This epidemiological bulletin aims to provide the situation of selected outbreak-prone infectious diseases and acute public health events in the WHO South-East Asia region to inform risk assessments and responses. The bulletin primarily uses information from publicly available sources and will be published every two weeks. For feedback or suggestions, please write to seoutbreak@who.int.

Table of Contents

Key events and updates .................................................................................................................................................. 2
  Myanmar, Acute Watery Diarrhea .......................................................................................................................... 2
  Update: Global Dengue Situation ........................................................................................................................... 3
  New publication: Advancing Joint Risk Assessment using the One Health Approach in WHO South-East Asia Region. Report of the meeting ................................................................. 4

COVID-19 ........................................................................................................................................................................ 5

mpox ............................................................................................................................................................................. 8

Dengue ............................................................................................................................................................................ 10
  Bangladesh ............................................................................................................................................................ 10
  Maldives ............................................................................................................................................................... 11
  Nepal .................................................................................................................................................................... 11
  Sri Lanka ............................................................................................................................................................ 11
  Thailand ............................................................................................................................................................ 12

Influenza ........................................................................................................................................................................ 13
  WHO South-East Asia Region ............................................................................................................................... 13
  Bangladesh .......................................................................................................................................................... 13
  Sri Lanka .......................................................................................................................................................... 14
Key events and updates

Myanmar, Acute Watery Diarrhea

Situation as of 26 June 2024

Situation Overview

- According to the local partners, cluster of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases has been reported in Rakhine and Chin States since late May 2024. Due to limited access, the number of cases below cannot be validated.
- Rakhine State
  - In Buthidaung, there were 16 villages affected and approximately 40 to 60 people reportedly died following AWD. Allegedly, more than 50% of total population of 10 000 people from 3 village townships have suffered from AWD in June.
- Chin State
  - In Paletwa Township, allegedly more than 100 AWD cases were reported including 14 deaths in estimated 13 villages, starting from early June 2024
  - In Mindat Township, cluster of AWD cases including a few deaths were reported in estimated two villages
- Urgent needs include access to laboratory diagnosis and supply of medicine for prevention and control of the outbreak situation.
- Challenges include access to the affected areas, availability and delivery of laboratory and medical supplies, safety and security, and internet access. There is no hospital service for case management, and no referral hospital in nearby area.

Public Health Response

Response in the field

- The local health care providers and the volunteers in the field have been conducting response and control actions in both townships in Chin state. Prevention and control measures are conducted at limited scale.

Response by WHO

- In coordination with United Nations partners and local partners, WHO is working to support the response actions to the outbreak situation, including through providing technical guidance, financial resources and medical supplies.
- WHO continues to intensively monitor the situation and assess public health risks.
Update: Global Dengue Situation

Situation Overview

- On 30 May 2024, WHO published a Disease Outbreak News article on global dengue situation in 2024 and launched the Global Dengue Surveillance dashboard (https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/).
- The dashboard is based on newly developed global dengue surveillance system with monthly reporting across all WHO regions.
- As of 20 June 2024, over 9.6 million dengue cases have been reported to WHO in 2024, including 4.7 million confirmed cases, over 19 000 severe cases, and over 5 000 deaths.
- 90 countries have known active dengue transmission in 2024, not all of which have been captured in formal reporting. In addition, many endemic countries do not have strong detection and reporting mechanisms, so the true burden of dengue globally is underestimated.
- Given the current scale of the dengue outbreaks, the potential risk of further international spread and the complexity of factors impacting transmission, the overall risk at the global level is still assessed as High and thus dengue remains a global threat to public health.

Figure 1. Dengue situation in WHO South-East Asia Region, shown on the Global Dashboard (as of 20 June 2024, accessed on 26 June 2024)

Recent WHO publications on dengue

- Risk communication and community engagement readiness and response toolkit dengue fever on 20 June 2024
- Dengue information for travelers on 24 May 2024

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1 Disease Outbreak News: Dengue-Global Situation Published on 30 May 2024
2 Dengue Global Dashboard, accessed on 26 June 2024
New publication: Advancing Joint Risk Assessment using the One Health Approach in WHO South-East Asia Region. Report of the meeting

Since 2017, the collaborative efforts of the Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations, World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health have led to the development and roll-out of the Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) Operational Tool (OT), a practical instrument linked to the Tripartite Zoonoses Guide.

A regional meeting was held to strengthen conduct of JRA using a One Health approach in the WHO South-East Asia Region in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 25 to 27 July 2023.

In the meeting, the countries shared good practices, lessons and challenges in conducting JRA, practiced the application of the JRA OT and identified priority actions to further advance JRA to guide collaborative risk management activities using a One Health approach. The meeting recommended further strengthening JRA at the human–animal–environment interface by engaging multisectoral One Health stakeholders in the respective country context. It was suggested that actual application of JRA in the country may require a “learning by doing” approach.

This workshop was an opportunity to dive into the JRA OT and recognize the importance of engaging stakeholders at the human-animal-interface, highlighting that JRA in the country may require a “learning by doing” approach and enhanced collaborative efforts between sectors, but also throughout the geographical levels, to address health risks.

The report was published on 14 June 2024 and is available at the following link: https://www.who.int/southeastasia/publications-detail/9789290211501
COVID-19

Status as of 23 June 2024

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, from 10 to 23 June 2024, 5,273 new COVID-19 cases, a decrease of 6.4% and 26 deaths, an increase of 23.8%, were reported, compared to the previous 14 days (Table 1).
  - From 10 to 23 June 2024, Thailand (4,704 new cases, +1.7%) and Myanmar (139 new cases, +5.3%) reported an increase in the number of new cases while India (224 new cases, -59.3%), Bangladesh (197 new cases, -41.4%) and Sri Lanka (9 new cases, -18.2%) reported a decrease in the number of new cases, compared to the previous 14 days.
  - Data were not available from Indonesia, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Timor-Leste for this period.
- The Region has recorded a cumulative total of 61,303,065 COVID-19 cases, including 808,760 deaths (Table 1).
- During week 23 in 2024, the proportion of respiratory samples collected at influenza sentinel surveillance sites in the selected countries that tested positive for COVID-19 ranged from 1.5% (Bangladesh) to 9% (Nepal) (Figure 2).
- Please refer to the WHO SEARO COVID-19 dashboard for further information of COVID-19 in WHO South-East Asia Region.
- Globally, 775,615,736 COVID-19 cases, including 7,051,323 deaths have been cumulatively reported, as of 9 June 2024. Please visit WHO COVID-19 dashboard for global situation of COVID-19.

Table 1. COVID-19 cases, deaths, and the weekly change in countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region in the week from 10 to 23 June 2024:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Cumulative cases</th>
<th>New cases (last 14 days)</th>
<th>% change in new cases</th>
<th>New cases per 1M pop</th>
<th>Cumulative deaths</th>
<th>New deaths (last 14 days)</th>
<th>% change in new deaths</th>
<th>New deaths per 1M pop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>4,790,988</td>
<td>4,704</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>54,077</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>45,040,284</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>-59.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>533,621</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-71.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>2,030,300</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>-41.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>29,497</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>642,684</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>19,494</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>722,788</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-18.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>16,907</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>6,829,120</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>163,058</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>62,657</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>180,694</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1,003,450</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>12,031</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>23,400</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAR Total</td>
<td>61,303,065</td>
<td>5,273</td>
<td>-6.4</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>808,760</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past 14 days, compared to the previous 14 days. NA = data not available.

DPR Korea has not reported confirmed COVID-19 cases.
Thailand data were for the period from 9 to 22 June 2024 in comparison to the preceding 14 days.
Sri Lanka data were for the period from 7 to 20 June 2024 in comparison to the preceding 14 days.
As for cumulative numbers, Maldives data are as of 5 August 2023, Timor-Leste data as of 11 August 2023, Bhutan data as of 8 October 2023, Nepal data as of 20 October 2023 and Indonesia data as of 8 June 2024.

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3 Global Dashboard Data as 9 June 2024
Figure 2. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases reported during the previous ten weeks (as of 23 June 2024) in the WHO South-East Asia Region*:

![Graph showing weekly cases and deaths for various countries](image)

Epidemiological Week

* Data of Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal and Timor-Leste are not available. Indonesia data as of 8 June 2024.

Figure 3. Weekly number of SARS-CoV-2 positive samples and test positivity from integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems in the previous eight weeks in selected counties* (as of 23 June 2024):

![Graph showing weekly SARS-CoV-2 positivity](image)

Epidemiological Week

* Countries routinely conducting SARS-CoV-2 testing of the samples collected through influenza sentinel surveillance sites (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Nepal and Timor-Leste).
Global circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants

- WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants and their sub-lineages including 4:
  - Three variants of interest (VOIs): EG.5; BA.2.86 and JN.1
  - Four variants under monitoring (VUMs): JN.1.7; KP.2; KP.3 and JN.1.18
- Information on the current status of the global SARS-CoV-2 variants can be found from the WHO COVID-19 dashboard.

SARS-CoV-2 variants in the South-East Asia Region

- As of 22 June 2024, the genomic sequence data submitted to GISAID5 by countries in the South-East Asia region in the past 60 days by date of collection are shown in Figures 4a and 4b. Only a small number of genomic sequences have been submitted from countries and therefore the data should be interpreted with caution.
- In the last 60 days:
  - In Indonesia, Three genomic sequences were submitted of which two genomic sequences with JN.1* were submitted.
  - In India, 27 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1* accounting for 55.6% (n=15) followed by KP.2* (18.5%, n=5) and KP.3* (7.4%, n=2).
  - In Nepal, 12 genomic sequences were submitted with KP.2* accounting for 33.3% (n=4) followed by JN.1* (16.7%, n=2). One genomic sequence with KP.3* was also submitted.
  - In Thailand, 137 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1* accounting for 60.6% (n=83) followed by KP.2* (11.7%, n=16), JN.1.18* (6.6%, n=9), KP.3* (2.2%, n=3). Four genomic sequences with BA.2.86* were also submitted.
  - Other countries have not submitted genomic sequences recently to GISAID.

Figure 4. Number (A) and proportion (B) of SARS-CoV-2 VOI and VUM sequences submitted to GISAID within the past 30 days and 31-60 days as of 22 June 2024 by date of collection (countries in South-East Asia region, with recent submissions) 1

A. Number

B. Proportion

Other countries in the region have not submitted genomic sequences to GISAID in the past 60 days.

* indicates the sub-lineage of each variant.

1 The date next to the country name indicates the latest date of sample collection for sequence submission to GISAID.

2 XBB* excludes XBB.1.16*, XBB.1.5*, XBB.1.9.1*, and XBB.2.3*.


5 https://gisaid.org/
mpox

Status as of 23 June 2024

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 920 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases (including 11 deaths) have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 5).
- In epidemiological weeks 23 (03 to 09 June 2024) and 24 (10 to 16 June 2024), six new mpox cases were reported from Thailand ⁶ (Figure 6).
- In epidemiological weeks 23 and 24, no new mpox case was reported from Indonesia ⁷ (Figure 6).
- For more information on the global situation of mpox outbreak, please visit the global dashboard.

Figure 5. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 23 June 2024)

![Figure 5](image)

* Week beginning (yyyy-mm-dd)

* Cases are plotted as per the week of notification (based on the date on which the case was notified to the public health authority). For 86 cases in Indonesia for which the date of notification is missing, the date of diagnosis was used.

Figure 6. Weekly number of mpox cases reported in Indonesia (n=86) and Thailand (n=787) since 1 January 2023 by date of notification* (as of 23 June 2024):

![Figure 6](image)

* Cases are plotted as per the week of notification (based on the date on which the case was notified to the public health authority). Where the date of notification is missing for cases in Indonesia, this was replaced with the date of diagnosis.

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⁶ Thailand Mmpox
⁷ Indonesia Mmpox
Table 2. Profile of the 915 confirmed mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region for which case-based information is available since July 2022 and since July 2023 (as of 23 June 2024):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Since July 2022 (n = 915)</th>
<th>Since July 2023 (n = 782)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>27 (3.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>86 (9.4%)</td>
<td>85 (10.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1 (0.1%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>4 (0.4%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>797 (87.1%)</td>
<td>697 (89.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Since July 2022 (n = 915)</th>
<th>Since July 2023 (n = 782)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>36 (3.9%)</td>
<td>14 (1.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>878 (96.0%)</td>
<td>768 (98.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>1 (0.1%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group (years)</th>
<th>Since July 2022 (n = 915)</th>
<th>Since July 2023 (n = 782)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 18</td>
<td>4 (0.4%)</td>
<td>3 (0.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>311 (34.0%)</td>
<td>272 (34.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>386 (42.2%)</td>
<td>329 (42.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>178 (19.5%)</td>
<td>152 (19.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 and over</td>
<td>36 (3.9%)</td>
<td>26 (3.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual orientation</th>
<th>Since July 2022 (n = 915)</th>
<th>Since July 2023 (n = 782)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>64 (7.0%)</td>
<td>40 (5.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men who have sex with men (MSM)</td>
<td>745 (81.4%)</td>
<td>659 (84.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>20 (2.2%)</td>
<td>19 (2.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>26 (2.8%)</td>
<td>24 (3.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>60 (6.6%)</td>
<td>40 (5.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recent travel</th>
<th>Since July 2022 (n = 915)</th>
<th>Since July 2023 (n = 782)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>45 (4.9%)</td>
<td>14 (1.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>862 (94.2%)</td>
<td>766 (98.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>8 (0.9%)</td>
<td>2 (0.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dengue

Bangladesh

- During week 25 (17 June 2024 to 23 June 2024), a total of 174 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 12.3% increase compared to 155 cases reported during week 24 (10 June 2024 to 16 June 2024).
- During week 25, a total of one new dengue death was reported in Bangladesh, a 50% decrease compared to two deaths reported during week 24.
- During 2024 (as of 23 June 2024), a total of 3,396 dengue cases and 41 dengue related deaths have been reported. This compares to 7,197 cases and 45 deaths reported during the same period in 2023 (53% and 9% less in 2024, respectively).

Figure 7. Number of new cases and deaths from dengue by epidemiological week in Bangladesh from epidemiological week (EW) 1 of 2020 to EW 25 of 2024:

Maldives

- No new data are available. Please refer to previous versions of the South-East Asia Epidemiological Bulletin for prior epidemiological information.

Nepal

- No new data is available. Please refer to previous versions of the South-East Asia Epidemiological Bulletin for prior epidemiological information.

Sri Lanka

- During week 23 (03 June 2024 to 09 June 2024), a total of 704 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 14.7% increase compared to 614 cases reported during week 22 (27 May 2024 to 02 June 2024).
- From the week one to the week 23 in 2024, a total of 25 802 cases were reported, compared to 43 135 and 27 454 during the same period in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Figure 8. Number of new dengue cases by epidemiological week (EW) in Sri Lanka from EW 1 of 2017 to EW 23 of 2024:

Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - 2017 to 2020; 2021 to 2024

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12 https://lookerstudio.google.com/reporting/95b978f1-5c1a-44fb-a436-e19819e939c0/page/XRtTB
During week 24 (10 to 16 June 2024), a total of 1 512 new dengue cases were reported in Thailand, a 5.4% increase compared to 1 435 cases reported during week 23 (3 to 9 June 2024).

During week 24, a total of two new dengue deaths were reported in Thailand. No dengue death was reported during week 23.

In 2024, (as of 20 June) a total of 36 246 cases including 37 deaths (CFR=0.1%) have been reported. This compares to 35 227 cases reported between January and June in 2023 including 36 deaths (CFR=0.1%).

Figure 9. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by epidemiological week in Thailand from 2019 to week 24 of 2024

Source: Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Influenza

**WHO South-East Asia Region**

Situation as of 23 June 2024

- According to the data submitted to the FluMart of the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response system (GISRS), in the WHO South-East Asia Region, in epidemiological week 24 in 2024 (10 to 16 June), the weekly test positivity was at 5.93% and the most frequently reported strains were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, Influenza B/Victoria and influenza A(H3) (Figure 10).

- Data sources and information on influenza, including updates of integrated surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 using influenza sentinel surveillance systems, are available at [WHO SEARO Influenza dashboard](#) and [WHO SEARO monthly updates](#).

**Figure 10. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in WHO South-East Asia Region during 2023 and 2024 (as of week 10 to 16 June 2024)**

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**Bangladesh**

- As of 2 June 2024, 504 samples were tested on the integrated SARS-CoV-2 & influenza surveillance platform in week 22 (27 May to 2 June 2024).

- 171 samples (33.9%) were tested positive for influenza.

- Of samples tested positive for influenza (n=171), 82.5% (n=141) were A(H3) and 17.5% (n=30) were A(H1N1)pdm09.

**Figure 11. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Bangladesh in 2024 (as of week 27 May to 2 June 2024)**
Sri Lanka

• As of 2 June 2024, 151 samples were tested on the integrated SARS-CoV-2 & influenza surveillance platform in week 21 (27 May to 2 June 2024).
• 38 samples (25.2%) were tested positive for influenza.
• Of the samples tested positive for influenza (n=38), 52.6% (n=20) were positive for A(H1N1pdm), 31.6% (n=12) for influenza A(H3) and 13.2% (n=5) for influenza A (unsubtyped). One sample was also tested positive for influenza B Victoria.

Figure 12. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Sri Lanka in 2024 (as of week 27 May to 2 June 2024)