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Weekly Situation Report in the ASEAN Region

—— COVID-19 and Mpox

August 10, 2023 | WSR 2023-06



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Weekly Issue





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COVID-19



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COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Updates

- **Worldwide**, over 693 million cases and over 6 million deaths have been attributed to COVID-19.
- **World Health Organization (WHO):** The EG.5 coronavirus strain has been designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a "variant of interest" in the US and China, however it does not provide a greater risk to public health than other variants. The virus has been on the rise across the nation as a result of the fast-spreading form, which is the most common in the US and has been found in China, South Korea, Japan, and Canada. According to the WHO, the information currently available does not indicate that circulating EG.5 has higher public health concerns than other Omicron descendant lineages. It is necessary to do a more thorough assessment of the risk presented by EG.5. Since the virus's emergence, COVID-19 has caused the deaths of over 6.9 million individuals worldwide and over 768 million verified cases. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **US CDC:** EG.5 is a spinoff of the XBB recombinant strain of the Omicron family, representing an incremental tweak to the virus rather than a major evolutionary leap. It has an extra mutation at position 465, which has appeared in other coronavirus variants before (Goodman, 2023). This mutation is present in about 35% of coronavirus sequences reported worldwide, including another rising in prevalence in the Northeast, FL.1.5.1. The offshoot, EG.5.1, adds a second mutation to the spike and is spreading rapidly. Both variants are only slightly more resistant to neutralizing antibodies in the serum of infected and vaccinated persons. EG.5 is growing rapidly in Ireland, France, the UK, Japan, and China. The World Health Organization upgraded its status from a variant under monitoring to a variant of interest on Wednesday. The variant has become the most prevalent in the US just as cases, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations are going up. Epidemiologists think human behavior is the engine for this uptick, with record heat driving more people indoors for air conditioning, summer travel sending people outside their normal social circles, and school going back into session in many parts of the country. However, there are reasons to be hopeful that this wave of cases won't be so bad. Levels of virus detected in wastewater in August are about where they were in March. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **USA:** COVID-19 hospitalizations have increased by 12.5% between July 23 and 29, indicating a comeback (DuRose, 2023). The CDC reports a 10.5% increase in locations reporting their highest levels of SARS-CoV-2 in sewage wastewater, despite a decrease in cities reporting the virus in their wastewater. This summer uptick coincides with a new dominant strain of the virus, EG.5, which is causing 17.3% of current COVID-19 cases in the US. The EG.5 variant descended from the omicron variant, which caused an explosive outbreak in late 2021 and early 2022. The World Health Organization upgraded EG.5 from a variant "under monitoring" to one of "interest," meaning it could pose an increased risk to global public health. Several countries with rising EG.5 prevalence have seen increases in cases and hospitalizations, but there is no evidence of an increase in disease severity directly associated with EG.5. Infectious disease experts agree that the new variant is worth paying attention, but caution is advised. COVID-19's impact on the US healthcare system remains low compared to the last three summers. [\[Full article\]](#)



ASEAN Travel Advisories (new update/s) as of 10 August 2023

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

- Reference: [IATA Travel Centre](#)



Cases and Deaths as of 10 August 2023

- As of 10 August 2023 (5PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were **693,025,118** confirmed cases, including **6,905,727** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.0%**.
- 36,329,773 total confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN Region**.
- The Case Fatality Rate in the **ASEAN Region** was **1.02%**.

COVID-19 cases in ASEAN region

REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASES	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	CONFIRMED CASES IN 2023	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTED	FULLY VACCINATED PER 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei Darussalam	10-Mar-20	04-Aug-23	310,019	48,579	458	225		65,967	451,032	446,630	340,379	95.0
	Cambodia	27-Jan-20	04-Aug-23	138,940	502	2	3,056	-	793	15,301,258	14,674,372	10,716,594	83.8
	Indonesia	02-Mar-20	04-Aug-23	6,813,095	101,392	286	161,916	37	2,518	203,872,737	174,946,899	69,243,490	64.7
	Lao PDR	24-Mar-20	09-Aug-23	218,767	1,181	10	758	-	2,888	6,324,678	5,691,962	2,451,034	75.1
	Malaysia	25-Jan-20	05-Aug-23	5,121,276	101,876	-	37,165	5	15,652	28,134,784	27,550,446	16,336,861	84.2
	Myanmar	23-Mar-20	09-Aug-23	641,100	7,525	37	19,494	-	1,137	40,354,937	35,196,377	13,903,599	62.4
	Philippines	30-Jan-20	09-Aug-23	4,174,101	116,472	788	66,643	3	3,824	82,684,774	79,164,840	24,178,325	72.5
	Singapore	23-Jan-20	24-Jul-23	2,534,940	348,266	-	1,872	-	43,406	5,287,005	5,250,426	4,766,768	89.9
	Thailand	13-Jan-20	07-Aug-23	4,755,443	36,535	268	34,437	12	6,795	57,658,679	54,173,539	27,369,493	77.4
	Vietnam	23-Jan-20	09-Aug-23	11,622,092	98,725	183	43,206	-	11,356	90,270,583	85,958,364	57,958,886	84.0
ASEAN COUNTRIES				36,329,773	861,053	2,029	368,772	57	154,337	530,340,467	483,053,855	227,265,429	78.9

REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS
ASIA	197,900,198	217	1,209,596	3
AFRICA	12,836,393	-	258,823	1
AMERICAS	196,206,150	4,639	2,999,718	15
EUROPE	249,752,604	138	2,068,818	1
TOTAL	656,695,345	4,994	6,536,955	20

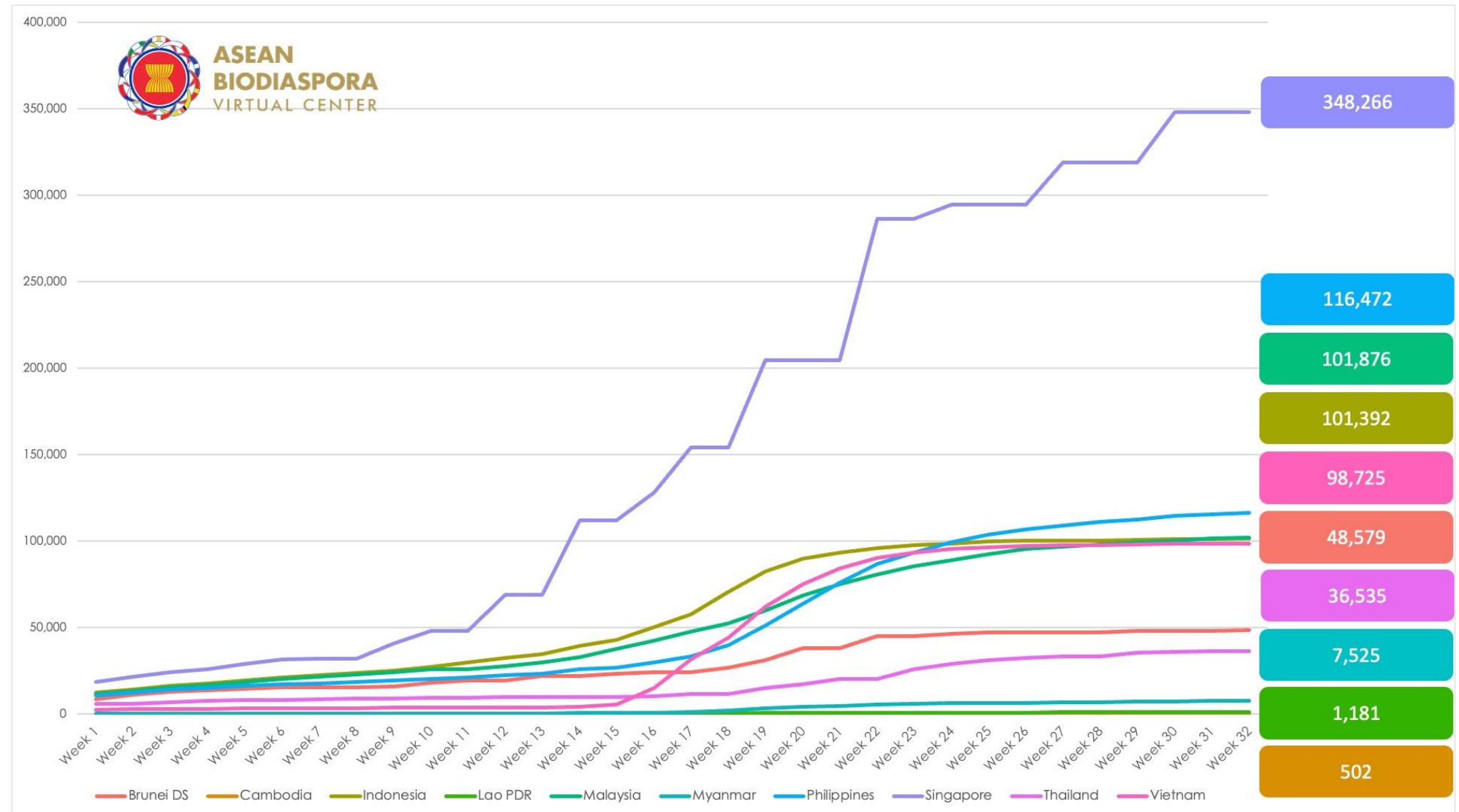
**Data References: [Singapore Government](#), [Worldometer](#), and the [WHO](#)



COVID-19 Epidemic Curve Among ASEAN Countries

From January 1 to August 10, 2023

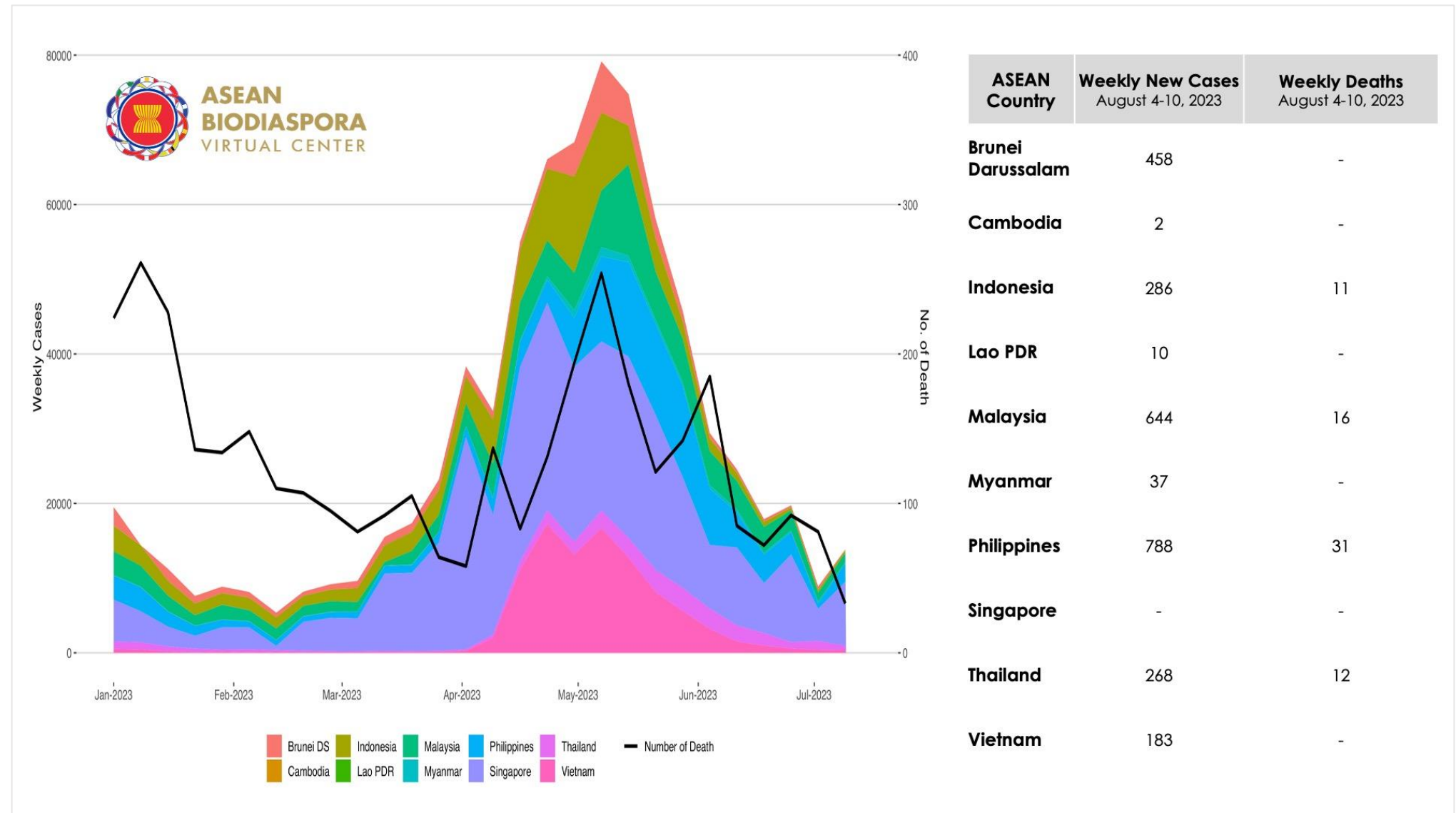
*Weeks based on ABVC reporting schedule for COVID-19





ASEAN Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and Deaths

From January 1, 2023 to August 10, 2023

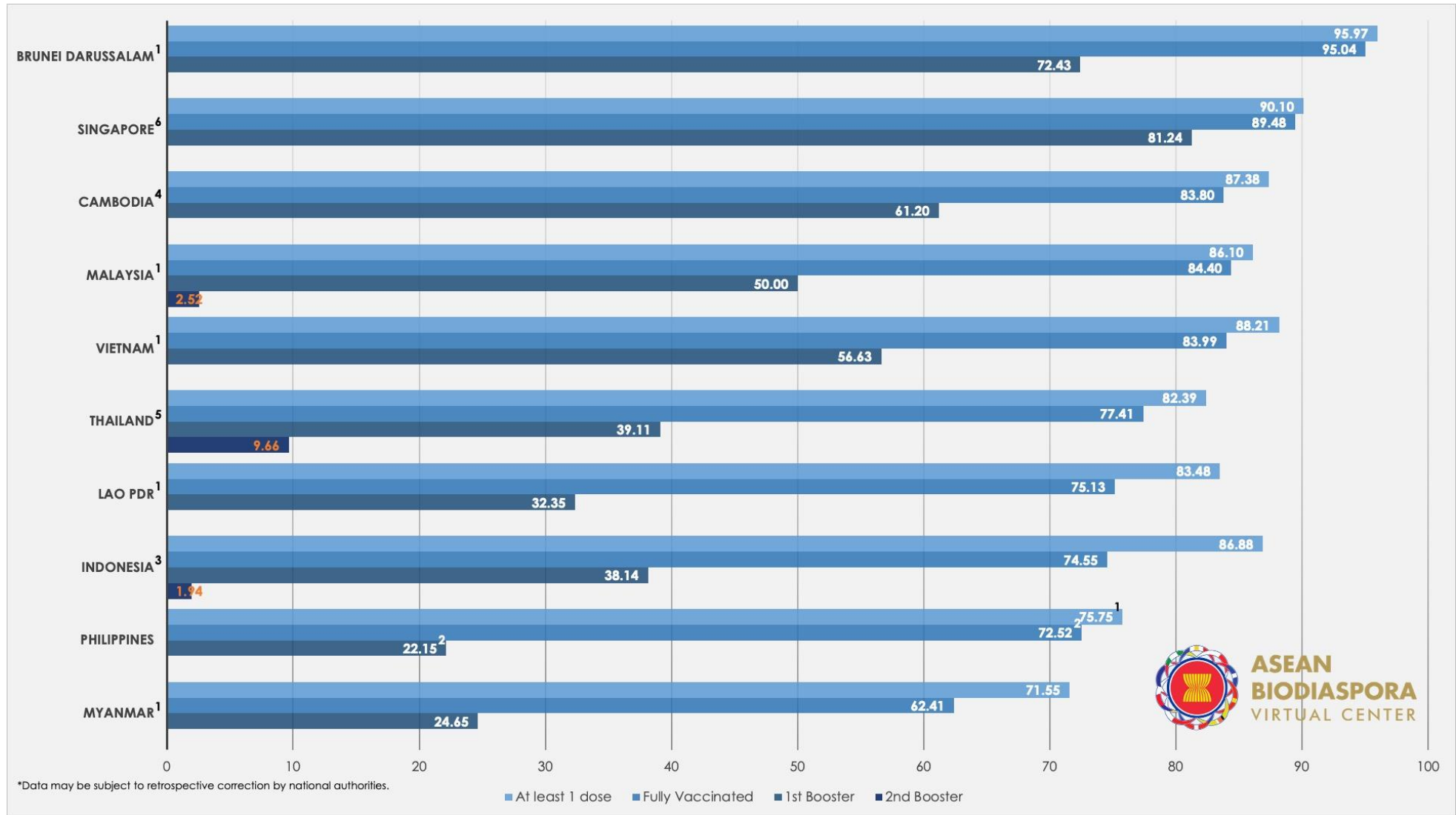


**Data References: [Singapore Government](#), [Worldometer](#), and the [WHO](#)



ASEAN COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 10 August 2023



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2. Department of Health Philippines, National COVID-19 vaccination dashboard accessed August 10, 2023, <https://doh.gov.ph/covid19-vaccination-dashboard>
3. Ministry of Health Indonesia, "Vaccine Dashboard, August 10, 2023, <https://vaksin.kemkes.go.id/#/vaccines>
4. Ministry of Health Malaysia, COVID-19 vaccination, accessed August 10, 2023, <https://data.moh.gov.my/covid-vaccination>
5. Ministry of Public Health Thailand, COVID-19 Vaccination Infographic, accessed August 10, 2023, <https://dashboard-vaccine.moph.go.th/>
6. Singapore Government Open Data, accessed August 10, 2023, <https://data.gov.sg/dataset/covid-19-stats>

MPOX

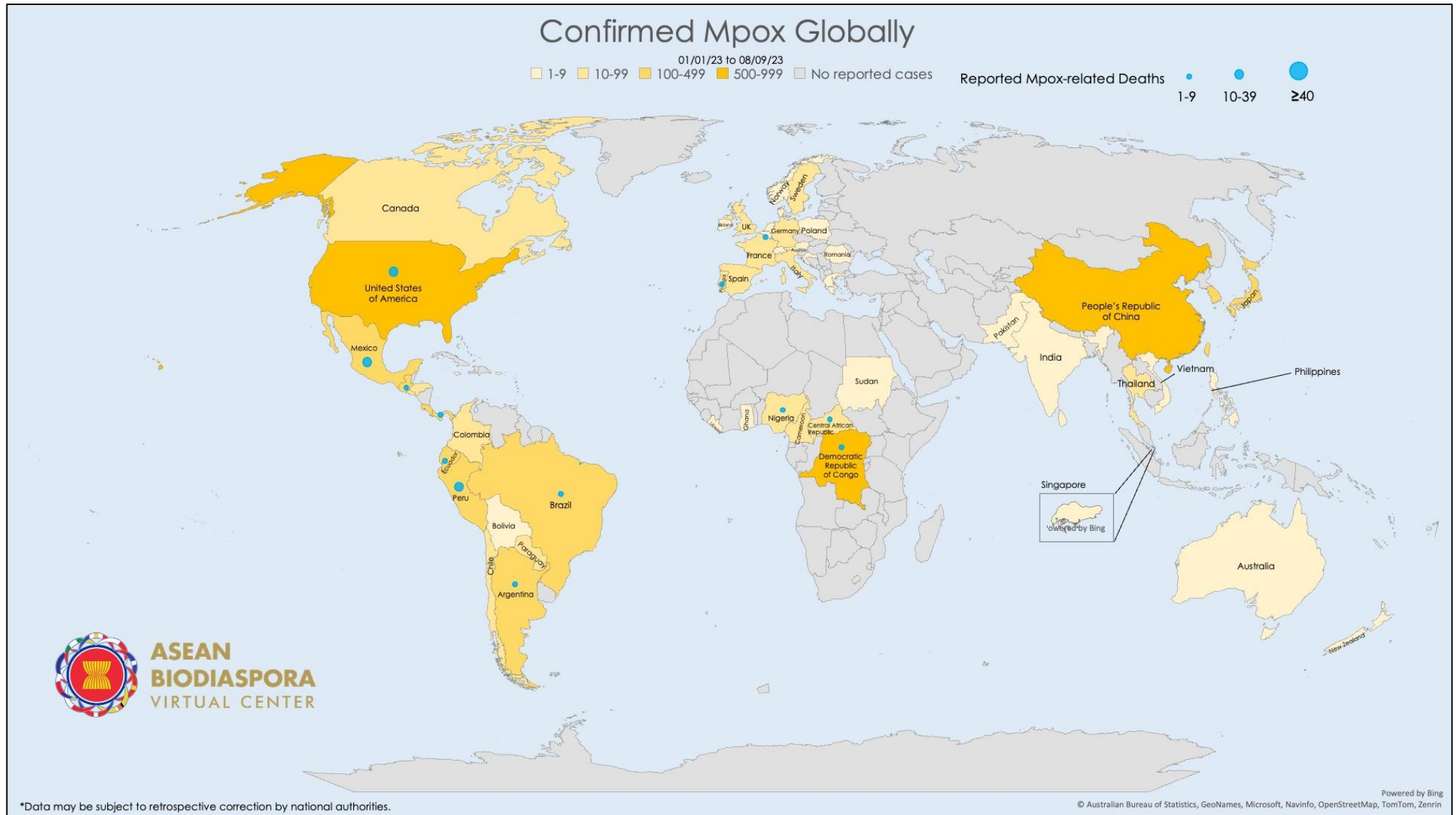


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Mpox Cases Reported Globally

as of August 9, 2023

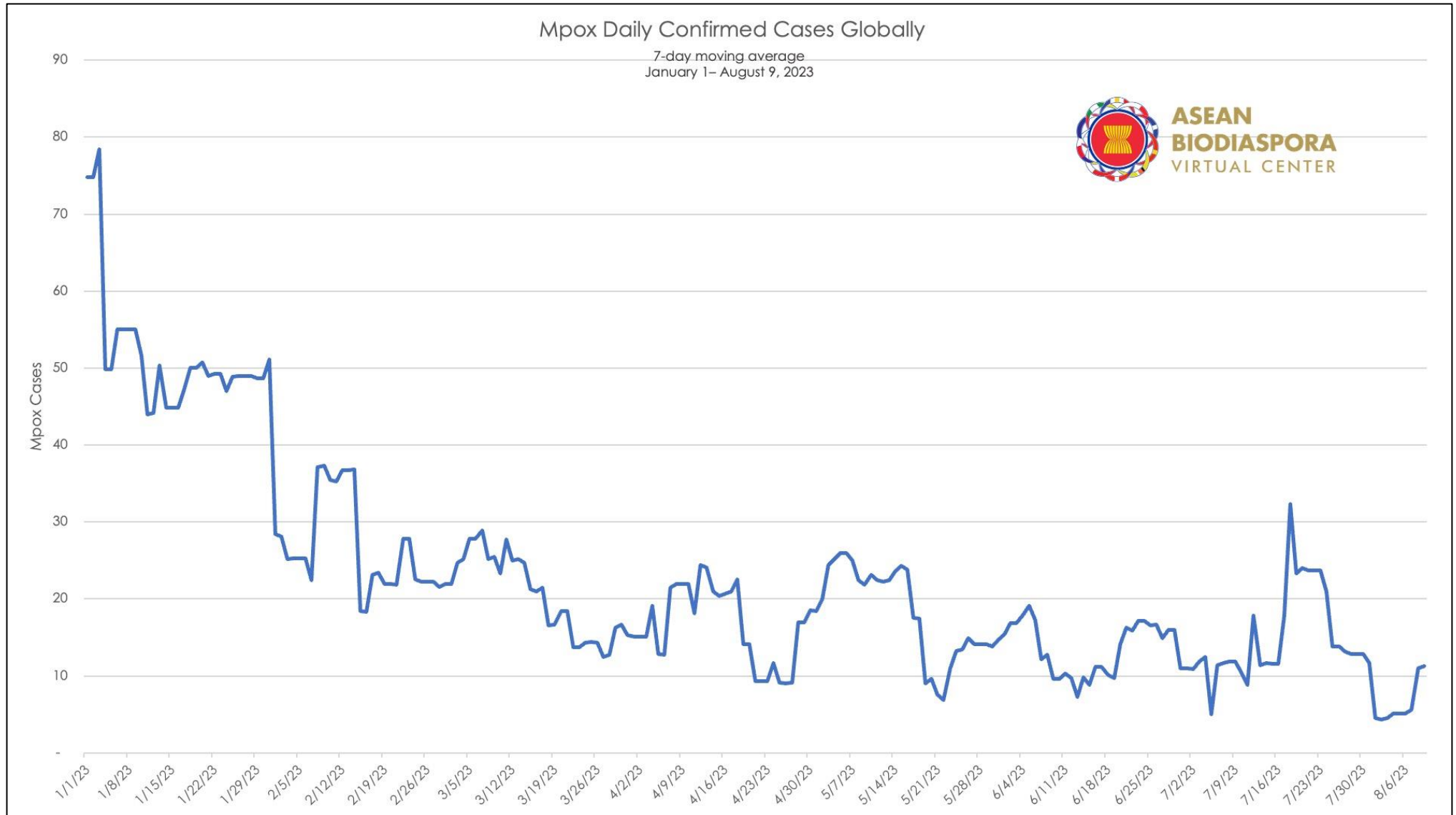


Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed August 10, 2023, <https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>.



Mpox Daily Trend Globally

January 1 – August 9, 2023



Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed August 10, 2023, <https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>.



Mpox: Highlights and Situation Overview

- As of 10 August 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), there were **5,191** confirmed cases worldwide in 2023, including **76** deaths. Globally, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.46%**.
- 116 confirmed cases** in the ASEAN region in 2023, with a CFR of **0%**.
- 5,191 confirmed cases** of Mpox have been reported in other **5 regions** in 2023 (other than the ASEAN region):

Mpox cases in the ASEAN region

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

Mpox cases in the Asia-Pacific region

Country/Territory	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Australia	1	-	-	0.00%
India	2	-	-	0.00%
Japan	186	1	-	0.00%
Nepal	1	-	-	0.00%
New Zealand	1	-	-	0.00%
People's Republic of China*	884	518	-	0.00%
The Republic of Korea	130	8	-	0.00%
Sri Lanka	2	-	-	0.00%
Asia Pacific Total	1,206	527	-	0.00%

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

Top 5 countries with the most mpox cases globally

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
United States of America	843	42	23	2.73%
People's Republic of China	621	497	0	0.00%
Democratic Republic of Congo	555	100	3	0.54%
Brazil	456	-	2	0.44%
Mexico	408	6	26	6.37%



Mpox cases per region

REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2023	NEW CASES SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT	TOTAL DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE
AFRICA	689	103	6	0.87%
AMERICAS	2,896	45	68	2.35%
ASEAN	116	-	-	0.00%
ASIA PACIFIC	1,206	529	-	0.00%
EUROPE	274	29	2	0.73%
MIDDLE EAST	10	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL	5,191	706	78	1.74%

Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed August 10, 2023, <https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>.

Global Updates

- **Taiwan** has confirmed seven new cases of Mpox, raising the total to 266. The CDC reported that all cases involved male Taiwanese citizens aged 20 to 40 (Aktas, 2023). The CDC encouraged high-risk groups to get vaccinated, expanding the immunization campaign to include multiple recent sexual partners, people with sexually transmitted diseases, and their sexual partners. As of Monday, 25,803 people had received both doses of the vaccine, while 19,510 had received a single dose. The World Health Organization renamed Monkeypox to Mpox last year, stating it was no longer a public health emergency of international concern. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **People's Republic of China:** China's confirmed cases of Mpox increased by nearly five-fold in July, reaching a new high of 491, compared to 106 in June (The Times of India, 2023). The virus, also known as monkeypox, has no severe cases or deaths. The World Health Organization has lowered the global alert level for mpox, but more efforts are needed to eradicate the virus. The CDC has called on local branches to educate priority groups and improve access to tests and treatment. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Tecovirimat:** The drug tecovirimat is currently in use for the treatment of mpox -- the disease caused by monkeypox virus -- that spread worldwide in 2022 (University of Cambridge, 2023). Tecovirimat is an anti-poxviral drug, and its use is driving the emergence of drug-resistant variants of the monkeypox virus. Scientists have identified how monkeypox virus exploits a cellular protein to evade host defenses, allowing it to replicate and spread better. Existing drugs -- developed to treat other viral infections -- also target this cellular protein. When tested against a range of poxviruses, including monkeypox, these drugs were found to have antiviral effects in all cases. [\[Full article\]](#)



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