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# Weekly Situation Report in the ASEAN Region

—— COVID-19 and Mpox

August 24, 2023 | WSR 2023-08



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OF SOUTHEAST  
ASIAN NATIONS

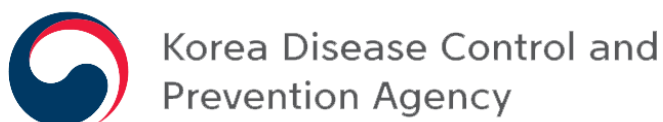


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Weekly Issue





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# COVID-19



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## COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

### Global Updates

- **Worldwide**, over 694 million cases and over 6 million deaths have been attributed to COVID-19.
- **Republic of Korea**: Korea's Health Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) has downgraded the COVID-19 infection classification level to Class 4, allowing the government to focus on protecting high-risk groups like the elderly (Ji-Hye, 2023). The decision means that the government will manage the infectious disease, lift antivirus curbs, and stop counting daily new cases. The daily average for new infections for the week began Aug. 15 was 40,355, down 17.7% from 49,012 the previous week. The weekly death toll also decreased by 11% to 130. The KDCA will monitor the virus situation weekly. Protecting high-risk groups, such as young children, the elderly, and patients with compromised immune systems, will remain important. The government will maintain COVID-19's national crisis level at the current "alert" in a four-tier system, including attention, caution, alert, and serious. The government will maintain indoor mask rules at general hospitals and nursing facilities for the elderly and provide part of state supports for medical costs. Additionally, the government will continue to offer vaccines and medicine for free to minimize medical expense burdens on the public. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India**: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released a research paper revealing that individuals over 40 years old, men with co-morbidities, and those suffering moderate to severe COVID-19 are at higher odds of post-discharge one-year mortality (Sharma, 2023). The study, conducted by the National Clinical Registry for COVID-19, found that participants who received at least one dose of the anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccine before their infection had a lower risk of post-discharge mortality. The study also highlighted factors associated with post-discharge death in young adults, but the association was not statistically significant. The findings cannot be generalized to all patients who had COVID-19. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Ireland**: A new variant of COVID-19, called 'Pirola', has been discovered, with experts warning of four key symptoms (Mills and Croft, 2023). The highly mutated strain, a variant of Omicron, could have up to 30 changes in its protein makeup. The new mutations could potentially bypass immunity from prior infections or vaccinations. Only six cases have been identified worldwide, but scientists believe it is likely to spread more widely. WHO epidemiologist, emphasized the importance of surveillance, sequencing, and reporting to track known and detect new variants. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **People's Republic of China**: A new strain of COVID-19, EG.5, has spread throughout China, accounting for over 70% of infections, but its public health risk remains low (Tong, 2023). The EG.5 variant, a sub-branch of the Omicron XBB.1.9.2 strain, has become the dominant strain in most provinces and is likely to continue this trend. The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the prevalence of EG.5 is mainly due to its enhanced ability to escape immunity, reducing the neutralizing ability of antibodies produced by previous infections. The WHO reclassified it as a "variant of interest" but said the global risk level for the variant was low. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Regional Updates

- **Indonesia**: The Health Ministry in Indonesia has identified two new coronavirus subvariants, EG.2 and EG.5, as responsible for nearly half of the current COVID-19 cases (Firdaus and Resinta, 2023). The WHO classified EG.5 as a variant of interest, accounting for over 17% of new infections. The positivity rate in Indonesia has decreased since July 1, with a 0.31 percent positivity rate and zero deaths and hospitalizations. The



vaccination program has contributed to the stable trend, with over 453 million doses administered and 64% of the population receiving the complete dose. An antibody serosurvey in Indonesia showed almost all Indonesians have SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, with the last serosurvey showing 99 percent antibodies in January 2023. Globally, the highest COVID-19 cases are in Europe and the Western Pacific region, with the highest mortality still being recorded in the United States, Europe, and Southeast Asia. [\[Full article\]](#)

Indonesia's government has stopped special funding for COVID-19 patients, following Health Minister Regulation No. 23 of 2023 on COVID-19 management guidelines (Fauziyah, 2023). The head of the Legal Bureau, Indah Febrianti, stated that patients will now fund their treatment independently. The national health insurance mechanism will assist with reimbursement claims starting September 1, with hospitals still able to claim reimbursement for patients admitted before June 21. The government delegated COVID-19 management to the Health Ministry, which released regulation No. 23 of 2023 on health promotion, surveillance, clinical management, COVID-19 vaccination, and waste management. [\[Full article\]](#)

- **Vietnam** has experienced a sharp increase in the total number of COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic, with 44 new infections recorded from August 20 to August 21 (Thu, 2023). The total number of deaths from COVID-19 in Vietnam is 43,206, accounting for 0.4% of the total number of infections. The number of cured cases is 10,640,428 cases, with 1 more patient announced. The number of patients receiving oxygen is 4 cases, an increase of 3 cases compared to the previous day. Vietnam has injected over 266.5 million doses of vaccines, with a primary dose rate 1.4 times higher than the world average and a booster dose rate 2 times higher than the world average. [\[Full article\]](#)



## ASEAN Travel Advisories (new update/s) as of 24 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
<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	December 1, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Cambodia</b>	October 6, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Indonesia</b>	June 10, 2023	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Laos</b>	December 29, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Malaysia</b>	August 2, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Myanmar</b>	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.
<b>Philippines</b>	July 25, 2023	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Singapore</b>	February 13, 2023	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Thailand</b>	March 1, 2023	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Vietnam</b>	May 16, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No

- Reference: [IATA Travel Centre](#)





## Cases and Deaths as of 24 August 2023

- As of 24 August 2023 (5PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were **694,122,086** confirmed cases, including **6,910,104** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.0%**.
- 36,347,594 total confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN Region**.
- The Case Fatality Rate in the **ASEAN Region** was **1.01%**.

### 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	15-Aug-23	310,019	48,579	360	225	-	66,044	451,032	446,630	340,379	95.0
	Cambodia	27-Jan-20	06-Aug-23	138,940	502	-	3,056	-	793	15,301,258	14,674,372	10,716,594	83.8
	Indonesia	02-Mar-20	21-Aug-23	6,813,175	101,392	49	161,916	-	2,518	203,874,416	174,950,540	69,295,263	64.7
	Lao PDR	24-Mar-20	24-Aug-23	218,787	1,181	37	758	-	2,888	6,324,678	5,691,962	2,451,034	75.1
	Malaysia	25-Jan-20	24-Aug-23	5,121,858	102,458	-	37,165	-	15,654	28,134,784	27,550,446	16,336,861	84.2
	Myanmar	23-Mar-20	23-Aug-23	641,134	7,559	19	19,495	-	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	-	66,643	-	3,824	82,684,774	79,164,840	24,178,325	72.5
	Singapore	23-Jan-20	21-Aug-23	2,538,425	351,751	11,996	1,872	-	43,671	5,284,929	5,248,888	4,768,563	89.9
	Thailand	13-Jan-20	21-Aug-23	4,755,761	36,853	389	34,453	9	6,796	57,659,961	54,175,019	27,372,633	77.4
	Vietnam	23-Jan-20	23-Aug-23	11,622,327	98,960	237	43,206	-	11,357	90,270,583	85,958,364	57,958,886	84.0
ASEAN COUNTRIES				<b>36,347,594</b>	<b>878,874</b>	<b>13,087</b>	<b>368,789</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>154,682</b>	<b>530,340,780</b>	<b>483,057,438</b>	<b>227,322,137</b>	<b>70.3</b>

REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS
ASIA	198,556,077	176	1,210,147	-
AFRICA	12,836,710	14	258,825	-
AMERICAS	196,581,895	8,064	3,002,733	17
EUROPE	249,799,810	3,412	2,069,610	8
TOTAL	<b>657,774,492</b>	<b>11,666</b>	<b>6,541,315</b>	<b>25</b>

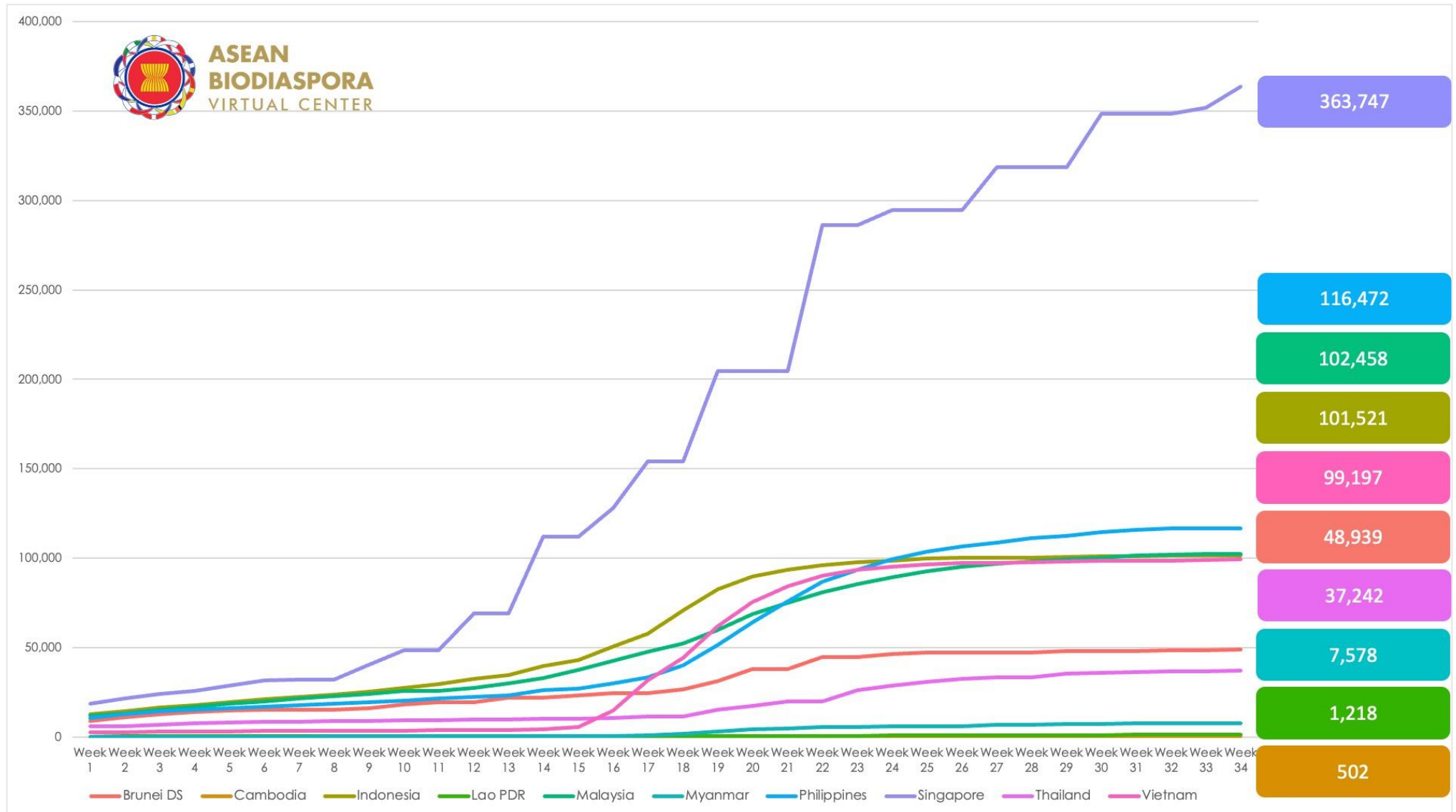
\*\*Data References: [Singapore Government](#), [Worldometer](#), and the [WHO](#)



# COVID-19 Epidemic Curve Among ASEAN Countries

From January 1 to August 24, 2023

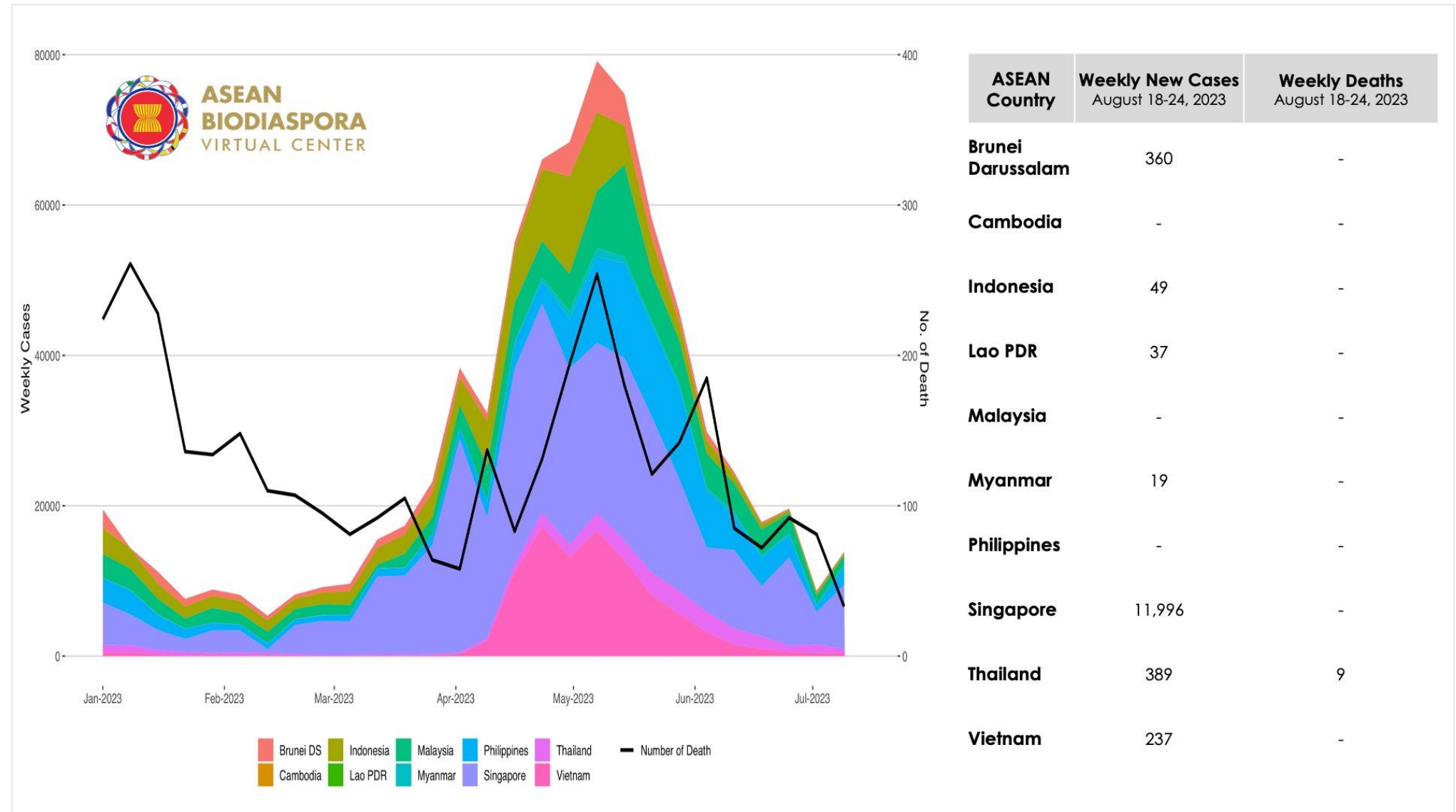
\*Weeks based on ABVC reporting schedule for COVID-19





# ASEAN Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and Deaths

From January 1, 2023 to August 24, 2023

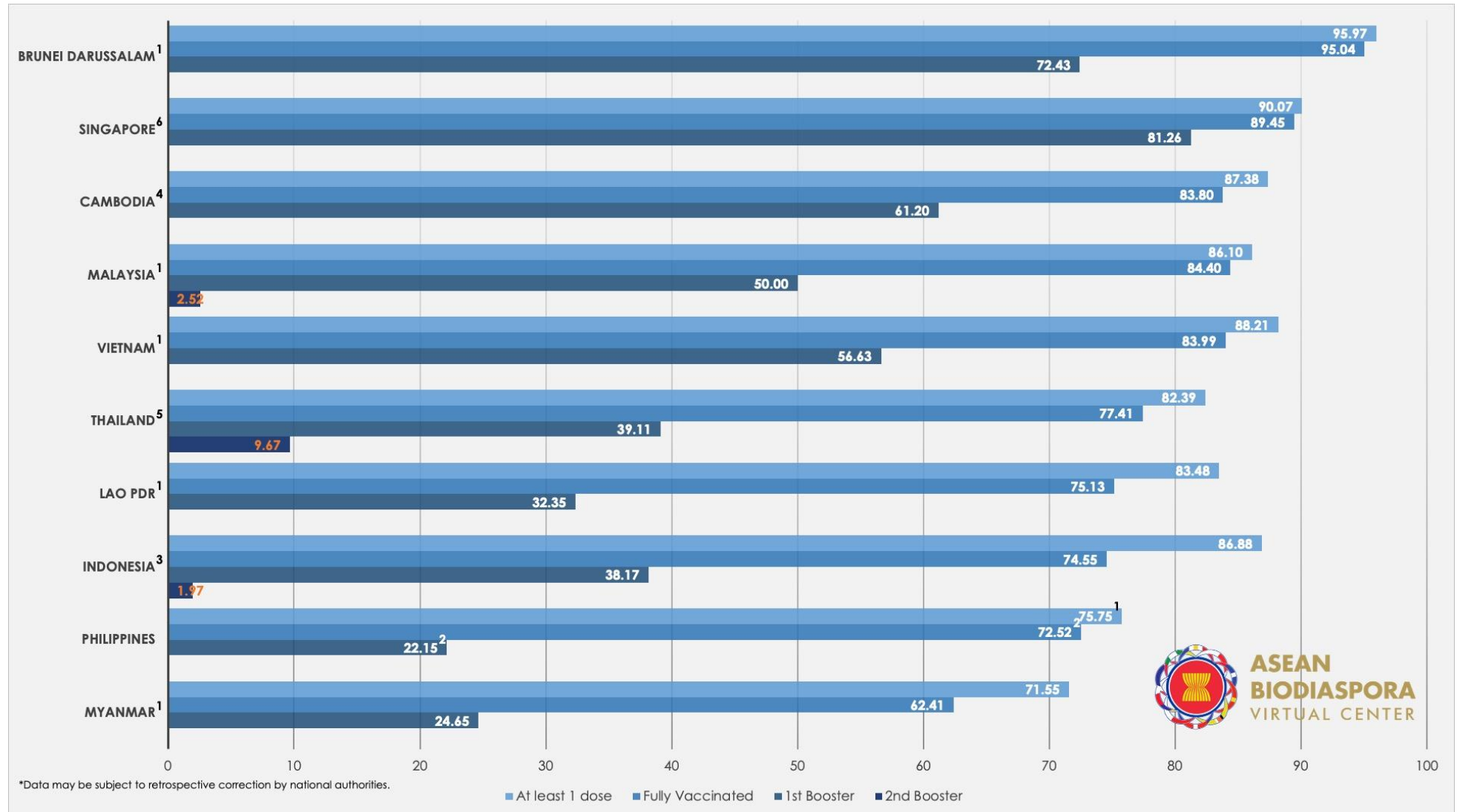


\*\*Data References: [Singapore Government](#), [Worldometer](#), and the [WHO](#)



# ASEAN COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 24 August 2023



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5. Ministry of Public Health Thailand, COVID-19 Vaccination Infographic, accessed August 24, 2023, <https://dashboard-vaccine.moph.go.th/>
6. Singapore Government Open Data, accessed August 24, 2023, <https://data.gov.sg/dataset/covid-19-stats>



# MPOX



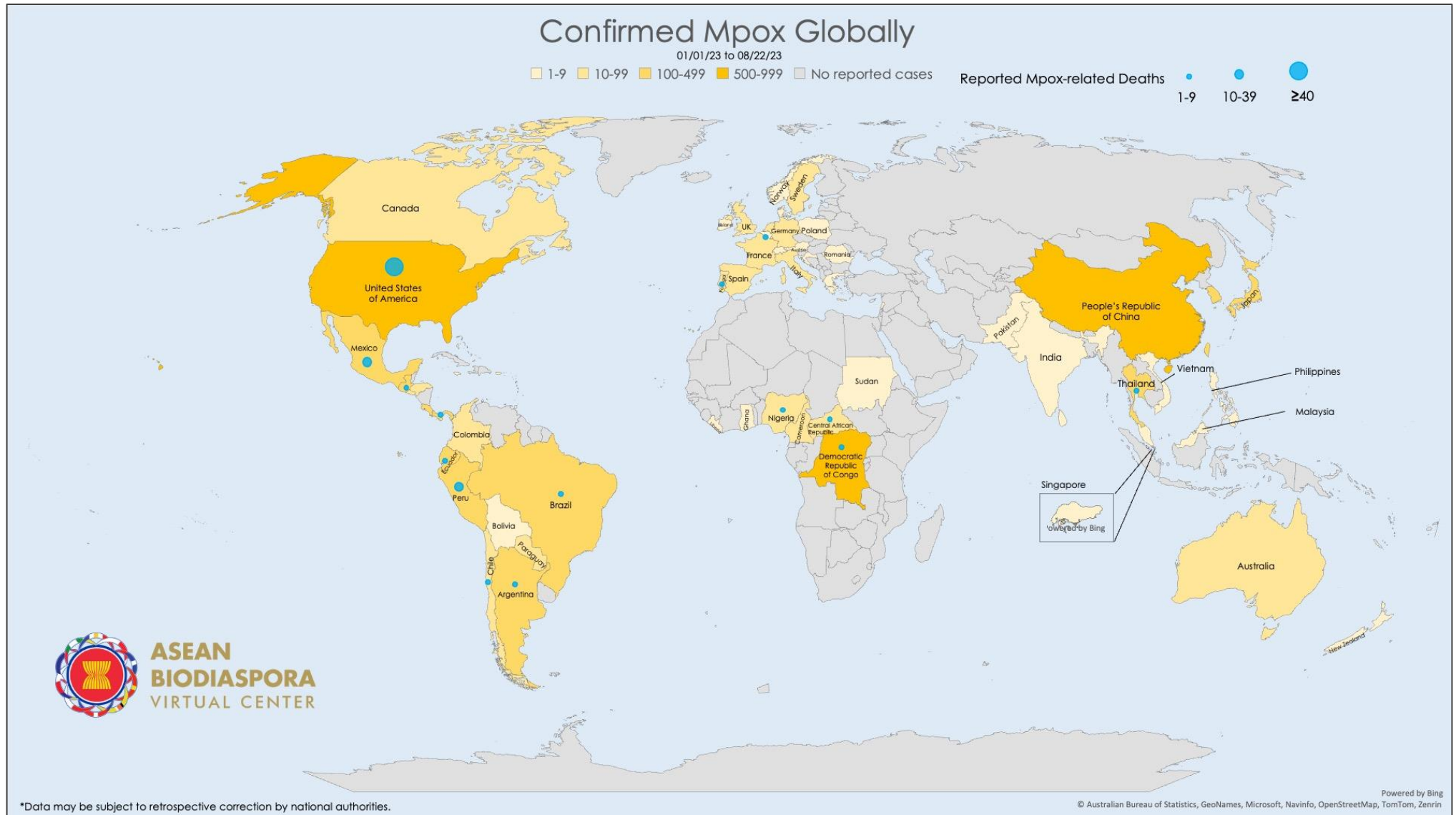
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# Mpox Cases Reported Globally

as of August 22, 2023



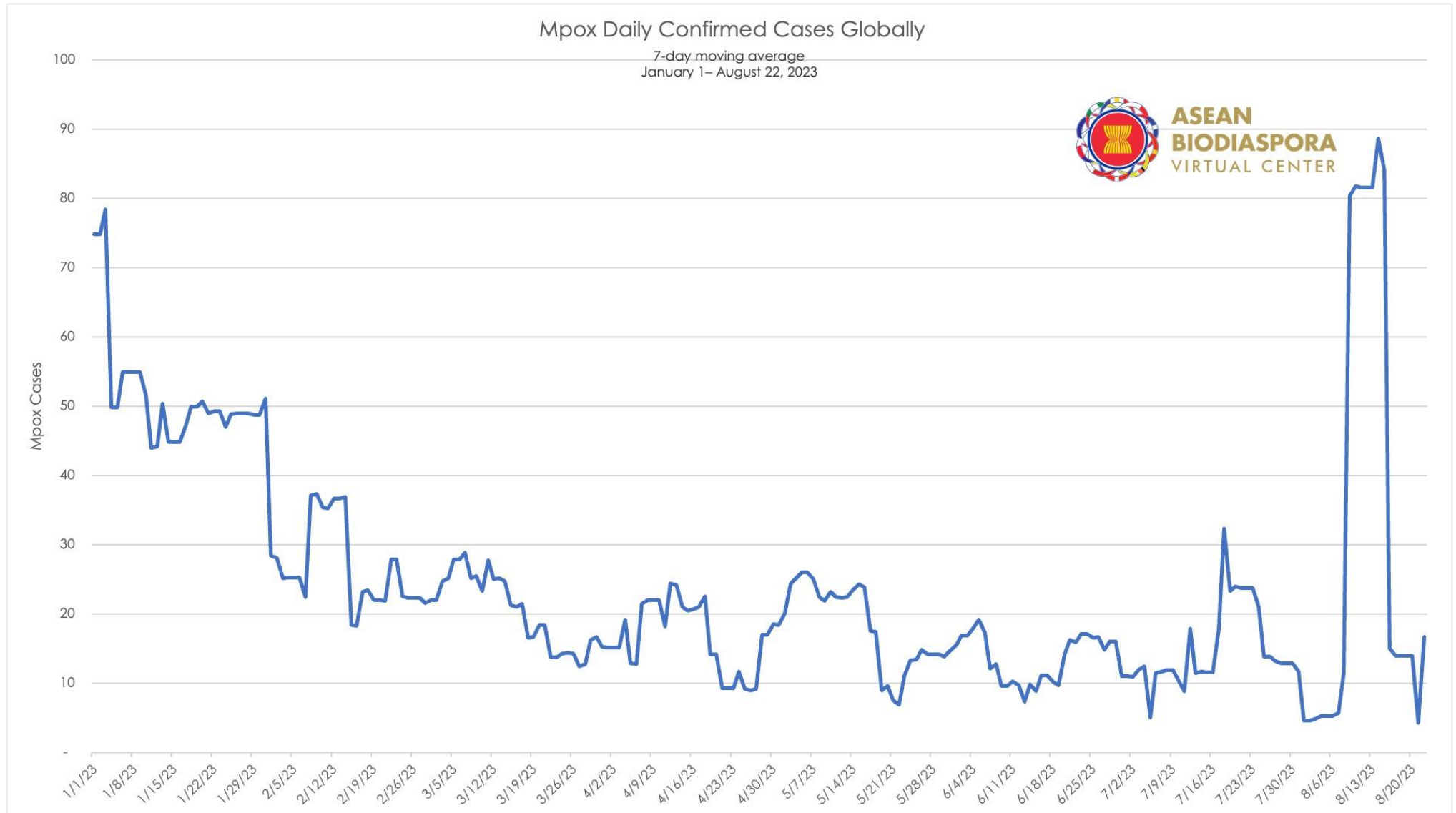
Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed August 24, 2023, <https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>.





## Mpox Daily Trend Globally

January 1 – August 22, 2023



Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed August 24, 2023, <https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>.



## Mpox: Highlights and Situation Overview

- As of 24 August 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), there were **5,413** confirmed cases worldwide in 2023, including **82** deaths. Globally, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.51%**.
- 188 confirmed cases** including **1 death** in the ASEAN region in 2023, with a CFR of **0.53%**.
- 5,225 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)
Malaysia	2	2	-	0.00%
Philippines	1	-	-	0.00%
Singapore	7	-	-	0.00%
Thailand	177	-	1	0.56%
Vietnam	1	-	-	0.00%
<b>ASEAN Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.53%</b>

### Mpox cases in the Asia-Pacific region

Country/Territory	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Australia	11	7	-	0.00%
India	2	-	-	0.00%
Japan	187	1	-	0.00%
Nepal	1	-	-	0.00%
New Zealand	1	-	-	0.00%
People's Republic of China*	917	31	-	0.00%
The Republic of Korea	131	1	-	0.00%
Sri Lanka	2	-	-	0.00%
<b>Asia Pacific Total</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

\*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	931	88	29	3.11%
People's Republic of China	643	11	0	0.00%
Democratic Republic of Congo	555	-	2	0.36%
Brazil	456	-	2	0.44%
Mexico	408	5	26	6.30%



## 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	-	5	0.73%
AMERICAS	2,990	94	74	2.47%
ASEAN	188	2	1	0.53%
ASIA PACIFIC	1,251	41	-	0.00%
EUROPE	285	-	2	0.70%
MIDDLE EAST	10	-	-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,413</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1.51%</b>

Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed August 24, 2023, <https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox>.

## Global Updates

- **Hong Kong (SAR):** The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) is investigating a confirmed Mpox case in Hong Kong, urging public vigilance and avoiding close contact with suspected cases (The Government of Hong Kong SAR, 2023). The patient, a 25-year-old male, has been experiencing rash, fever, and myalgia since August 12. The case is involving high-risk target groups and is being investigated through contact tracing and infection source investigation. The CHP will report the case to the World Health Organization and relevant authorities. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Pakistan:** A 28-year-old patient from Gujar Khan Tehsil was admitted to Holy Family Hospital with high fever and mpox symptoms after returning from Saudi Arabia (Mirza, 2023). Samples confirmed he was positive for the virus. The patient's condition deteriorated, and he was discharged in three to four days. The NIH confirmed the patient's condition had substantially improved over the last 24 hours, and samples were sent to the NIH and a private laboratory for analysis. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **People's Republic of China:** The CDC reported 10 new local confirmed cases of monkeypox (Mpox) in China, all males of their nationality (Taiwan CDC, 2023). The cases were diagnosed between August 1st and 15th, with symptoms such as fever, swollen lymph glands, blisters, and pustules. The CDC listed Mpox as a second-class legal infectious disease in China since June 23 last year. As of August 21, 290 cases (274 local and 16 imported cases) had been diagnosed, with 242 cases recovered and closed. Six cases are still hospitalized. 42 cases are under home independent health management during treatment. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Spain:** Six people have contracted monkeypox, a contagious infection, in Barcelona, Spain, following an outbreak last summer. The virus, which causes fluid-filled blisters, was reported in multiple countries, including the UK, affecting gay, bisexual, and men with sex with men. The Barcelona Public Health Agency declared an outbreak in the city after spotting six cases in July and August. Health officials suspect community transmission, with four of the six cases diagnosed in August.

## Regional Updates

- **Thailand:** Department of Disease Control reported 217 Monkeypox cases this year, primarily involving foreign individuals (Connor, 2023). The disease spreads through direct skin-to-skin contact, particularly rashes or swollen lymph nodes. The incidence is increasing, particularly within homosexual communities and HIV-positive individuals. The first death from mpox in Thailand occurred in a patient unaware of his HIV status and not receiving treatment, resulting in weakened immunity and a weakened mpox condition. [\[Full article\]](#)



Monkeypox (mpox) has entered Chiang Mai, with two confirmed cases reported (Tanraksa, 2023). The first case involved a 31-year-old man who contracted the virus after a one-night stand in Taiwan. The second case involved a 40-year-old man who contracted the virus in another province and was sent back to his hometown for quarantine. Thailand has documented 187 mpox cases being Thai nationals. [\[Full article\]](#)



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