

# Weekly Situation Report in the ASEAN Region

COVID-19 and Mpox

August 31, 2023 | WSR 2023-09









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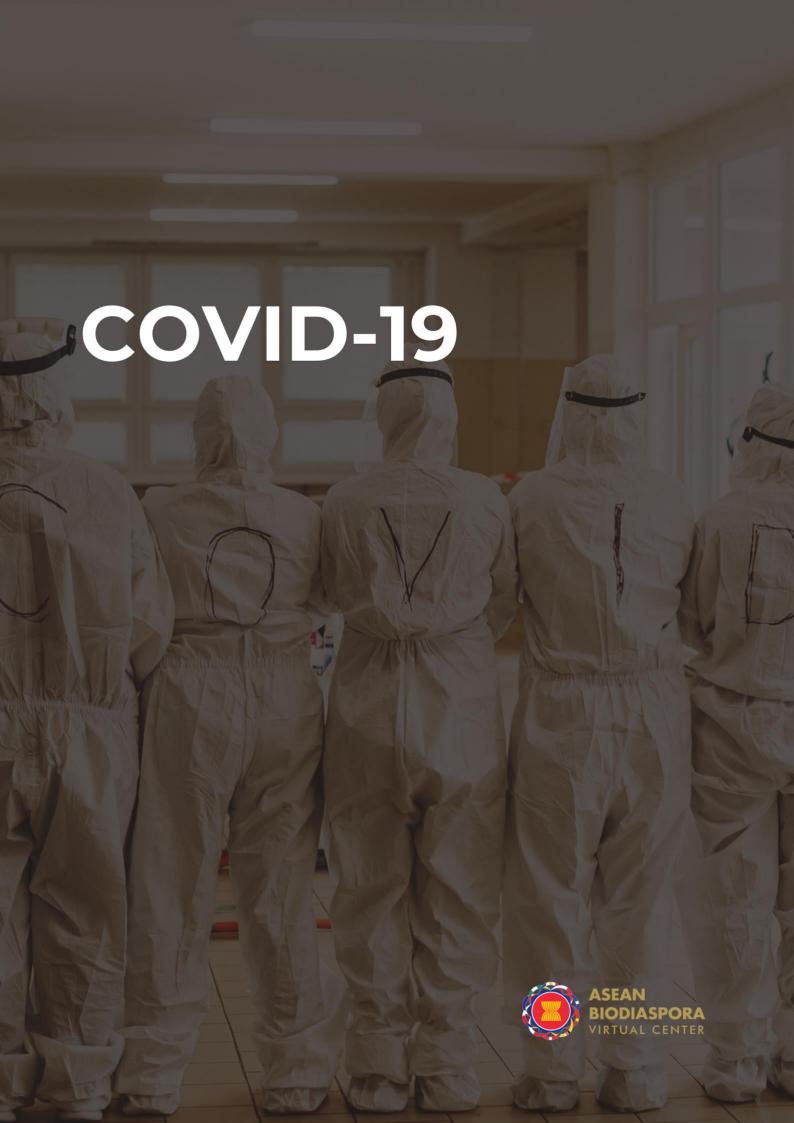
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### **COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview**

#### **Global Updates**

- Worldwide, over 694 million cases and over 6 million deaths have been attributed to COVID-19.
- **India** experienced a rise in new coronavirus infections, with active cases at 1,522 and a death toll of 5,31,929 (ETHealthworld, 2023). The country's COVID case tally is 4.49 crore, with a 98% recovery rate and a 1.18% case fatality rate. [Full article]
- **US CDC**: Based on currently available data, updated COVID-19 vaccines targeting the XBB.1.5 variant are expected to be effective against BA.2.86—a highly mutated new SARS-CoV-2 variant—for reducing severe disease and hospitalization, according to an August 23 US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) risk assessment. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared BA.2.86 a variant under monitoring on August 17. As of August 25, nine BA.2.86 cases had been reported from 5 countries in 3 WHO regions, according to an epidemiological update, and the variant had been detected in wastewater samples from 2 additional countries. The most prevalent COVID-19 variants alobally were XBB.1.16 and EG.5 at the time of the update. Each represented about a quarter of available virus sequences. The prevalence of XBB.1.5 had continued to decline to 10% worldwide. The BA.2.86 variant has more than 35 genetic differences from XBB.1.5, the dominant variant through most of this year. This genetic leap "is roughly of the same magnitude" as seen between the initial Omicron variant and the Delta variant, the CDC said. The agency's assessment noted that compared with other recent circulating SARS-CoV-2 variants, the new variant may be more capable of causing breakthrough infections in people who were previously infected or vaccinated. So far, it has not been found to cause more severe illness. But the limited number of cases means it is too soon to know whether it causes more severe COVID-19 or is more transmissible than other variants, the CDC said. "Detection across multiple continents suggests some degree of transmissibility," the agency said. "This is notable since scientists have not detected transmission of most other highly diverged lineages, which can arise in immunocompromised persons with prolonged infections."

#### **COVID-19 BA.2.86 Variant Updates**

- Canada has detected its first known case of a new COVID-19 variant, the BA.2.86 variant of the Omicron strain (Greer, 2023). The BC Centre for Disease Control identified the strain in a Fraser Health individual who hadn't recently been outside the province. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control suggests the new strain may be more capable of infecting people who have previously had COVID-19 or received COVID-19 vaccines. The World Health Organization is monitoring the variant due to its large number of mutations. [Full article]
- **Denmark**: A recent report by Denmark's Statens Serum Institute (2023), through its official X (formerly Twitter), encompasses 185 SARS-CoV-2 sequences, with 6 newly identified BA.2.86 variants collected between August 10th and August 21st. The epidemiological and clinical details of these cases are currently under investigation.
- Sweden: Experts with a focus on monitoring SARS-CoV-2 variants recently highlighted the
  emergence of four BA.2.86 sequences originating from Sweden (Thailand Medical News,
  2023). These sequences were obtained between August 7 and August 19,
  encompassing regions such as Stockholm and Vasternorrland County. By analyzing
  these sequences and their associated sampling dates, researchers are gauging the rate
  of spread for this novel variant. [Full article]



• United Kingdom: Providing an update on SARS-CoV-2 genome sequencing and growth rates, the UK Health Security Agency (HSA) indicated today that, for the week concluding on August 28, two sequences from the UK have been categorized as BA.2.86 (UKHSA, 2023). The nation had reported its inaugural sequence on August 18, related to a patient from London. The HSA clarified that, at present, BA.2.86 does not meet the criteria for independent tracking and is included in the tally of its parent lineage, BA.2. As a precautionary measure while researchers assess the impact of BA.2.86, the UK's Health Security Agency (HSA) announced on August 30 that it will commence COVID and flu vaccinations ahead of schedule. Starting from September 11, the vaccinations will initially prioritize long-term care residents and individuals at the highest risk (DHSA & UKHSA, 2023). While BA.2.86 has not been categorized as a variant of concern, the HSA explained that expediting the autumn vaccine rollout will enhance overall protection, provide greater support to those most vulnerable, and alleviate the strain on the National Health Service. [Full report UKHSA and DHSC & UKHSA]

#### **Regional Updates**

- Indonesia entered the endemic phase of the COVID-19 pandemic on June 21, 2023, after three years of fighting the pandemic (Firdaus & Adji, 2023). The transition was achieved through joint efforts between the government and the community, handling health, social, and economic impacts. The issuance of Presidential Decree Number 17 of 2023 marked the end of the pandemic. However, long-term mitigation efforts and vigilance are necessary to keep the virus at bay. The Ministry of Health reported that almost half of COVID-19 cases were caused by new coronavirus sub-variants EG.2 and EG.5. The EG.5 sub-variant has spread rapidly in the US, accounting for over 17% of new infections. Indonesia has adopted WHO guidelines on long-term COVID-19 response, covering health promotion, surveillance, clinical management, COVID-19 vaccination, waste management, and patient treatment. The Ministry of Health has set safety thresholds for COVID-19 case rates, inpatient rates, and fatality rates. Data collection is actively conducted through mass media channels, antigen and PCR tests, and self-tests. Close contact tracing is carried out for confirmed positive cases. The Clinical Standardization Working Team at the Directorate of Referral Health Services ensures that COVID-19 patient management remains unchanged during the endemic era, while treatment services apply to asymptomatic patients. [Full article]
- Thailand has reported its first instances of the Omicron sub-variant HK.3, which has been detected in two family members (Connor, 2023). The new strain of Covid-19 has been compared to previous strains, but the Department of Medical Sciences (DMS) has not confirmed its transmission speed and severity. The sub-variant has afflicted a 65-year-old man and an 11-year-old girl in Bangkok, both of whom have since recovered. Head of DMS stated that it is premature to determine whether the HK.3 strain will be more harmful than other Omicron sub-variants due to concerns about its 66% faster transmission capacity compared to the current XBB.1.16 variant. The DMS is closely monitoring the sub-variants in Thailand through whole genome sequencing. [Full article]

#### Research Updates (Published and peer-reviewed studies)

• The study Assessment of Hospital-Onset SARS-CoV-2 Infection Rates and Testing Practices in the US, 2020-2022 revealed a correlation between elevated community-onset COVID-19 infections and an upswing in hospital-onset cases within the initial two years of the pandemic (Hatfield et al., 2023). The authors suggest that heightened inhospital surveillance could prove beneficial during periods of elevated community transmission and propose admission testing as a measure for infection control. The research was founded on an analysis of infection rates derived from 4,421,268 hospitalization records across 288 US hospitals spanning from July 2020 to June 2022, primarily concentrated in southern US cities. The study encompassed three periods: pre-



Delta (48.5% of hospital-months), Delta (29.4%), and Omicron (22.1%). Of the 171,564 hospitalizations featuring a positive SARS-CoV-2 test, 7,591 (4.4%) indicated hospital-onset cases, and 6,455 (3.8%) were deemed indeterminate onset, according to the authors. The majority (78.8%) of hospitalizations with positive SARS-CoV-2 tests recorded the initial positive test result on the first day of hospitalization. Hospital-onset infections transpired in 39.0% of the months under scrutiny, with such instances defined as SARS-CoV-2 infections arising after the seventh day of hospitalization. Among the months evaluated, 29.4% exhibited testing for admission in under 25% of hospitalizations; 2,199 hospital-months (38.7%) involved testing for 25% to 50% of hospitalizations, and 1,815 hospital months (31.9%) conducted testing for over 50% of all hospitalizations upon admission. [Full text]

The study Mortality associated with Omicron and influenza infections in France before and during the COVID-19 pandemic found that the risk of death resulting from SARS-CoV-2 Omicron infection was four times higher than that attributed to influenza during the late 2022 and early 2023 period in France (Goldstein, 2023). With the advent of the Omicron variant in 2022, France witnessed a significant rise in intensive care unit admissions and fatalities linked to non-COVID-19 causes compared to previous variants. Notably, Omicron infections were not consistently documented as contributing factors in many deaths linked to cardiac conditions, mental disorders, and other underlying causes. For instance, during the period from week 33 to week 52 in 2022, an estimated 23,983 deaths were linked to SARS-CoV-2, in contrast to 12,811 deaths explicitly citing COVID-19 on death certificates and 8,639 in-hospital COVID-19 deaths. The findings underscore the importance of enhancing influenza vaccination coverage across diverse population groups in France and adopting broader detection of influenza infections in cases of respiratory illnesses (including pneumonia) coupled with the use of antiviral medication. Moreover, for future Omicron outbreaks, broader detection of Omicron infections among individuals with underlying health conditions is imperative." [Full text]



## **ASEAN Travel Advisories** (new update/s)

as of 31 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	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: <u>IATA Travel Centre</u>



## Cases and Deaths as of 29 August 2023

- As of 29 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
	Brunei Darussalam	10-Mar-20	15-Aug-23	310,379	48,939	-	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	6,813,224	101,521	-	161,916	-	2,518	203,875,085	174,951,980	69,318,583	64.7
	Lao PDR	24-Mar-20	29-Aug-23	218,811	1,225	7	758	-	2,888	6,324,678	5,691,962	2,451,034	75.1
	Malaysia	25-Jan-20	25-Aug-23	5,123,264	103,864	1,406	37,165	-	15,658	28,134,784	27,550,446	16,336,861	84.2
ASEAN REGION	Myanmar	23-Mar-20	29-Aug-23	641,173	7,598	20	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	27-Aug-23	2,557,466	370,792	7,045	1,879	7	43,792	5,284,679	5,248,693	4,769,158	89.9
	Thailand	13-Jan-20	28-Aug-23	4,756,406	37,498	256	34,459	6	6,796	57,667,543	54,182,967	27,393,906	77.4
	Vietnam	23-Jan-20	29-Aug-23	11,622,820	99,453	256	43,206	-	11,357	90,270,583	85,958,364	57,958,886	84.0
		ASE	AN COUNTRIES	36,356,584	887,864	8,990	368,802	13	154,808	530,349,353	483,066,631	227,367,325	70.3

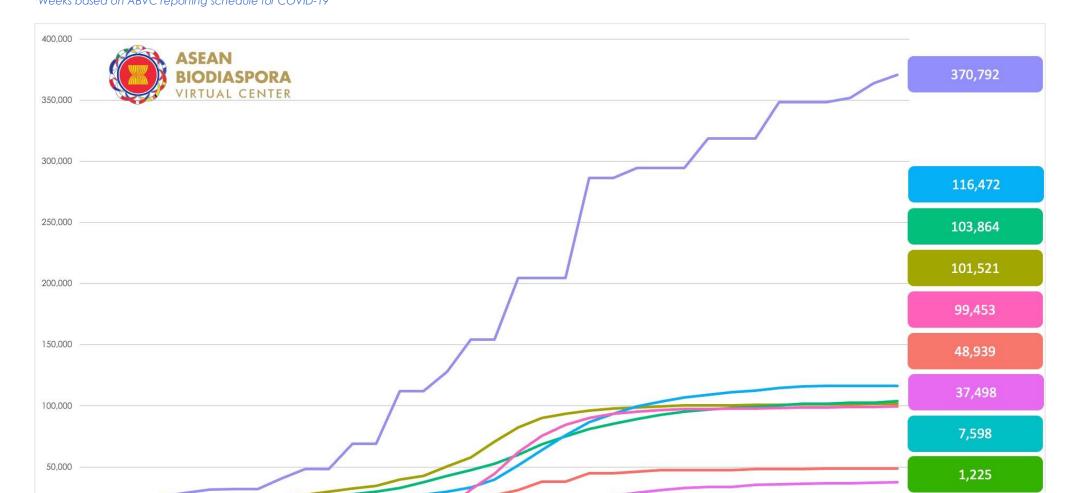
REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS
ASIA	198,830,567	1,566	1,210,411	10
AFRICA	12,836,690	6	258,825	-
AMERICAS	196,748,031	10,007	3,003,563	18
EUROPE	249,832,824	835	2,069,833	7
TOTAL	658,248,112	12,414	6,542,632	35

<sup>\*\*</sup>Data References: Singapore Government, Worldometer, and the WHO



# **COVID-19 Epidemic Curve Among ASEAN Countries**

From January 1 to August 29, 2023
\*Weeks based on ABVC reporting schedule for COVID-19

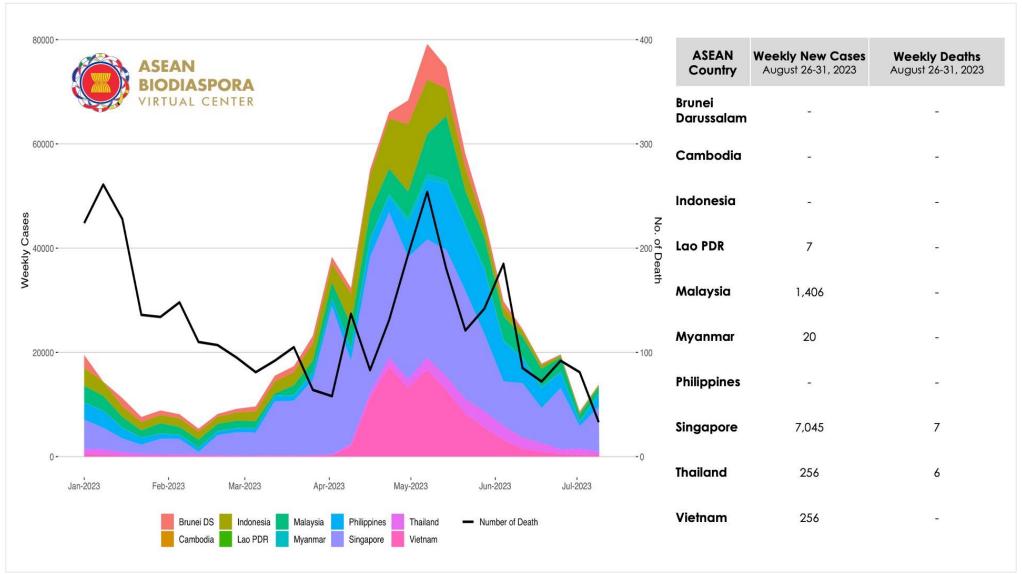


Brunei DS ——Cambodia ——Indonesia ——Lao PDR ——Malaysia ——Myanmar ——Philippines ——Singapore ——Thailand ——Vietnam



# **ASEAN Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and Deaths**

From January 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023

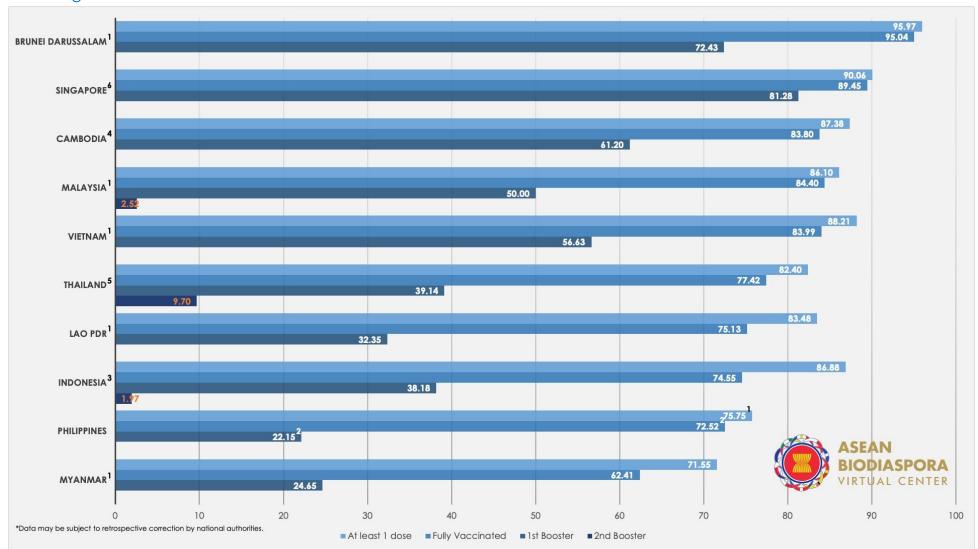


<sup>\*\*</sup>Data References: Singapore Government, Worldometer, and the WHO



## **ASEAN COVID-19 Vaccination Status**

as of 31 August 2023



- World Health Organization, Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard, accessed August 31, 2023 https://covid19.who.int/ Department of Health Philippines, National COVID-19 vaccination dashboard accessed August 31, 2023, https://doi.gov.ph/covid19-vaccination-dashboard

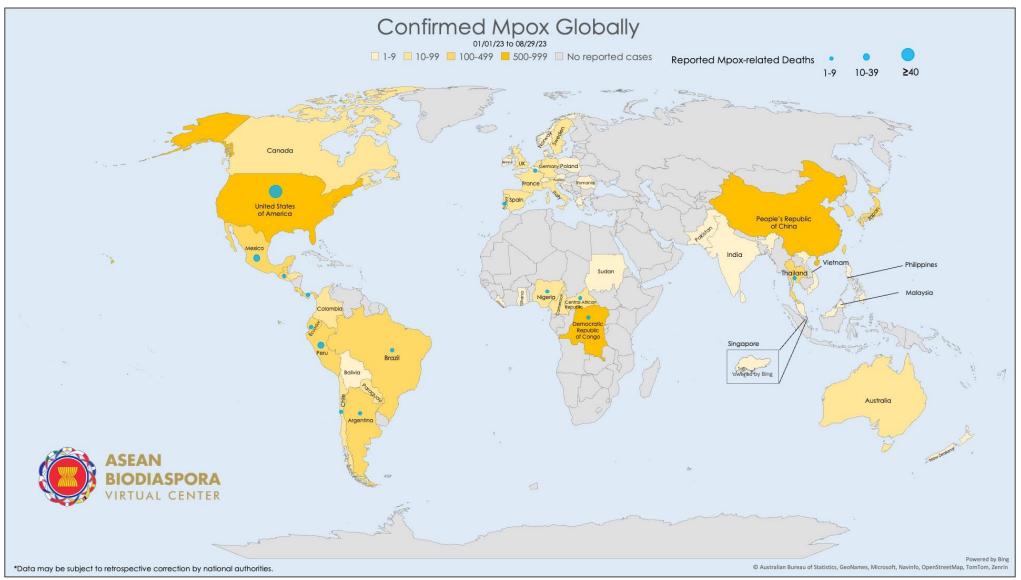
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# **Mpox Cases Reported Globally**

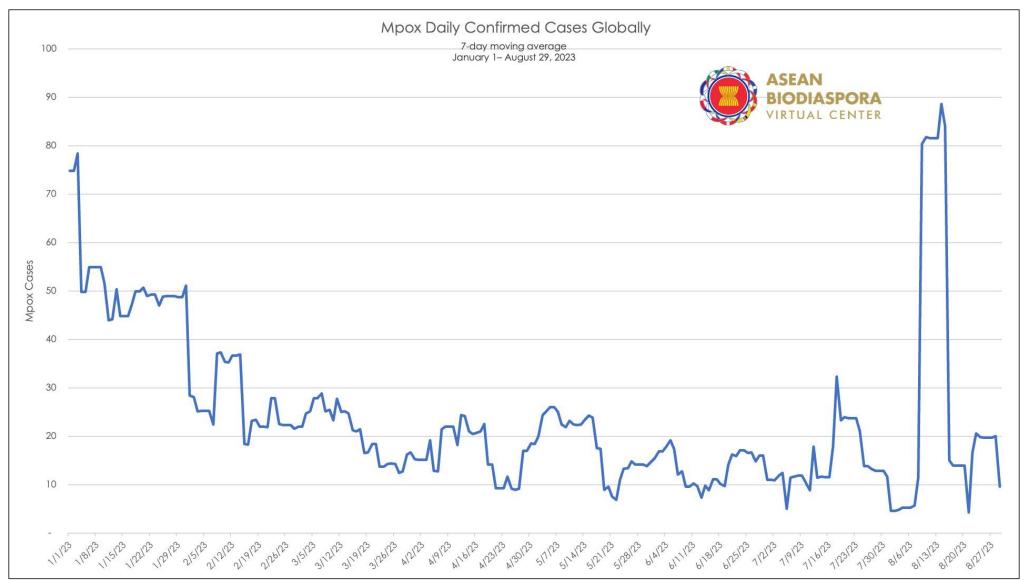
January 1 – August 29, 2023



Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed August 31, 2023, https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox.

# **Mpox Daily Trend Globally**

January 1 – August 29, 2023



Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed August 31, 2023, https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox.



## **Mpox: Highlights and Situation Overview**

- From 01 January to 29 August 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), there were 5,481 confirmed cases worldwide in 2023, including 83 deaths. Globally, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was 1.51%.
- 216 confirmed cases including 1 death in the ASEAN region in 2023, with a CFR of 0.46%.
- **5,265 confirmed cases** of Mpox have been reported in other **5 regions** in 2023 (other than the ASEAN region):

#### Mpox cases in the ASEAN region (Jan. 1 to Aug. 29, 2023)

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Malaysia	2	-	-	0.00%
Philippines	1	-	-	0.00%
Singapore	7	-	-	0.00%
Thailand	205	28	1	0.49%
Vietnam	1	-	-	0.00%
ASEAN Total	216	28	1	0.46%

#### Mpox cases in the Asia-Pacific region (Jan. 1 to Aug. 29, 2023)

Country/Territory	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Australia	11	-	-	0.00%
India	2	-	-	0.00%
Japan	187	-	-	0.00%
Nepal	1	-	-	0.00%
New Zealand	1	-	-	0.00%
People's Republic of China*	919	2	-	0.00%
Republic of Korea	131	-	-	0.00%
Sri Lanka	2	-	-	0.00%
Asia Pacific Total	1,253	2	-	0.00%

<sup>\*</sup>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 (Jan. 1 to Aug. 29, 2023)

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
United States of America	931	30	30	3.12%
People's Republic of China	641	2	0	0.00%
Democratic Republic of Congo	555	-	2	0.36%
Brazil	456	-	2	0.44%
Mexico	418	10	26	6.22%



#### 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	35	75	2.48%
ASEAN	216	28	1	0.46%
ASIA PACIFIC	1,253	2	-	0.00%
EUROPE	287	2	2	0.70%
MIDDLE EAST	11	1	-	0.00%
TOTAL	5,481	68	83	1.51%

Edouard Mathieu et al., "Mpox (Monkeypox)," Our World in Data, accessed August 31, 2023, https://ourworldindata.org/monkeypox.

#### **Global Updates**

• **USA:** The San Francisco Department of Public Health reports an increase in mpox cases, with seven confirmed cases in the past five weeks (ABC7, 2023). The city has been experiencing an average of one case per month since the start of the year. The mpox vaccine shortage led to a scramble to find it. Mpox, which has been present in central and west Africa for decades, typically causes symptoms like rash, fever, headache, muscle pain, and swollen lymph nodes. The disease spreads through close contact with infected patients and typically doesn't require medical treatment. [Full article]

#### **Regional Updates**

Malaysia: Perak State Health Department has implemented proactive preventive
measures to prevent the spread of monkeypox, advising people to seek immediate
treatment if they develop symptoms such as fever, fatigue, headaches, and a
maculopapular rash (The Star, 2023). The Health Ministry confirmed two cases of
monkeypox infection in the country, with the first involving a foreign male and the second
involving a local male. Health Department staff are also trained to manage cases. [Full
article]



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