable infectious diseases in Hong Kong.^{12"} If you go to the Mainland or other affected areas, please remember to avoid wet markets, live poultry markets or farms.¹² When visiting relatives and friends, look out for free-range poultry.¹² Never buy live or freshly slaughtered poultry and avoid contact with birds or their droppinas.¹² Always maintain personal and hand hygiene when visiting any place with live poultry.¹² After returning to Hong Kong from the affected areas, if you develop symptoms, you should seek medical advice immediately, and take the initiative to tell the doctor where you have been recently, so that potential diseases can be diagnosed and treated early.¹² If you have seen any live poultry while traveling abroad, you should inform your doctor as you may have been in contact with a contaminated environment.¹² This will help diagnose a possible case of avian influenza and arrange for necessary investigation and appropriate treatment in a timely manner.¹² [Full article]



Dengue Cases in ASEAN Region

From January 1 to March 7, 2023



Dengue cases in ASEAN region

Country	Dengue Cases	New Cases in the Past Week	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	400	0	0	-
Indonesia	2,930	0	24	0.82%
Lao PDR	430	0	0	0.00%
Malaysia	19,450	4,207	15	0.08%
Myanmar	-	-	-	-
Philippines	17,136	9,332	55	0.32%
Singapore	1,748	139	0	0.00%
Thailand	3,855	0	1	0.03%
Vietnam	506	0	0	0.00%
Total	46,455	13,678	95	0.20%

*Data from Bluedot Insights, cases may differ from how data is reported in countries and other authorities. Data may be subject to retrospective correction by national authorities.

• ASEAN region reported **13,678** new dengue cases from March 1 to 7, 2023 in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore. The region reported **46,455** total cases and **95** total deaths in 2023 with **0.20%** CFR.

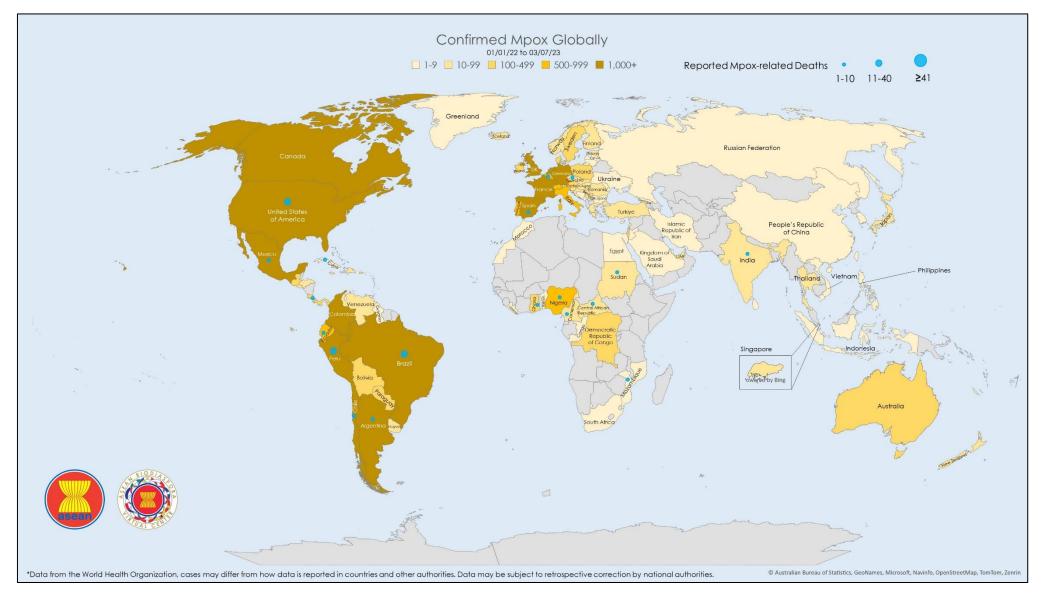


Dengue

- **Malaysia:** The number of dengue fever cases in the eighth epidemiological week this year (ME8/23) from Feb 19 to 25 dropped by 0.2% to 2,145 cases from 2,149 cases the previous week.¹ In a statement on Wednesday (March 1), Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said one death due to dengue fever complications was also reported during the week.¹ The cumulative number of dengue cases reported so far is 17,388 compared to 5,558 cases in the corresponding period in 2022, an increase of 212.8% or 11,830 cases, with 14 deaths compared to one during the same period last year.¹ "A total of 66 hotspot localities were reported, of which 40 were in Selangor, 15 in Sabah, five in Penang, four in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, and one each in Negri Sembilan and Melaka," he said.¹ [Full article]
- **Philippines** health authorities are reporting an increase in the mosquito borne diseases, dengue, and chikungunya, early in 2023.² From January 1 through February 18, 2023, officials report 17,136 total dengue fever cases, a 102% increase compared to the 8,491 cases reported during the same period in 2022.² Sixteen of the 17 regions in the country are reporting increase in cases.² The Metro Manila (National Capital Region-NCR) has reported the most cases to date with 2,609, followed by Central Luzon with 2,024 cases, Calabarzon (1,704) and Northern Mindanao (1,620).² 55 dengue related deaths have been reported so far. In all of 2022, the Philippines reported 226,497 dengue cases, including 737 deaths.² [Full article]

Mpox (Monkeypox) Cases Reported Globally

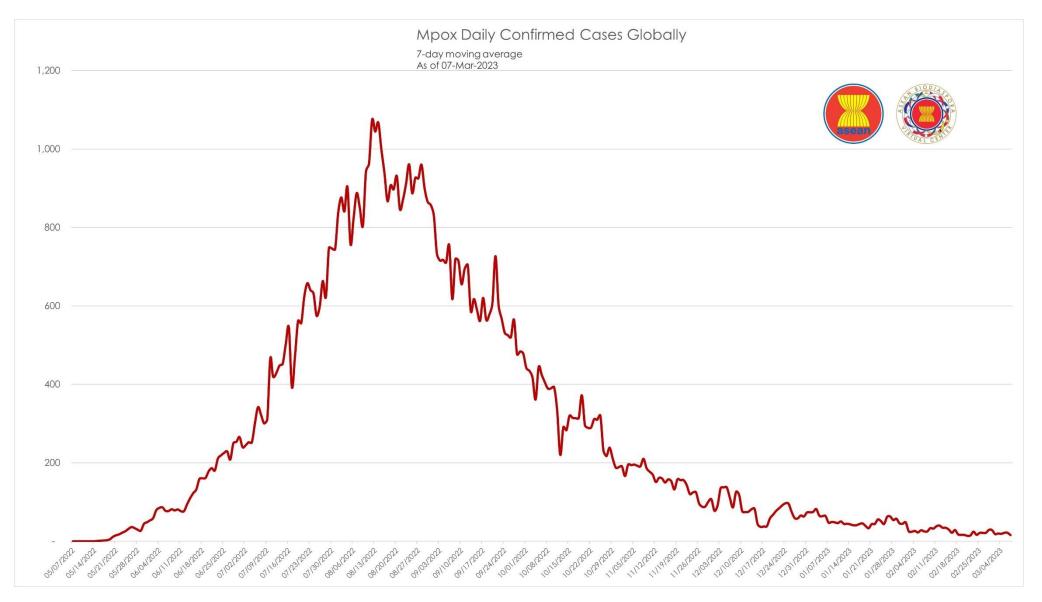
as of March 7, 2023





Mpox Daily Trend Globally

as of March 7, 2023





Mpox: Highlights and Situation Overview

- As of 07 March 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were **86,365** confirmed cases, including **108** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **0.13%**.
- 43 confirmed cases in the ASEAN region, with CFR of 0%.
- **86,322 confirmed cases** of Mpox have been reported in other **5 regions** (other than ASEAN region):

Mpox cases in ASEAN region

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Indonesia	1	-	-	0.00%
Philippines	4	-	-	0.00%
Singapore	21	-	-	0.00%
Thailand	15	-	-	0.00%
Vietnam	2	-	-	0.00%
ASEAN Total	43	-	-	0.00%

Mpox cases in Asia-Pacific region

Country/Territory	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Australia	144	-	-	0.00%
India	22	-	1	5.00%
Japan	27	-	-	0.00%
New Caledonia	1	-	-	0.00%
New Zealand	41	-	-	0.00%
People's Republic of China*	10	-	-	0.00%
Republic of Korea*	. 4	-	-	0.00%
Sri Lanka	2	-	-	0.00%
Asia-Pacific Total	251	-	1	0.40%

*People's Republic of China – including Hong Kong (SAR), Macao (SAR), and Taiwan (Province of China)

Top 5 countries with most mpox cases globally

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
United States of America	30,028	10	38	0.13%
Brazil	10,862	36	15	0.14%
Spain	7,543	-	3	0.04%
France	4,128	-	-	0.00%
Colombia	4,085	3	-	0.00%



REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2022	NEW CASES SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT	TOTAL DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE
AFRICA	1,446	-	18	1.24%
AMERICAS	58,674	56	83	0.14%
ASEAN	43	-	-	0.00%
ASIA PACIFIC	251	-	1	0.40%
EUROPE	25,572	3	5	0.02%
MIDDLE EAST	320	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL	86,365	59	108	0.13%

Mpox cases per region

Global Update

• **Taiwan:** The Center for Disease Control and Prevention announced on March 1 a confirmed case of mpox living in Kaohsiung City.¹³ The case was a male in his 20s. Symptoms such as ulcers were reported by the doctor and tested positive on February 27.¹³ He is currently being treated in isolation in the hospital.¹³ The Health Bureau immediately launched epidemic investigation and other prevention and control work after receiving the notification of the case.¹³ After investigation, it was found that the case had no travel history abroad this year, and it was judged to be a local case.¹³ A total of 13 close contacts (including 5 high-risk persons, 1 medium-risk person, and 7 low-risk persons) were listed in this case after the epidemic investigation. So far, all close contacts are asymptomatic, and there is no abnormality in continuous health tracking.¹³ The Health Bureau has targeted the contacts Carry out health education guidance and self-monitoring of health for 21 days.¹³ The Health Bureau stated that the monkeypox epidemic was listed as a second-class legal infectious disease on June 23, 2011.¹³ [Full article]



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