

COVID-19, Mpox, and Travel Advisories Situational Report in the ASEAN Region

-ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

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ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER (ABVC)





GLOBAL PARTNERS

















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COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 659 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- **South Korea**'s authorities said on Friday (January 20) that the government will drop its rules requiring people to wear masks in most indoor spaces. Starting January 30, it will no longer be mandatory to wear face masks in most indoor spaces, except on public transport and in medical facilities. However, the mask mandate will remain for those officially diagnosed with COVID-19 and have to isolate themselves for seven days. The Prime Minister said that the decision was made in view of the country's solid medical response capabilities, the decreased number of critical cases and deaths from COVID-19, and a downward trend in new infections.
- **Hong Kong** will be lifting its quarantine policy starting January 30. According to authorities, it will no longer require people infected with COVID-19 to quarantine, as part of the decision to downgrade COVID-19's status to an endemic disease from a severe respiratory infection. However, individuals are still required to wear masks unless exercising.

Regional Update

• **Philippines:** According to the Department of Health, 45 new COVID-19 Omicron subvariant cases have been detected in the country based on the results of the most recent genome sequencing of samples (DOH).⁹ From 10 to 16, 20 new cases of BA.2.3.20 were found during genome sequencing at the UP-Philippine Genome Center and San Lazaro Hospital.⁹ According to the Biosurveillance data, all cases of BA.2.3.20 are local and originated in Western Visayas (15) and the Davao region (5).⁹ In W., one case of BA.2.75 was found.⁹ Visayas, as well as one case of BA.5 from the Davao Region.⁹ Seven instances of XBB were found in Central Visayas and five in the Davao region.⁹ In the Davao region, an XBC subvariant was also discovered.⁹ Aside from these, ten further examples of different Omicron subvariants have been detected, nine in Davao and one in Caraga.⁹ [Full article]

Vaccine Update

- Malaysia: Pfizer (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd's variation application to update the shelf life of COVID-19 Comirnaty Concentrate for Dispersion for Injection vaccine has been approved by the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA).⁷ According to Norhaliza A Halim, senior director of Health Ministry Pharmacy Services, vaccine vials maintained at -90°C to -60°C now have a shelf life of 15 months to 18 months.⁷ She stated that vaccines with registration numbers MAL21016022AZ, made by Pfizer Manufacturing Belgium NV, and MAL21036039ASZ, manufactured by BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH, Germany, were extended in shelf life.⁷ [Full article]
- **Myanmar:** According to a statement from the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, China handed over an extra 3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Myanmar on January 19.⁸ The Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, Chen Hai, remarked at the handover ceremony in Yangon that China and Myanmar have a long history of "Paukphaw" (fraternal) friendship.⁸ It quickly supplied the new batch of COVID-19 vaccine to Myanmar in response to a request from the Myanmar side.⁸ He noted that China will continue to increase its cooperation with Myanmar in a variety of industries, including health.⁸ Myanmar's Union Minister for Health, Thet Khaing Win, thanked China for its aid.⁸ He



stated that the newly-assisted vaccines will be used as booster shots for school-aged children and the elderly with chronic conditions.⁸ [Full article]

Research Update (Published and peer-reviewed studies)

- Bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccines, developed to protect against both ancestral and Omicron BA.4/BA.5 variants, are recommended to increase protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection and severe disease.¹ However, relatively few eligible U.S. adults have received a bivalent booster dose, and reasons for low coverage are unclear.¹ This study, Sinclair et al. Reasons for Receiving or Not Receiving Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Vaccinations Among Adults — United States, November 1–December 10, 2022, described the findings of the Internet survey of 1,200 COVID-19–vaccinated U.S. on reasons for receiving or not receiving a bivalent booster dose.¹ The most common reasons for not receiving a bivalent booster dose were lack of awareness of eligibility (23.2%) or availability (19.3%) and perceived existing protection against infection (18.9%), although top reasons differed across age groups.¹ [Full text]
- COVID-19 vaccine coverage and experiences of structural and attitudinal barriers to vaccination vary across populations.² Education-related inequality in COVID-19 vaccine coverage and barriers within and between countries can provide insight into the hypothesised role of education as a correlate of vaccine access and acceptability.² This study, Global state of education-related inequality in COVID-19 vaccine coverage, structural barriers, vaccine hesitancy, and vaccine refusal: findings from the Global COVID-19 Trends and Impact Survey, characterised patterns of within-country education-related inequality in COVID-19 vaccine Global COVID-19 Trends and Impact Survey, characterised patterns of within-country education-related inequality in COVID-19 vaccine indicators across 90 countries, using data from the University of Maryland Social Data Science Center Global COVID-19 Trends and Impact Survey and including more than 14 million participants aged 18 years and older in the analyses.² Nearly all countries had higher self-reported receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine among the most educated respondents than the least educated respondents.² Globally, vaccine hesitancy in unvaccinated people was higher among those with lower education and vaccine refusal was higher among those with high-income countries.² [Full text]
- A study on the Genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 positive passengers on flights from China to Italy in December 2022 reported the results of screening that was conducted in Italy between 26 December and 29 December 2022 on flight passengers from China arriving at two major airports, namely Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci airport in Rome and Malpensa airport in Milan.³ Of the 556 passengers from China screened, 126 (22.7%) tested positive via polymerase chain reaction testing.³ The proportion testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 per flight ranged from 11% to 42%. The flights originated from either Nanjing in Jiangsu province or Hangzhou or Wenzhou in Zhejiang province.³ Both those provinces are in eastern China. Whole-genome sequencing of samples from 61 COVID-positive patients revealed that three Omicron sublineages were dominant: BA.5.2.48, BF.7.14, and BQ.1.1.³ The authors note that BF.7 has been circulating in the United States and Europe since August 2022 and in Inner Mongolia since September 2022.³ According to the authors, the findings of their study agree with sequencing data released from China and underline the relevance of genomic surveillance to detect the evolution of dominant lineages in a large ecological setting.³ [Full text]
- The recent study **Protective effectiveness of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection and hybrid immunity against the omicron variant and severe disease: a systematic review and meta-regression** found that 26 studies show hybrid SARS-CoV-2 immunity provides the highest level of protection against the Omicron variant.⁴ This is the first study to estimate the durability of protection conferred by hybrid immunity (the antibody response developed through a combination of SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination) could provide guidance on vaccine timing at both the individual and public health level.⁴ Of



the 26 studies reviewed by a team led by researchers from the University of Toronto and the World Health Organization, 11 reported on the protective effect of previous infection, 15 reported on protection from hybrid immunity, and 7 reported on both.⁴ The effectiveness of previous infection against hospital admission or severe disease at 12 months was 74.6%, with effectiveness against reinfection waning to 24.7% at 12 months.⁴ For hybrid immunity, protection against hospital admission or severe disease was 97.4% at 12 months with primary series vaccination and 95.3% at 6 months with the first booster shot.⁴ The effectiveness of hybrid immunity against reinfection waned to 41.8% at 12 months, and to 46.5% following the first booster shot at 6 months.⁴ The authors noted that the findings indicate that the protection conferred by a previous infection should not detract from the need for vaccination, because infection-induced immunity wanes rapidly and vaccines increase the durability of protection.⁴ [Full text]

The study COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma for the Treatment of Immunocompromised . Patients: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis suggests that transfusion of COVID-19 convalescent plasma improves survival in hospitalized, infected patients who have impaired immune systems,⁵ The researchers analyzed 3 randomized clinical trials (RCTs), 5 matched-cohort studies, 13 uncontrolled case series, and 125 case-report series on the use of convalescent plasma in immune-impaired COVID-19 patients.⁵ In the primary meta-analysis of 8 controlled trials involving 469 intervention patients, COVID-19 convalescent plasma was tied to a lower all-cause death rate than observed in 1,305 control patients in a combination of randomized clinical trials and matched-cohort studies.⁵ According to the researchers, COVID-19 convalescent plasma appears to have maintained clinical efficacy over time with emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants due to the heterogeneous, broad spectrum of neutralizing antibodies and widespread availability, particularly for patients who are immunocompromised, who are not able to mount a sufficiently protective antibody response against the virus, and who have contraindications or adverse effects from small molecule antivirals.⁵ [Full text]

ASEAN Travel Advisories (new update/s)

as of 20 January 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	December 7, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate for 18 years old and above.	No, but may be subject to RT-PCR upon arrival	Foreign travelers who are not fully vaccinated may not be allowed to enter Indonesia or may be subjected to RT-PCR test upon arrival	No	No	Traveler is required to download and register at <u>PeduliLindungi app</u> before departure.
Laos	December 29, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Malaysia	August 2, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Myanmar	December 1, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate for 12 years old and above.	Yes – printed negative COVID-19 antigen test result for 12 years old and above taken within 48 hours before arrival.	Foreign travelers who are not fully vaccinated are not allowed to enter or transit Myanmar.	No	Required to obtain <u>Myanmar</u> Insurance	No
Philippines	December 1, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* with booster dose certificate for 15 years old and above.	No	Yes – COVID-19 rapid antigen test taken at most 24 hours before departure or subject to a rapid test upon arrival.	No	No	Traveler is required to download and register at <u>E-arrival card</u> at most 3 days before departure for those without visa.
Singapore	January 18, 2023	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate vaccination status on the <u>HealthHub app</u>	No	Yes – Negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours before departure for travelers born on or	No	No	Traveler is required to download and register at <u>SG Arrival Card app</u> before departure.

			or <u>TraceTogether</u> <u>app</u> or acceptance letter issued by the <u>Safe Travel</u> <u>Office (STO)</u> or <u>SGAC</u> acknowledgm ent email.		before January 1, 2010.			
Thailand	January 1, 2023	Yes	No	No	No	No	Foreign passengers arriving from China or India must have insurance to cover COVID- 19 expenses at least US\$10,000.	No
Vietnam	May 16, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No

• Reference: IATA Travel Centre

• *Fully vaccinated – at least 14 or 15 days from 2nd dose for two-dose vaccine or 14 or 15 days from a single dose vaccine upon arrival.

COVID-19 Cases and Deaths as of 20 January 2023

- As of 20 January 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were 659,360,782 confirmed cases, including 6,729,397 deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was 1.2%.
- 35,557,326 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	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED/ 100
ASEAN	Brunei Darussalam	10 Mar 20	19-Jan-23	272,646	-	225	-	62,925	450,404	445,929	338,987	99.3
REGION	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	19-Jan-23	138,672	4	3,056	-	841	15,244,858	14,609,937	10,433,215	87.1
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	19-Jan-23	6,727,317	310	160,764	8	2,486	203,657,535	172,693,321	67,952,274	62.7
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	19-Jan-23	217,935	1	758	-	3,040	5,888,649	5,222,417		69.4
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	19-Jan-23	5,033,943	318	36,923	-	15,756	28,124,472	27,535,919	17,033,725	81.1
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	19-Jan-23	633,785	8	19,490	-	1,173	34,777,314	27,545,329	2,227,351	50.8
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	19-Jan-23	4,071,151	138	65,654	17	3,766	78,369,243	73,937,435	21,341,197	64.0
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	19-Jan-23	2,209,708	407	1,718	1	38,743	5,161,990	5,120,768	4,440,289	90.8
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	19-Jan-23	4,725,885	-	33,792	-	6,788	57,005,497	53,486,086	32,143,431	74.6
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	19-Jan-23	11,526,284	30	43,186	-	11,949	90,450,881	85,848,363	57,452,750	87.4
		ASI		35,557,326	1,216	365,566	26	147,465	519,130,843	466,445,504	213,363,219	

*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	17-Jan-23	19-Jan-23	208,062	28	7,864	547	11,606,705	10,894,509		26.5
PACIFIC	Australia	25-Jan-20	11-Jan-23	18-Jan-23	11,254,721	-	17,706	43,878	22,235,981	21,655,105	19,743,221	82.7
REGION	Bangladesh	08-Mar-20	17-Jan-23	18-Jan-23	2,037,399	-	29,441	1,250	150,629,515	131,182,263	65,672,743	76.6
	Bhutan	05-Mar-20	17-Jan-23	17-Jan-23	62,577	-	21	8,200	699,116	677,669	634,641	86.6
	People's Republic of China*		17-Jan-23	19-Jan-23	12,639,266	22,426	34,375	78,100	1,339,515,124	1,304,360,424	213,862,363	89.6
	Cook Islands	17-Feb-22	16-Jan-23	16-Jan-23	6,959	-	2	32,537	15,084	14,715	10,209	86.4
	Fiji	18-Mar-20	13-Jan-23	13-Jan-23	68,793	-	883	7,730	711,658	640,668	170,563	68.9
	French Polynesia	12-Mar-20	04-Jan-23	04-Jan-23	77,957	-	649	27,913	190,765	186,059	112,237	60.8
	Guam	15-Mar-20	13-Jan-23	18-Jan-23	60,526	-	415	36,179	158,609	144,050		85.5
	India	30-Jan-20	17-Jan-23	19-Jan-23	44,681,505	134	530,728	3,270	1,027,255,547	951,360,940	223,225,718	67.1



Japan	16-Jan-20	19-Oct-22	19-Oct-22	21,858,528	-	46,014	17,312	104,601,119	103,210,148	168,258,407	83.3
Kiribati	25-Jan-22	13-Jan-23	13-Jan-23	4,921	-	17	4,184	96,184	73,888	23,419	56.3
Maldives	07-Mar-20	10-Jan-23	18-Jan-23	185,708	-	311	34,976	399,151	385,081	167,187	73.5
Marshall Islands	26-Oct-20	02-Jan-23	02-Jan-23	15,554	-	17	26,456	43,310	34,694		44.6
Micronesia	11-Jan-21	10-Jan-23	10-Jan-23	22,247	-	58	19,547	84,542	71,147		69.5
Mongolia	10-Mar-20	14-Jan-23	19-Jan-23	1,007,843	6	2,179	31,249	2,272,965	2,175,617	1,044,337	64.0
Nepal	24-Jan-20	17-Jan-23	19-Jan-23	1,001,152	5	12,020	3,499	27,678,479	24,159,118	8,951,403	79.1
New Caledonia	17-Mar-20	17-Jan-23	17-Jan-23	79,785	-	314	27,722	192,213	184,656	101,655	63.7
New Zealand	28-Feb-20	16-Jan-23	16-Jan-23	2,157,933	-	3,676	43,887	4,300,097	4,138,926	3,523,903	79.8
Niue	03-Sep-21	16-Jan-23	17-Jan-23	723	-	-	33,380	1,636	1,634	1,224	83.7
Northern Mariana Islands	28-Mar-20	13-Jan-23	13-Jan-23	13,430	-	41	23,472	46,502	43,853		84.6
Pakistan	26-Feb-20	17-Jan-23	19-Jan-23	1,578,380	17	30,669	729	154,665,740	131,368,973	49,551,181	55.7
Palau	31-May-21	15-Jan-23	15-Jan-23	5,980	-	9	33,207	20,735	18,483		85.8
Papua New Guinea	21-Mar-20	21-Dec-22	21-Dec-22	46,850	-	674	534	369,998	310,717	32,384	3.1
Samoa	18-Nov-20	10-Jan-23	10-Jan-23	16,008	-	29	8,122	191,163	177,721	79,360	79.9
Solomon Islands	03-Oct-20	24-Nov-22	24-Nov-22	24,575	-	153	3,669	343,821	254,352	27,783	35.1
Republic of Korea**	20-Jan-20	17-Jan-23	19-Jan-23	29,938,152	27,393	33,118	57,897	44,866,920	44,447,944	41,325,954	85.8
Sri Lanka	27-Jan-20	17-Jan-23	18-Jan-23	671,970	-	16,824	3,082	17,143,761	14,752,827	8,220,002	67.6
Timor Leste	21-Mar-20	17-Jan-23	18-Jan-23	23,407	-	138	1,810	878,845	790,466	315,249	58.9
Tonga	05-Nov-21	12-Jan-23	12-Jan-23	16,590	-	13	15,877	91,949	77,464	38,331	72.5
Türkiye	10-Mar-20	12-Dec-22	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	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	31-Dec-22	3,427	-	7	21,385	7,136	6,794	3,742	58.6
		ASIA PACIFIC	146,824,257	50,009	869,866	34	676,035	2,969,400,245	2,801,109,563	846,539,541	

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

• 476,979,199 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in other 4 regions (other than ASEAN and Asia-Pacific

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REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED
AFRICA	13,022,751	646	259,366	-	248,068	483,101,815	397,425,845	65,784,702
AMERICAS	191,315,804	13,003	2,940,264	57	1,235,844	835,159,803	731,677,454	494,707,415
EUROPE	249,955,281	19,560	2,055,190	658	2,100,858	569,581,747	541,007,715	382,999,993
MIDDLE EAST	22,685,363	613	239,145	7	215,728	144,725,474	130,012,407	60,201,072
TOTAL	476,979,199	33,822	5,493,965	722	3,800,499	2,032,568,839	1,800,123,421	1,003,693,182

COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries

From January 1, 2022 to January 19, 2023



COVID-19 Vaccination Status in ASEAN

as of 19 January 2023





ASEAN COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 17 January 2023

ASEAN MEMBER STATE	At least 65% of the total immunity to COVID-19; eith 19 or have been vaccinate a COVID-	population has a level of her recovered from COVID- ed with at least one dose of 19 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 fully vaccinated / boosted	Population vaccinated/ day (7-day average)	Daily cases/ 100,000	Containment and health index score - Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)	
Brunei Darussalam	≥90.0/75.5	Unknown	80.6	31.0/100	
Cambodia	≥90.0/62.2	Unknown	0.03	31.5/100	
Indonesia	66.9/24.9	Unknown	0.13	54.2/100	
Lao PDR	77.3/ND	Unknown	0.06	61.6/100	
Malaysia	84.5/50.2	0%/day	0.98	51.8/100	
Myanmar	52.1/4.1	Unknown	0.01	69.1/100	
Philippines	71.5/18.5	Unknown	0.29	55.4/100	
Singapore	≥90.0/78.8	0%/day	7.95	58.9/100	
Thailand	77.7/44.8	Unknown	0.20	31.5/100	
Vietnam	≥90.0/58.5	Unknown	0.05	43.5/100	

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

Mpox (Monkeypox) Cases Reported Globally

as of January 19, 2023





Mpox Daily Trend Globally

as of January 19, 2023





Mpox: Highlights and Situation Overview

- As of 20 January 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were **91,353** confirmed cases, including **230** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **0.25%**.
- **42 confirmed cases** in the ASEAN region, with CFR of **0%**.
- **91,103 confirmed cases** of Mpox have been reported in other **5 regions** (other than ASEAN region):

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Indonesia	1	-	-	0.00%
Philippines	4	-	-	0.00%
Singapore	21	2	-	0.00%
Thailand	12	-	-	0.00%
Vietnam	4	-	-	0.00%
ASEAN Total	42	2	-	0.00%

Mpox cases in ASEAN region

Mpox cases in Asia-Pacific region

Country/Territory	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Australia	144	-	-	0.00%
Hong Kong (SAR)	1	-	-	0.00%
India	23	-	1	5.00%
Japan	8	-	-	0.00%
New Caledonia	1	-	-	0.00%
New Zealand	40	-	-	0.00%
People's Republic of China*	9	-	-	0.00%
Republic of Korea	4	-	-	0.00%
Sri Lanka	2	-	-	0.00%
Asia-Pacific Total	232	-	1	0.45%

*People's Republic of China – including Hongkong (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	30,026	46	23	0.08%
Brazil	10,645	46	15	0.14%
Spain	7,513	8	3	0.04%
Democratic Republic of Congo	5,114	-	120	2.35%
France	4,114	-	-	0.00%



Mpox cases per region

REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2022	NEW CASES SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT	TOTAL DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE
AFRICA	6,783	-	161	2.37%
AMERICAS	57,808	184	63	0.11%
ASEAN	42	2	-	0.00%
ASIA PACIFIC	232	-	1	0.43%
EUROPE	26,169	24	5	0.02%
MIDDLE EAST	319	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL	91,353	210	230	0.25%

Global Update

• **Panama:** According to a Ministry of Health report, Panama has announced a health warning for monkeypox, often known as mpox, bringing the total number of infected cases to 99.6 Between January 5 and January 18, 18 additional cases were discovered and transferred to the Gorgas Memorial Institute for further testing.⁶ The results showed that 97 males and 2 women tested positive for HIV, and 45.4% of infected people tested positive.⁶ Of the 99 documented cases, 64 have no sexually transmitted illnesses, 18 have syphilis, and 15 are uncertain.⁶ Four people are currently in medical institutions, while 14 others are being isolated at home.⁶ 81 patients have completed their quarantine and isolation periods without incident.⁶ Monkeypox is transferred largely through skin sores, respiratory and bodily secretions, and contaminated surfaces.⁶ To prevent the virus from spreading, the health ministry recommended anyone who had been exposed to infected cases to get vaccinated as soon as possible.⁶ [Full article]



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