

COVID-19, Mpox, and Other Infectious Diseases

# Situational Report in the ASEAN Region

-ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

December 7, 2022 | Issue No. 423

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

#### Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 643 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- China's government announced a broad loosening of COVID-19 restrictions on December 6 (Wednesday), adding that some COVID-19 positive cases can now quarantine at home. Some of the mandatory PCR testing requirements are also scaled down. Under the new guidelines, some asymptomatic and mild cases of COVID-19 can now be quarantined at home, ending a requirement that all positive cases be isolated in centralized government facilities. Furthermore, individuals travelling between provinces will also no longer require a negative test taken within 48 hours, and they will not have to test upon arrival.

#### **Regional Update**

- Singapore Ministry of Health announced that children aged six months to four years will soon be able to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine and bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to be available to people aged 12 and above starting December 12 (Monday). According to the Ministry of Health, those who already made a booking to receive the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty vaccine may choose to reschedule their appointments to a new date on or after December 12 if they prefer to receive the updated bivalent vaccine.
- Malaysia: In May of this year, the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) granted Evusheld conditional registration for COVID-19 pre-exposure prophylaxis (prevention) in adults and adolescents aged 12 years and older weighing at least 40kg who are unlikely to mount an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccination or for whom COVID-19 vaccination is not recommended. With the introduction of Evusheld into Malaysia's private market, the most vulnerable individuals, such as immunocompromised patients with underlying health conditions, high-risk individuals, and those who are unable to be vaccinated, can now benefit from an additional prevention option by paying for it through private hospitals. [Full Article]

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

This study, Myopericarditis After COVID-19 mRNA Vaccination Among Adolescents and Young Adults A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis, investigated the clinical features and early outcomes associated with myopericarditis after COVID-19 mRNA vaccination in a heterogeneous population of adolescents and young adults. Twenty three observational studies describing COVID-19 vaccine-associated myopericarditis in adolescents and young adults aged 12 to 20 years and reporting clinical characteristics and early outcomes were included from PubMed and EMBASE. Included in the analysis were 854 individuals (mean age, 15.9 [95% CI, 15.5-16.2] years) with COVID-19 vaccineassociated myopericarditis. Male sex was predominant, at 90.3% (95% CI, 87.3%-93.2%) of individuals. The incident rate was higher after the second dose than the first dose, with 74.4% (95% CI, 58.2%-90.5%) of events occurring after the second dose. Most patients (84.4% [95% CI, 80.5%-88.3%] of patients) had preserved left ventricular (LV) function.<sup>1</sup> Of the 15.6% (95% CI, 11.7%-19.5%) of patients with LV systolic dysfunction (LV ejection fraction [LVEF].1 Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging revealed late gadolinium enhancement in 87.2% (95% CI, 79.8%-94.7%) of patients. Although 92.6% (95% CI, 87.8%-97.3%) of patients were hospitalized and 23.2% (95% CI, 11.7%-34.7%) of



patients required ICU admission, inotropes were used in only 1.3% (95% CI, 0%-2.7%) of patients, no patients died or required mechanical support, and the hospital length of stay was 2.8 (95% CI, 2.1-3.5) days.<sup>1</sup>

## Cases and Deaths as of 07 December 2022

- As of 07 December 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **643,675,417** confirmed cases, including **6,653,206** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2%**.
- 35,360,316 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	06-Dec-22	241,044	-	225	-	55,632	450,404	445,929	338,987	99.3
REGION	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	06-Dec-22	138,176	19	3,056	-	838	15,226,312	14,590,810	10,358,897	87.0
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	06-Dec-22	6,686,181	3,744	160,071	45	2,471	203,715,848	174,119,714	66,624,569	63.2
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	06-Dec-22	216,919	76	758	-	3,026	5,888,649	5,222,417		69.4
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	06-Dec-22	5,001,908	-	36,716	-	15,656	28,116,251	27,527,184	16,863,344	81.1
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	06-Dec-22	633,324	-	19,488	-	1,172	34,777,314	27,545,329	2,227,351	50.8
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	06-Dec-22	4,042,936	754	64,770	20	3,739	78,196,194	73,738,568	20,946,059	63.8
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	06-Dec-22	2,169,789	776	1,706	1	38,043	5,156,279	5,113,405	4,440,289	90.7
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	06-Dec-22	4,711,528	-	33,285	-	6,767	57,005,497	53,486,086	32,143,431	74.6
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	06-Dec-22	11,518,511	362	43,178	1	11,941	90,156,999	84,690,714	56,988,856	86.3
		ASI	EAN COUNTRIES	35,360,316	5,731	363,253	67	139,283	518,689,747	466,480,156	210,931,783	

<sup>\*</sup>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	06-Dec-22	206,331	58	7,835	-	542	11,292,816	10,587,076		25.7
PACIFIC	Australia	25-Jan-20	30-Nov-22	10,646,942	-	16,090	-	41,509	22,236,983	21,656,235	19,567,150	82.7
REGION	Bangladesh	08-Mar-20	06-Dec-22	2,036,685	22	29,435	-	1,249	149,130,860	125,670,627	60,611,619	73.4
	Bhutan	05-Mar-20	06-Dec-22	62,512	9	21	-	8,192	699,116	677,669	634,641	86.6
	People's Republic of China*		06-Dec-22	10,919,269	31,015	30,605	0	64,957	1,333,995,798	1,300,798,530	209,874,829	89.0
	Cook Islands	17-Feb-22	14-Sep-22	6,389	ı	1	-	29,872	15,084	14,715	10,209	86.4
	Fiji	18-Mar-20	04-Dec-22	68,451	ı	878	-	7,692	711,429	640,282	169,174	68.9
	French Polynesia	12-Mar-20	30-Nov-22	76,899	-	649	-	27,534	190,765	186,059	112,237	60.8
	Guam	15-Mar-20	05-Dec-22	59,460	-	409	-	35,542	157,961	143,409	_	85.1
	India	30-Jan-20	06-Dec-22	44,673,783	165	530,633	3	3,269	1,027,063,055	950,826,154	221,525,655	67.1



Japan	16-Jan-20	19-Oct-22	21,858,528	-	46,014	-	17,312	104,437,506	103,014,777	146,353,032	83.1
Kiribati	25-Jan-22	25-Jul-22	3,430	-	13	-	2,917	96,184	73,888	23,419	56.3
Maldives	07-Mar-20	06-Dec-22	185,632	14	311	-	34,962	399,146	385,076	167,176	73.5
Marshall Islands	26-Oct-20	26-Nov-22	15,541	-	17	-	26,434	42,920	34,305		44.1
Micronesia	11-Jan-21	31-Oct-22	22,203	-	55	-	19,508	83,455	69,808		68.2
Mongolia	10-Mar-20	03-Dec-22	993,372	-	2,179	-	30,801	2,272,965	2,175,617	1,044,337	64.0
Nepal	24-Jan-20	06-Dec-22	1,000,912	1	12,019	-	3,499	27,398,529	23,857,858	8,674,375	78.1
New Caledonia	17-Mar-20	06-Dec-22	77,127	1,076	314	-	26,799	191,672	184,136	94,041	63.5
New Zealand	28-Feb-20	05-Dec-22	1,979,614	-	3,337	-	40,261	4,298,557	4,135,113	3,409,421	79.8
Niue	03-Sep-21	05-Dec-22	180	-	-	-	8,310	1,255	1,227	1,153	62.9
Northern Mariana Islands	28-Mar-20	01-Nov-22	13,212	-	41	-	23,091	46,340	43,770		84.4
Pakistan	26-Feb-20	06-Dec-22	1,575,355	25	30,632	-	727	139,634,721	132,294,876	48,699,230	56.1
Palau	31-May-21	06-Dec-22	5,896	111	7	-	32,741	20,699	18,445		85.7
Papua New Guinea	21-Mar-20	30-Nov-22	45,917	-	668	-	523	364,894	304,687	30,676	3.0
Samoa	18-Nov-20	25-Nov-22	15,967	-	29	-	8,101	231,546	215,077	79,061	96.7
Solomon Islands	03-Oct-20	24-Nov-22	24,575	-	153	-	3,669	343,821	254,352	27,783	35.1
Republic of Korea**	20-Jan-20	06-Dec-22	27,467,707	74,691	30,831	54	53,120	45,132,383	44,702,678	41,316,263	86.3
Sri Lanka	27-Jan-20	06-Dec-22	671,719	5	16,806	1	3,081	17,143,761	14,752,827	8,220,002	67.6
Timor Leste	21-Mar-20	06-Dec-22	23,355	1	138	-	1,806	872,617	779,475	291,233	58.1
Tonga	05-Nov-21	06-Sep-22	16,182	-	12	-	15,486	91,949	77,464	38,331	72.5
Türkiye	10-Mar-20	23-Nov-22	17,004,130	-	101,395	-	20,381	57,941,051	53,176,961	41,425,329	62.3
Vanuatu	11-Nov-20	02-Nov-22	11,952	-	14	-	3,986	144,824	131,697	16,996	40.3
Wallis et Futuna	17-Oct-20	28-Jul-22	761	-	7	-	4,749	7,136	6,794	3,742	58.6
	·	ASIA PACIFIC	141,769,988	107,193	861,548	58	602,621	2,946,691,798	2,791,891,664	812,421,114	<del></del>

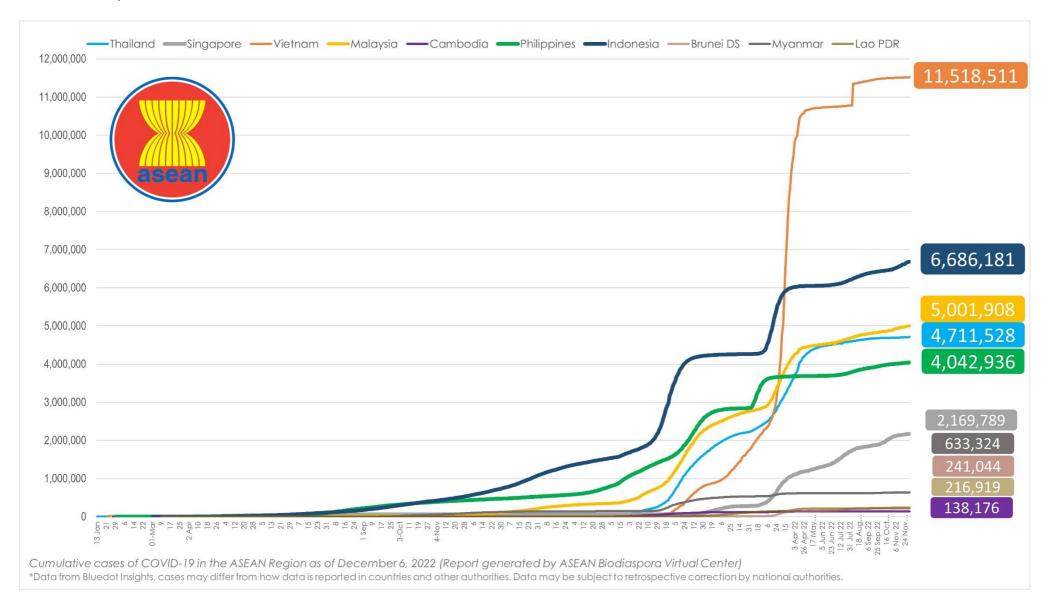
<sup>\*</sup>Includes cases from Hong Kong (SAR), Macau (SAR), and Republic of China (Taiwan)
\*\*Republic of Korea – South Korea

## • 466,545,113 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	12,976,028	235	259,085	-	246,337	452,063,981	364,655,946	58,534,229
AMERICAS	185,959,489	22,255	2,908,384	306	1,216,930	832,592,565	732,230,753	484,682,511
EUROPE	245,009,697	25,692	2,022,292	196	2,067,962	568,560,380	539,548,707	375,222,958
MIDDLE EAST	22,599,899	2,293	238,644	16	214,360	144,456,928	129,779,457	59,694,800
TOTAL	466,545,113	50,475	5,428,405	518	3,745,588	1,997,673,854	1,766,214,863	978,134,498

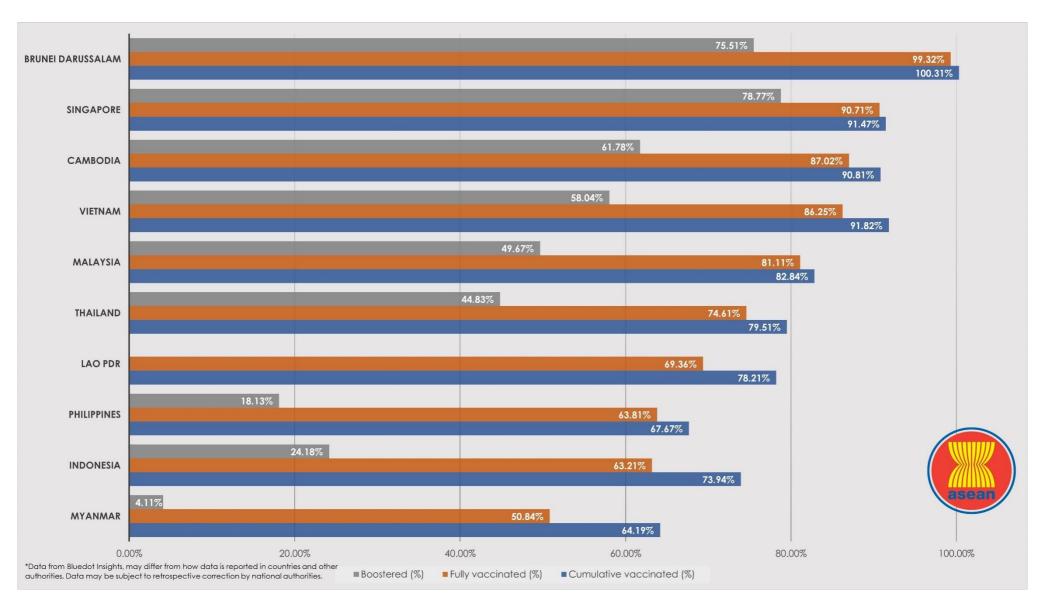
# **COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:**

From January 1, 2021 to December 7, 2022



# **ASEAN COVID-19 Vaccination Status**

as of 07 December 2022





# **ASEAN COVID-19 Outlook Assessment**

as of 07 December 2022

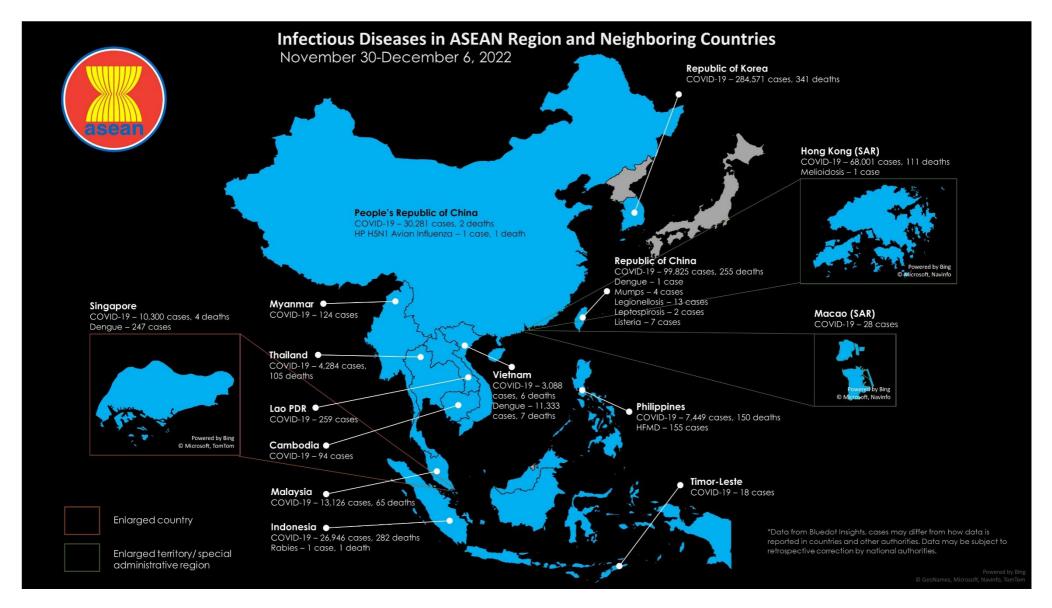
ASEAN MEMBER STATE	immunity to COVID-19; eit 19 or have been vaccinat	population has a level of her recovered from COVID- ed with at least one dose of 19 vaccine.	Case levels are generally low (a 7-day rolling average number of daily new cases that is <10 cases per 100,000, with each day's past-14-day 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 / boostered	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	0.00	31.0/100	
Cambodia	≥90.0/61.8	Unknown	0.08	31.5/100	
Indonesia	66.7/24.2	Unknown	1.42	54.2/100	
Lao PDR	77.3/ND	Unknown	0.52	61.6/100	
Malaysia	84.5/49.7	0%/day	5.13	51.8/100	
Myanmar	52.1/4.1	Unknown	0.03	69.1/100	
Philippines	71.4/18.1	Unknown	0.98	55.4/100	
Singapore	≥90.0/78.8	0%/day	21.25	58.9/100	
Thailand	77.7/44.8	Unknown	0.88	31.5/100	
Vietnam	≥90.0/58.0	Unknown	0.46	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 November 30-December 6, 2022





## Infectious Diseases Other than COVID-19 and Mpox

November 30-December 6, 2022

## Infectious Disease in ASEAN region and Neighboring Countries Updates

#### Dengue

- **Singapore:** A total of 30,969 dengue cases have been reported here so far in 2022, as at last Friday almost six times that of the whole of 2021.<sup>3</sup> Weekly figures also remain high, leading the authorities to warn that the elevated numbers could portend another outbreak in 2023.<sup>3</sup> In an update on the dengue situation on Dec. 5, the National Environment Agency (NEA) said that although weekly dengue cases had declined by about 80 per cent from the peak in May, when they hit a high of 1,568, the current tally of between 200 and 300 new cases each week was still high for this time of year.<sup>3</sup> This was about 20% more than the average number of cases reported for the same period in the preceding three years, it added.<sup>3</sup> The NEA has attributed the high number of cases in 2022 to the DenV-3 strain of dengue, which the population here has lower immunity against.<sup>3</sup> On Dec. 5, it said that on Dec. 2, it had closed about 97%, or 2,959, of the 3,028 dengue clusters here that had emerged since the start of the year. Some 69 dengue clusters still remain, the agency said.<sup>3</sup> [Full Article]
- Vietnam. Vietnamese health authorities reported an additional 10,000-plus dengue fever cases in the past week, bringing the country total since the beginning of the year to 325,604.4 The dengue death toll has risen to 122.4 Compared with the same period in 2021 (66.002/25), the number of cases increased by 4.9 times, the number of deaths increased by 97 cases. 4 Due to the cyclical nature of the dengue epidemic, the current weather conditions are favorable for the development of mosquito larvae, the development of disease-transmitting mosquitoes, the rapid urbanization rate, and the increase in the exchange and travel of people after the COVID-19 epidemic.4 In addition, people's awareness in proactive disease prevention is not high, through inspection and supervision, many nests of larvae and larvae are still detected in households and residential areas. 4 The Ministry of Health also forecast that in the coming time, the situation of dengue fever will continue to develop complicatedly and tend to increase.4 The Ministry of Health suggested that the provinces and cities pay attention to focus on directing and mobilizing socio-political departments, agencies and organizations to coordinate with the health sector to immediately deploy a campaign to kill larvae/larvae, inspect, monitor tanks, water containers, items, waste, breeding places of mosquitoes to conduct forms of killing larva.<sup>4</sup> [Full Article]

#### **Melioidosis**

• Hongkong. The Centre for Health Protection said on Dec. 2 that one new confirmed melioidosis infection case had been recorded in the past week, involving a 70-year-old woman with diabetes living at Un Chau Street, Cheung Sha Wan.<sup>5</sup> The center said the woman developed dizziness and fever since November 17 and was admitted to hospital after seeking medical attention at the Accident and Emergency Department of Caritas Medical Centre on November 19.<sup>5</sup> Her clinical diagnosis was a chest infection and her sputum specimen was confirmed positive for Burkholderia pseudomallei.<sup>5</sup> She is still hospitalized and her current condition is stable.<sup>5</sup> The center noted that one of her family members was a confirmed melioidosis case in mid-September this year.<sup>5</sup> "As the incubation period of melioidosis can reach several months, the possibility that they were exposed to the same polluted environment and infected earlier cannot be ruled out.<sup>5</sup> An epidemiological investigation of the case is ongoing," a center statement wrote.<sup>5</sup> A



total of 38 melioidosis infection cases have been recorded in Hong Kong so far this year, among which 22 cases living in Sham Shui Po were recorded since August.<sup>5</sup> [Full Article]

#### **Rabies**

• Indonesia: Cases of death due to dog bites or rabies in Buleleng Regency, Bali Province, are quite high. In 2022, 12 people in Buleleng have died from rabies. Member of Commission IX DPR RI or in charge of health from the Bali Electoral District, I Ketut Kariyasa Adnyana asked the Buleleng Government to immediately stipulate rabies as an Extraordinary Event (KLB). "With the high number of deaths from rabies, it should be designated as an outbreak. If there is an outbreak, then serious steps must be taken," he explained on Monday (5/12/2022) quoted from Kompas.com. Determination of rabies as an outbreak in Buleleng will make this disease treated immediately so that there are no more fatalities. If it is not handled immediately, it will have an impact on the tourism sector in Bali which is currently trying to revive. [Full Article]

#### Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

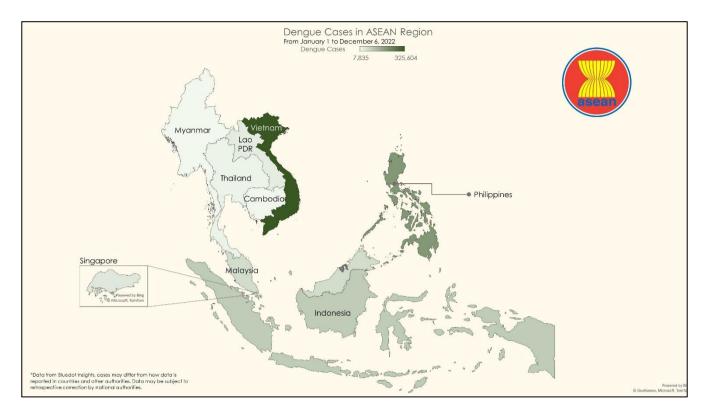
• **Philippines**: There have been a total of 155 cases of hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) in the National Capital Region (NCR), according to Department of Health (DOH) officer-in-charge (OIC) Maria Rosario Vergeire on Dec. 6.7 We have in the National Capital Region, from October to December, there were 155 cases of this hand, foot, and mouth disease and the majority of them were children 11 years old and below. Vergeire said that this was not enough to declare an outbreak. The NCR cases happened within two to three months, said the OIC. "We are seeing an increase of cases, if we look at it, for these past weeks of hand, foot, and mouth disease, but there is no trigger, or we do not have enough basis for our local governments to declare outbreaks in their area. These are all manageable and preventable, said Vergeire in a mix of Filipino and English. The DOH is also investigating an alleged rise of cases in Santa Mesa in Manila, while Vergeire said their agency has yet to receive reports from Quezon City. [Full Article]

## Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza

• China. Health officials in Hong Kong report closely monitoring a human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) in the mainland.<sup>8</sup> The case involves a 38-year-old woman living in Qinzhou, Guangxi, who had exposure to live domestic poultry before onset.<sup>8</sup> She developed symptoms on September 22 and was admitted for treatment on September 25. She passed away on October 18.<sup>8</sup> From 2005 to date, 54 human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1), including 32 fatalities have been reported by Mainland health authorities. This is the fourth human case reported globally in 2022 and the first death (other human cases were reported in Spain (2) and the United States).<sup>8</sup> Globally, 868 total confirmed human H5N1 avian influenza cases have been reported since 2003, including 457 deaths in 21 countries.<sup>8</sup> [Full Article]

# **Dengue Cases in ASEAN Region**

From January 1, 2022 to December 6, 2022



## **Dengue cases in ASEAN region**

Country	Dengue Cases	New Cases in the Past Week	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	9,482	-	16	0.17%
Indonesia	94,355	-	853	0.90%
Lao PDR	30,085	-	22	0.07%
Malaysia	61,112	-	37	0.06%
Myanmar	7,835	-	31	0.40%
Philippines	196,728	-	642	0.33%
Singapore	31,045	514	-	0.00%
Thailand	17,412	-	14	0.08%
Vietnam	325,604	11,333	122	0.04%
Total	773,658	11,847	1,737	0.22%

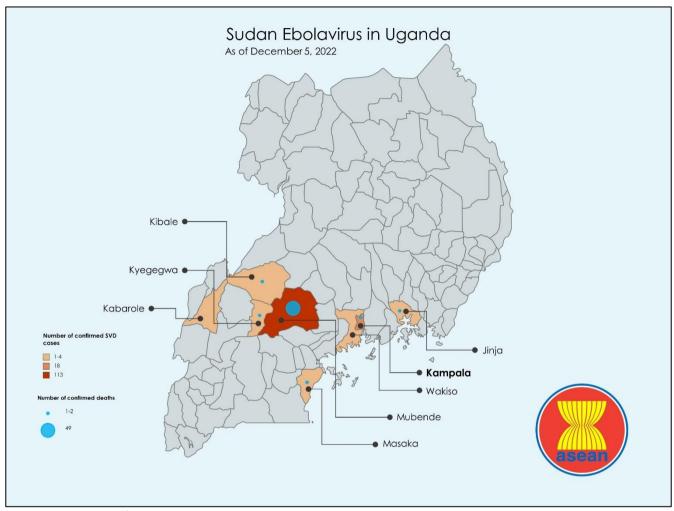
<sup>\*</sup>Data from Bluedot Insights, cases may differ from how data is reported in countries and other authorities. Data may be subject to retrospective correction by national authorities.

 ASEAN region reported 11,847 new dengue cases in the past week from the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam. The region reported 773,658 total cases and 1,737 deaths since January 2022 with 0.22% CFR.

## **Special Report on Notable Diseases**

#### **Ebola Disease Outbreak**

#### Sudan Ebolavirus in Uganda



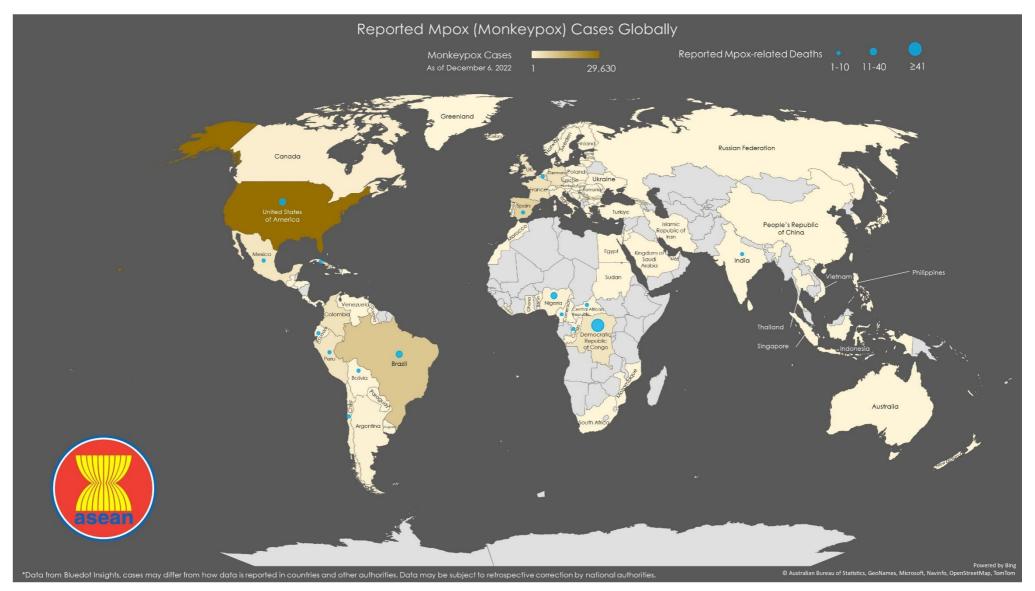
Data Source: OCHA Reliefweb in Uganda

# Level of Concern: High Concern Risk of Importation: Low or unlikely of importation to ASEAN region

Dec. 5 marks 80 days of responding to the EVD outbreak. There was one new confirmed case or death documented during the week, with no recovery. The case fatality ratio (CFR) among confirmed patients is 55/142 (39%). A total of 36 contacts are being actively followed-up on in four districts, with a 100% follow-up rate in the last 24 hours. [Full Report]

# **Mpox (Monkeypox) Cases Reported Globally**

as of December 7, 2022



# **Mpox: Highlights and Situation Overview**

- As of 07 December 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **87,054** confirmed cases, including **213** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **0.24%**.
- 40 confirmed cases in the ASEAN region, with CFR of 0%.
- **87,014 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	19	-	-	0.00%
Thailand	12	-	-	0.00%
Vietnam	4	-	-	0.00%
ASEAN Total	40	-	-	0.00%

## Mpox cases in Asia-Pacific region

Country/Territory	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Australia	143	-	-	0.00%
Hong Kong (SAR)	1	-	-	0.00%
India	20	-	1	5.00%
Japan	7	-	-	0.00%
New Caledonia	1	-	-	0.00%
New Zealand	39	3	-	0.00%
People's Republic of China*	5	-	-	0.00%
Republic of China*	4	-	-	0.00%
Republic of Korea*	4	-	-	0.00%
Sri Lanka	2	-	-	0.00%
Asia-Pacific Total	226	3	1	0.45%

<sup>\*</sup>People's Republic of China – China, Republic of China – Taiwan, Republic of Korea – South Korea

#### Top 5 countries with most mpox cases globally

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
United States of America	29,630	27	20	0.07%
Brazil	10,087	83	14	0.14%
Spain	7,408	-	3	0.04%
France	4,110	-	-	0.00%
Colombia	3,861	58	-	0.00%



REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2022	NEW CASES SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT	TOTAL DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE
AFRICA	5,079	-	160	3.15%
AMERICAS	55,437	132	47	0.08%
ASEAN	40	-	-	0.00%
ASIA PACIFIC	226	3	1	0.44%
EUROPE	25,953	-	4	0.02%
MIDDLE EAST	319	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL	87,054	135	213	0.24%

#### **Vaccine Update**

• The La Jolla Institute for Immunology (LJI) researchers discovered new evidence that the vaccinia vaccination MVA-BN (brand name JYNNEOS) can educate virus-fighting T cells to recognize the monkeypox (mpox) virus. According to the World Health Organization, 41,664 confirmed cases of mpox have been reported in non-endemic countries, with five deaths, raising concerns about the pandemic potential of novel othopoxviruses. With the current outbreak, scientists are delving deeper into the human immune response to mpox infections. There is currently minimal evidence on the quality and length of immune responses to mpox infection in humans, as well as little data on the efficacy of vaccines based on the orthopoxvirus vaccinia (VACV). According to the LJI researchers, it is also unknown to what extent human cellular immune responses induced by VACV vaccination are cross-reactive with mpox. [Full Article]

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