

WHO South-East Asia Region Epidemiological Bulletin

WHO Health Emergencies Programme
WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
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Reporting period: 13 to 26 January 2025



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

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Key events and updates

India: Zika virus disease

Situation as of 29 January 2025 ¹

- On 29 January 2025, a Disease Outbreak News on Zika in India was published.
- Between 01 January and 31 December 2024, a cumulative total of 151 Zika virus disease (ZVD) cases were reported from three states in India (Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra states).
 - Maharashtra State reported a cumulative total of 140 ZVD cases through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). Among the 140 cases, the majority (125 cases) were reported from Pune district, 11 from Ahmednagar district, and one case from each of Kolhapur, Sangli and Solapur districts and Mumbai suburban area.
 - Additionally, Karnataka state reported ten cases in 2024, with seven reported from Bengaluru urban district and three from Shivamogga district.
 - Gujarat state reported one case in Gandhinagar Corporation in 2024.
- The number of ZVD cases reported in 2024 in Maharashtra and Karnataka states are the highest since the first cases were reported in 2021 and 2022, respectively.
- As of 31 December 2024, no cases of microcephaly and/or Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) associated with this outbreak have been reported.
- In Maharashtra, the State authority conducted active surveillance following the detection of the initial ZVD cases, particularly targeting pregnant women.
- On 03 July 2024, the Government of India issued an advisory for all States following the detection of ZVD disease cases in Maharashtra state and public health measures were implemented.

India: Guillain-Barré Syndrome

Situation as of 28 January 2025 ²

- On 27 January 2025, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India published a press release regarding a surge in cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) in Pune, Maharashtra state.
- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has sent a high-level team to Pune, Maharashtra. The team comprises seven experts from institutions like the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) in Delhi and the National Institute for Virology (NIV) in Pune.
- Their mission is to work with the State Health Departments, assess the situation, and recommend necessary public health interventions.
- The Union Health Ministry is proactively monitoring the situation and coordinating with the State.

¹ World Health Organization (29 January 2025). Disease Outbreak News; Zika virus disease in India. Available at: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2025-DON549>

² Union Ministry of Health and Welfare of India – Press release, 27 January 2025



India: Undiagnosed illness

Situation as of 25 January 2025 ³

- According to the government of Jammu and Kashmir State, an undiagnosed illness has been reported since December 2024 in Badhal, Rajouri district, Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, India. Extensive investigations have been ongoing to determine the actual cause.
- Between 7 December and 20 January 2025, 38 cases including 17 deaths have been reported. The deaths are localized with possible epidemiological linkage.
- Health experts from various national health institutions have held regular meetings to assess reports and identify the real cause of deaths.
- Investigations and laboratory testing indicated that the illness is not due to a communicable bacterial or viral disease. A toxicological analysis found toxins in multiple biological specimens.
- The health department conducted door-to-door checks (more than 3,000 people), testing samples of water, food, and other items, all of which returned negative results for viral or bacteriological causes.
- Essential facilities like ambulances and medicines were provided in the affected area by the health department.
- Comprehensive surveillance is implemented in the affected area.

Cox's Bazar/Bangladesh: Acute Watery Diarrhea/Cholera

Situation as of 12 January 2025 ⁴

- The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), supported by the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTCC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), and partners, has launched a reactive Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) campaign in Cox's Bazar.
- The campaign targeted both Rohingya refugee camps and host communities and runs until 21 January 2025.
- Over 450 cholera cases have been reported in the past six months, with 92% from Rohingya refugee camps.
- The DGHS received 1.6 million OCV doses from the International Coordinating Group (ICG).
- The vaccination uses Euvichol and Euvichol-Plus vaccines, covering camps and host areas.
- A house-to-house vaccination strategy is employed, using Controlled Temperature Chain (CTC) technology for vaccine storage.
- Collaboration with local health authorities and partners ensures comprehensive coverage.
- The initiative builds on the success of the 2017 pre-emptive cholera vaccination campaign.

³ Government of Jammu and Kashmir – Department of Information and Public Relations, [14 January](#), [15 January](#), [16 January](#), [21 January](#), [22 January](#) 2025

⁴ icddr,b – Press release, [12 January 2025](#)

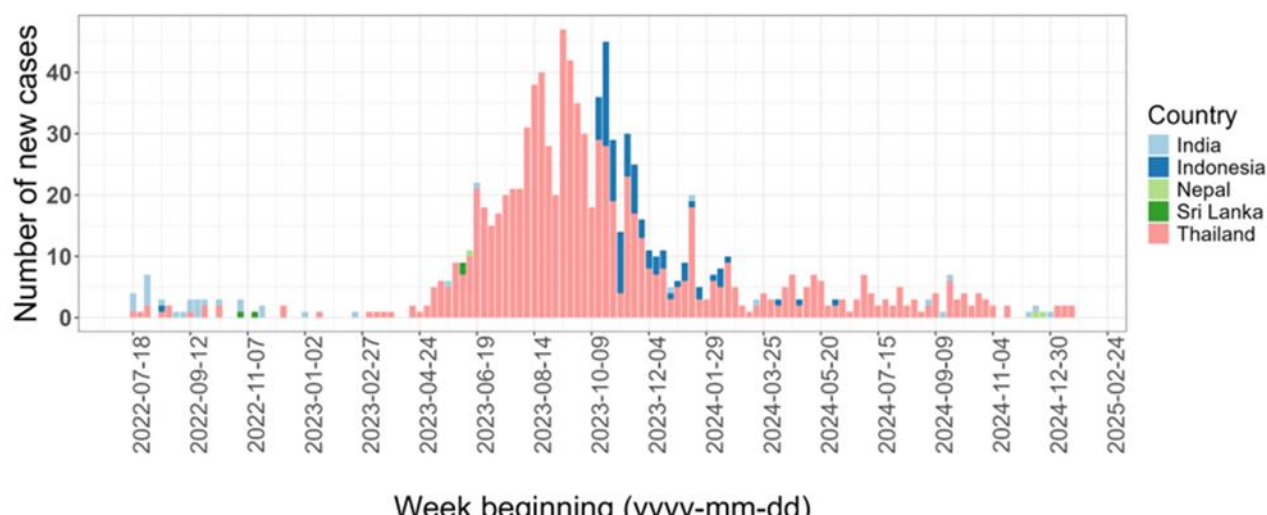
Mpox

Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region

As of 26 January 2025

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, cumulatively since 14 July 2022, as of 26 January 2025, a total of 1 002 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 11 deaths, have been reported (Figure 1).
- From 13 to 26 January, four new mpox cases (one clade II and three clade Ib) were reported to WHO from Thailand.
 - Of the three cases, one case was notified to the public health authority of Thailand on 9 January.
- So far, five mpox cases with Clade Ib infection have been detected in the Region, four cases in Thailand and another case in India.
 - All cases had recent international travel history and were symptomatic during the air travel.
 - Both countries implemented public health measures, including contact tracing, and no subsequent transmission has been detected.

Figure 1. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 26 January 2025)



* 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 87 cases in Indonesia for which the date of notification is missing, the date of diagnosis was used.

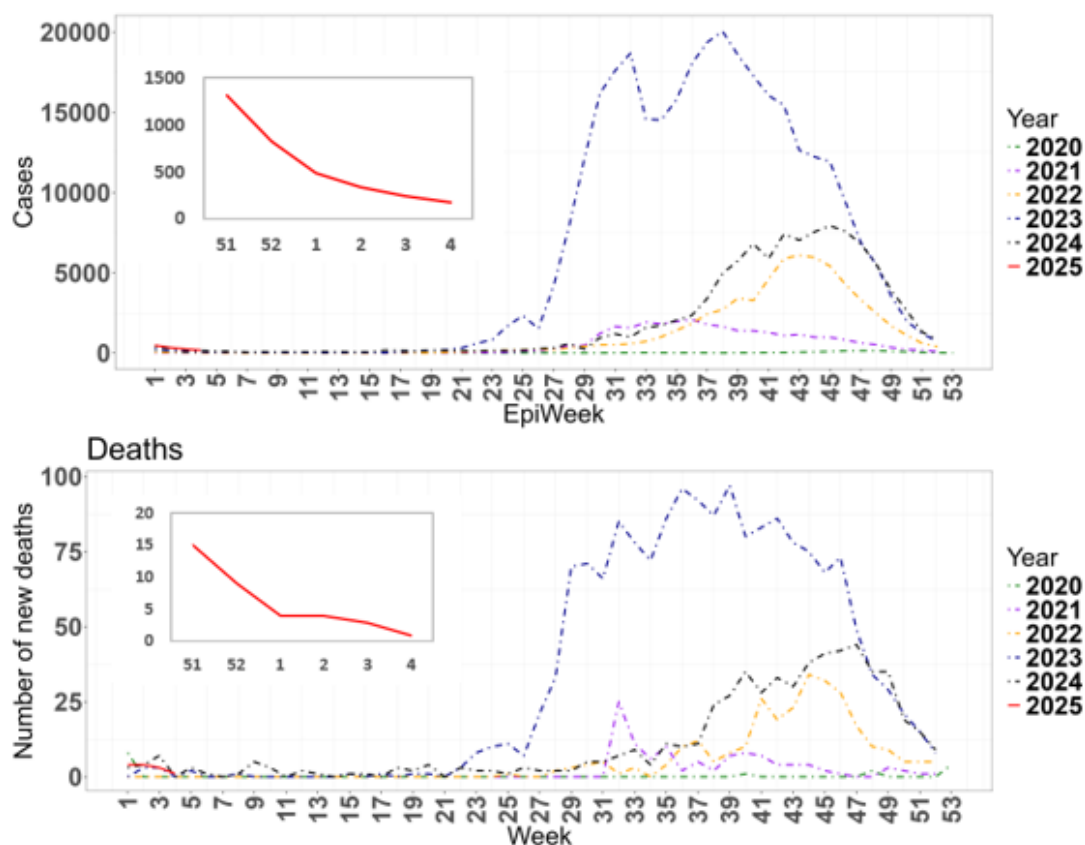
- For information on global epidemiological situation of mpox, please see:
 - [WHO mpox surveillance dashboard](#)

Dengue

Bangladesh^{1,2}

- In Bangladesh, both dengue cases and deaths are showing declining trend in the recent weeks.
- During week four (from 20 to 26 January 2025), a total of 177 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 28.3% decrease compared to 247 cases reported during week three (from 13 to 19 January 2025).
- During week four, one new dengue death was reported, a 66.7% decrease compared to three deaths reported during week three.
- In 2025, as of week four, a total of 1 252 dengue cases and 12 dengue related deaths have been reported. This is 124% of the number of cases (n= 1 006) and 86% of the number of deaths (n=14) reported at the same time (week four) in 2024.

Figure 2. Number of new cases and deaths from dengue by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 4 of 2025



Source: Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room, DGHS Reported Monthly Dengue cases & Dengue Deaths in Bangladesh.
Available at: <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report>

¹ [Bangladesh Dengue press releases](#)

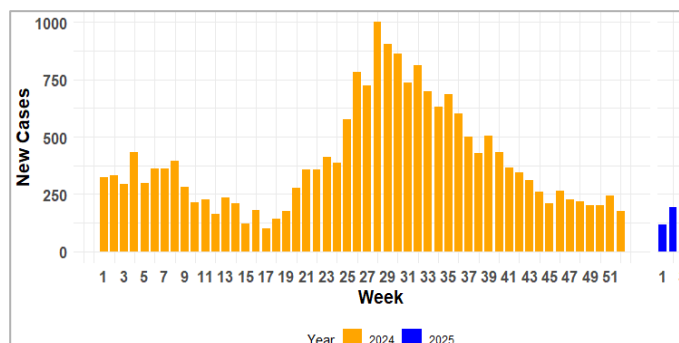
² [Bangladesh daily Dengue press release 26 January 2025](#)

India

Kerala³

- During week three (from 13 to 19 January 2025), a total of 155 new dengue cases were reported in Kerala, a 19% decrease compared to 192 cases reported during week two (from 6 to 12 January 2025).
- A total of 20 550 dengue cases were reported in the entirety of 2024.

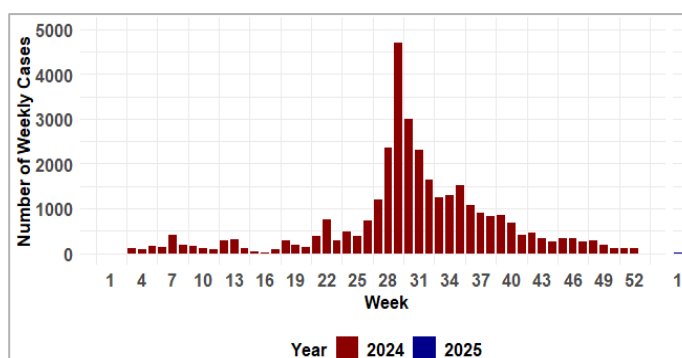
Figure 3. Number of new dengue cases by week in Kerala from week 1 of 2024 to week 3 of 2025.



Karnataka⁴

- During week two of 2025 (from 06 to 12 January 2025), a total of 93 new dengue cases were reported in Karnataka, a 389% increase compared to 19 cases reported during week one (from 30 December 2024 to 5 January 2025).
- In week one and week two in 2025, a total of 112 dengue cases were reported.
- A total of 32 789 dengue cases were reported in the entirety of 2024.

Figure 4. Number of new dengue cases by week in Karnataka from week 1 of 2024 to week 2 of 2025.



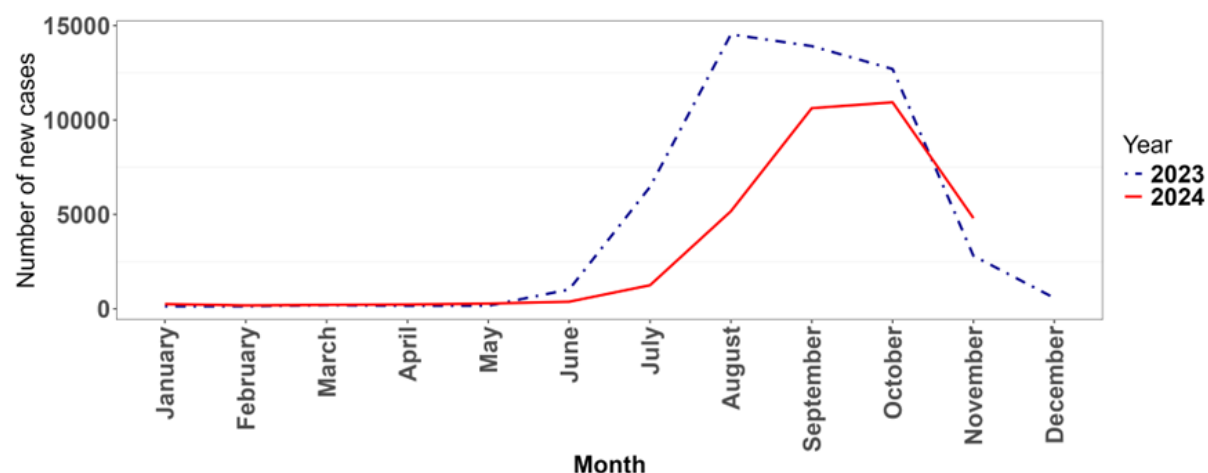
³ Kerala

⁴ Karnataka

Nepal⁵

- In Nepal, the number of dengue cases in December has not been made available. In November 2024, a total of 4 802 dengue cases have been reported, a 56.1% decrease compared to October 2024 (n=10 936).
- In 2024, as of 30 November, a total of 34 315 cases and 13 deaths have been reported, affecting 76 districts.

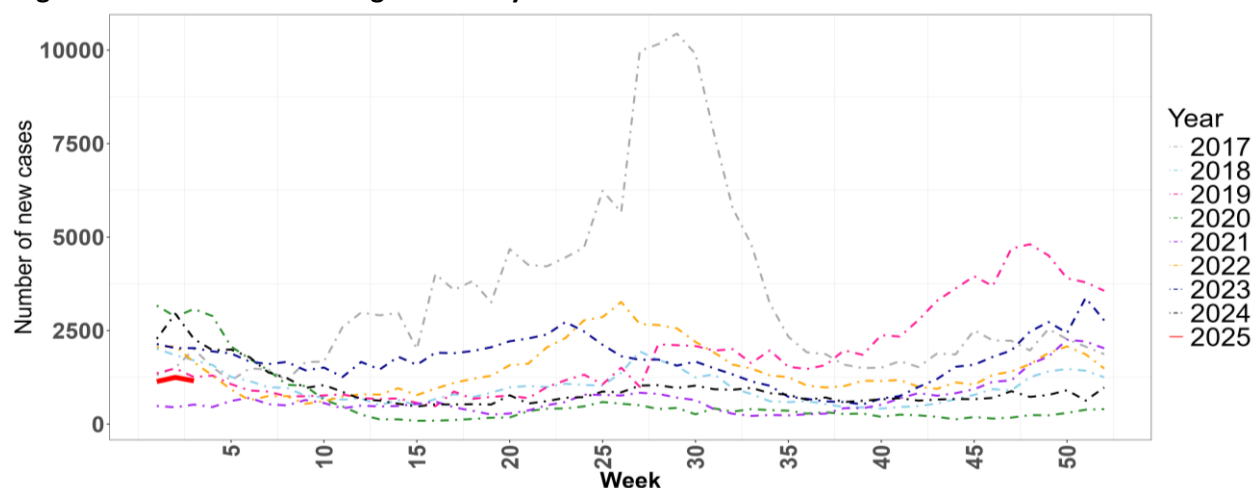
Figure 5. Number of new cases of dengue by month reported by the EWARS in Nepal from January 2023 to November 2024.



Sri Lanka⁶

- During week three (from 13 to 19 January 2025), a total of 1 157 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 7.4% decrease compared to 1 249 cases reported during week two (6 to 12 January 2025).
- From week one to three in 2025, a total of 3 544 cases were reported compared to 7 507 cases and 6 204 cases during the same period in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Figure 6. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 3 of 2025.



Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - [2017 to 2020](#); [2021 to 2025](#)

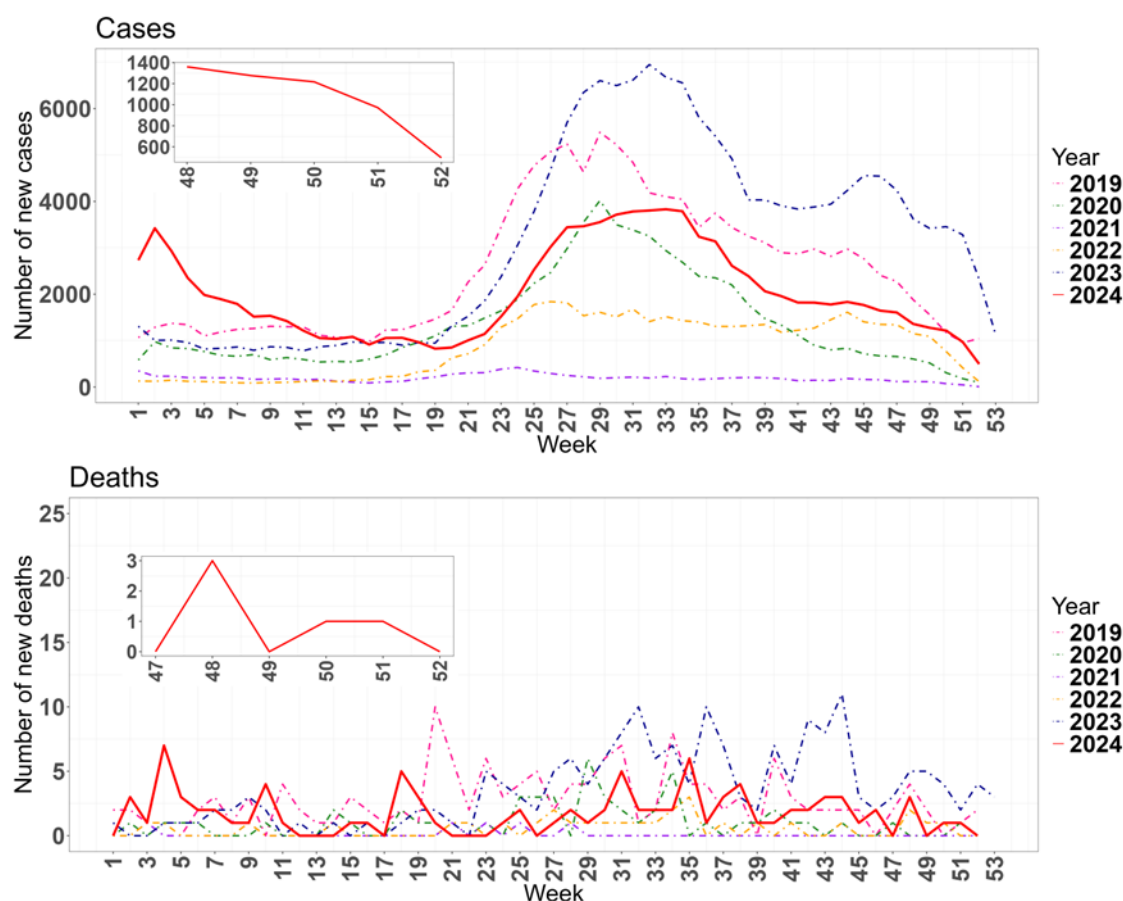
⁵ <https://edcd.gov.np/news/20241203dengue-situation-update>

⁶ Sri Lanka National Dengue Control Unit

Thailand^{7 8 9}

- For Thailand, the number of dengue cases in 2025 has not been made available.
- During week 52 (from 23 to 29 December 2024), a total of 496 new dengue cases were reported in Thailand, a 49% decrease compared to 972 cases reported during week 51 (from 16 to 22 December 2024).
- During weeks 52, no new dengue deaths were reported while there was one death reported in week 51.
- In 2024, as of week 52, a total of 105 206 cases including 90 deaths (CFR=0.09%) have been reported. This compares to 161 524 cases including 181 deaths (CFR=0.11%) reported from week one to week 52 in 2023.

Figure 7. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Thailand from 2019 to week 52 of 2024



Source: [Ministry of Public Health, Thailand](https://www.moph.go.th/)

⁷ [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

⁸ [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

⁹ [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

COVID-19

Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region

As of 26 January 2025

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, in weeks three and four (from 13 to 26 January), 34 new COVID-19 cases, a decrease of 39.1% were reported, compared to the previous 14 days (Table 1).
- The Region has recorded a cumulative total of 61 327 138 COVID-19 cases, including 808 868 deaths (Table 1).
- During week one in 2025, the proportion of respiratory samples collected at influenza sentinel surveillance sites in the selected countries that tested positive for COVID-19 ranged from 0% to 14.3% (Indonesia) (Figure 9).
- Please refer to the [WHO SEARO COVID-19 dashboard](#) for further information of COVID-19 in WHO South-East Asia Region.
- Globally, 777 315 739 COVID-19 cases, including 7 083 869 deaths have been cumulatively reported, as of 12 January 2024¹⁰. Please visit the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#) for the global situation of COVID-19.

Table 1. COVID-19 cases, deaths, and the change in new cases in countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region in the week as of 26 January 2025.

Country		Cumulative cases	New cases (last 14 days)	% change in new cases	New cases per 1M pop	Cumulative deaths	New deaths (last 14 days)	% change in new deaths	New deaths per 1M pop
Thailand		4,808,454	NA	NA	NA	34,741	NA	NA	NA
India		45,044,599	20	-33.3	0.0	533,662	0	-100.0	0.0
Bangladesh		2,051,572	14	-6.7	0.1	29,499	0	0.0	0.0
Myanmar		643,241	0	0.0	-	19,494	0	0.0	0.0
Indonesia		6,830,159	NA	NA	NA	162,059	NA	NA	NA
Sri Lanka		672,812	NA	NA	NA	16,907	NA	NA	NA
Bhutan		62,697	NA	NA	NA	21	NA	NA	NA
Maldives		186,694	NA	NA	NA	316	NA	NA	NA
Nepal		1,003,450	NA	NA	NA	12,031	NA	NA	NA
Timor-Leste		23,460	NA	NA	NA	138	NA	NA	NA
SEAR Total		61,327,138	34	39.1	NA	808,868	0	-100.0	NA

Notes:

Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past 14 days, compared to the previous 14 days.

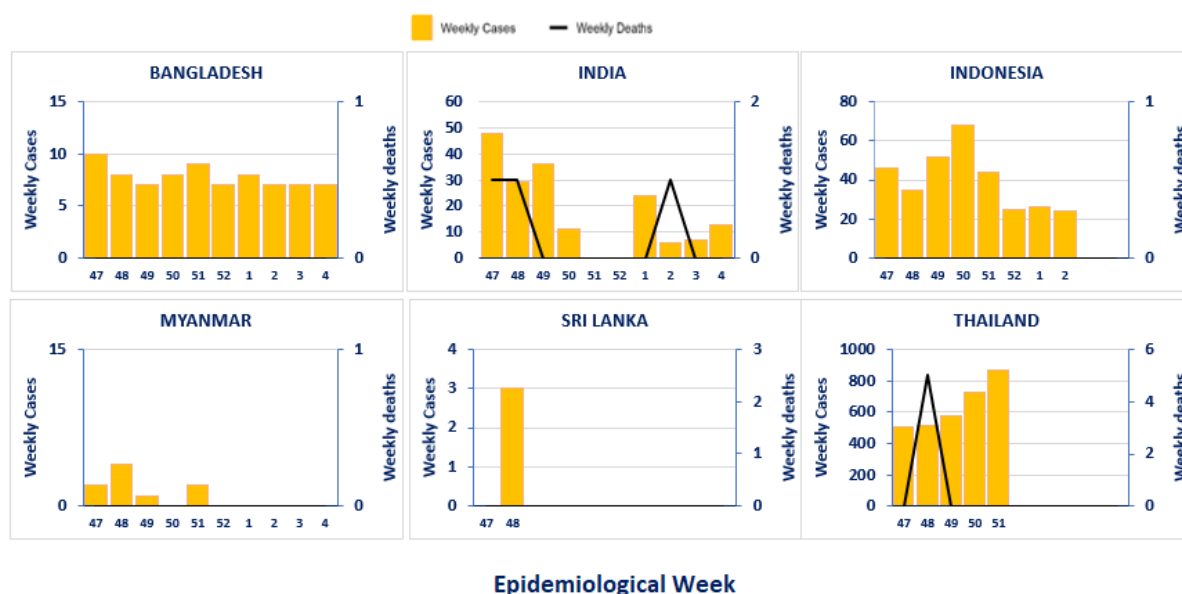
NA = data not available.

DPR Korea has not reported confirmed COVID-19 cases.

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, Sri Lanka data as of 30 November, Thailand data as of 21 December 2024 and Indonesia data as of 11 January 2025.

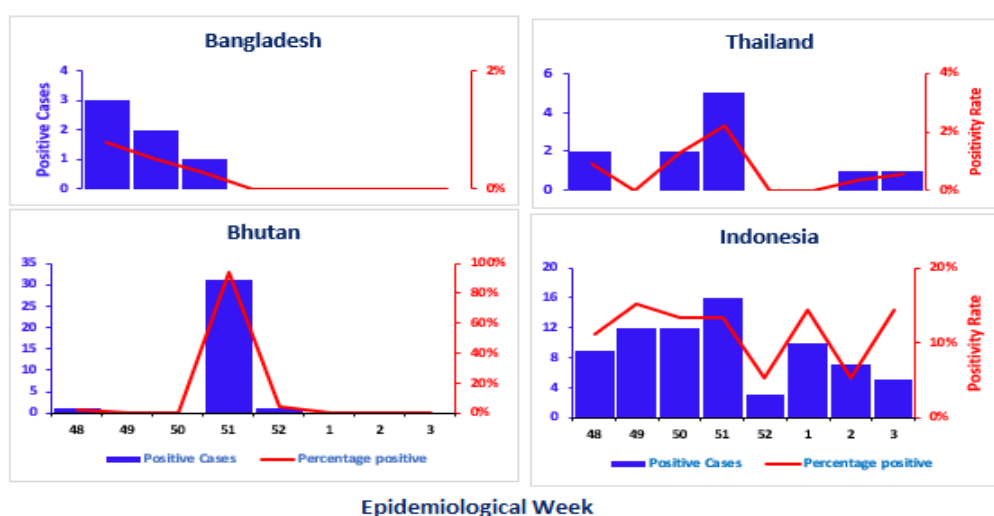
¹⁰ [Global Dashboard](#). Data as 12 January 2025

Figure 8. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases reported during the recent ten weeks (as of 26 January 2025) in the WHO South-East Asia Region*.



* Data for Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, and Timor-Leste are not available. Sri Lanka data were as of 30 November, Thailand data were as of 23 December 2024 and Indonesia data were as of 11 January 2025.

Figure 9. Weekly number of SARS-CoV-2 positive samples and test positivity from integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems in the recent eight weeks in selected countries* (as of 19 January 2025).



* Countries routinely conducting SARS-CoV-2 testing of the samples collected through influenza sentinel surveillance sites (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia and Thailand).

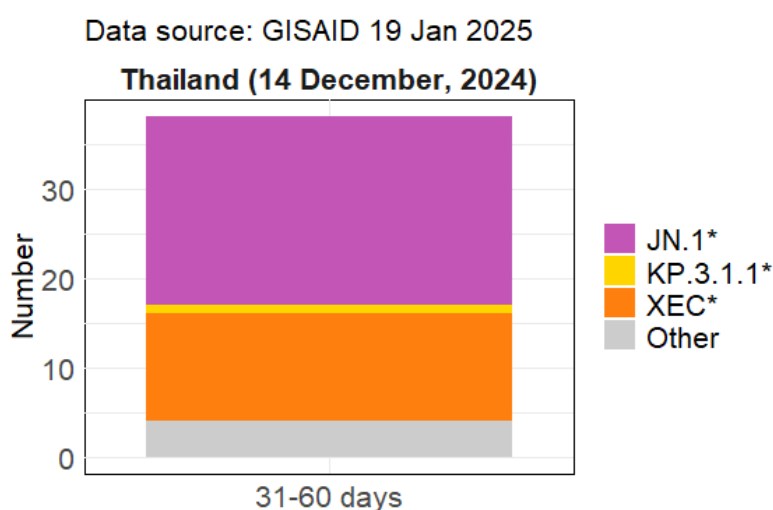
Global circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants

- WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants and their sub-lineages including ¹¹:
 - One variant of interest (VOIs): JN.1
 - Seven variants under monitoring (VUMs): KP.2; KP.3; KP.3.1.1; JN.1.18, LB.1, XEC and LP.8.1.
- 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

- The genomic sequence data submitted to GISAID ¹² by countries in the South-East Asia region in the past 60 days by date of collection are shown in Figure 10 (as of 19 January 2025). Only a small number of genomic sequences have been submitted from Thailand and therefore the data should be interpreted with caution.
- In the last 60 days:
 - In **Thailand**, 38 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1* accounting for 55.3% (n=21) followed by XEC* accounting for 31.6% (n=12). One genomic sequence KP.3.1.1* were also submitted.
 - Other countries have not submitted genomic sequences recently to GISAID.

Figure 10. Number of genomic sequences submitted in last 60 days.



¹¹ <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/covid-19-epidemiological-update-edition-175>

¹² <https://gisaid.org/>

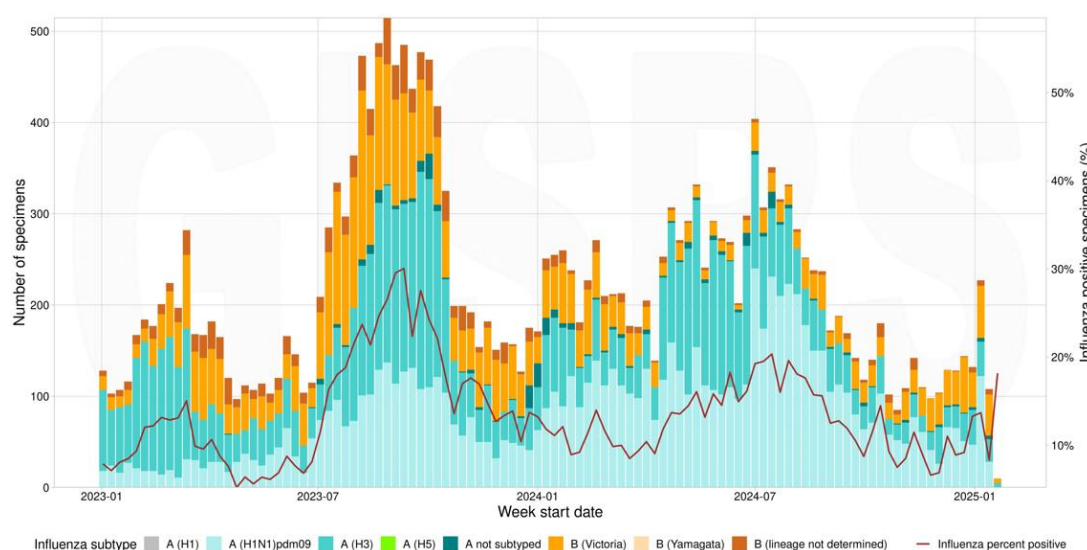
Influenza

WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 19 January 2025

- According to the all type of surveillance data(sentinel, non sentinel and not defined) submitted to the FluMart of the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response system (GISRS), in the WHO South-East Asia Region, in epidemiological week three (13 to 19 January 2025), the weekly test positivity was at 8.3% and the most frequently reported strains were influenza B (Victoria) (n = 45) followed by influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 (n = 28), A(H3) (n = 25), A(un-subtyped) (n=4), B(lineage not determined) (n=6) (Figure 11).
- Data and information on influenza and SARS-CoV-2 using integrated influenza-like illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) sentinel surveillance systems, are available at [WHO Global FluNet Dashboard](#). Readers interested in accessing analysis disaggregated by sentinel and non-sentinel data can do so through this dashboard.

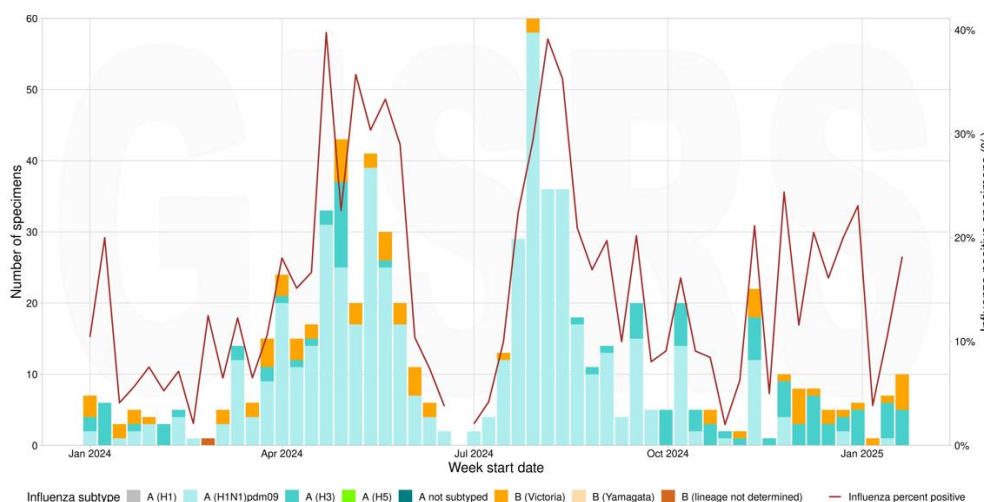
Figure 11. Detection of Influenza viruses by subtypes reported to the FluNet and the test positivity of specimens for influenza in WHO South-East Asia Region from 1 January 2023 to 19 January 2025.



Bhutan

- As of 26 January 2025, 55 samples (surveillance type not defined) were tested for SARS-CoV-2 & influenza leveraging the integrated ILI and SARI sentinel surveillance platform in week four (20 to 26 January 2025). The weekly test positivity was at 18%.
- Ten samples (all with surveillance type not defined) were tested positive for influenza, of which 50% (n=5) were influenza A(H3) and 50% (n=5) was influenza B (Victoria).

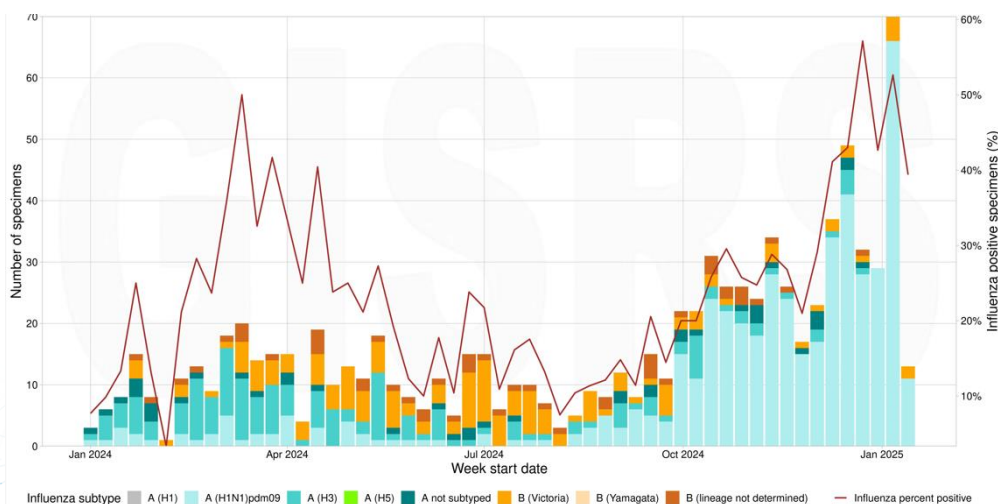
Figure 12. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Bhutan from week 1 of 2024 to week 4, 2025.



Indonesia

- As of 19 January 2025, 33 samples (surveillance type not defined) were tested for SARS-CoV-2 & influenza leveraging the integrated ILI and SARI sentinel surveillance platform in week three (13 to 19 January 2025). The weekly test positivity was at 39%.
- Thirteen samples (all with surveillance type not defined) were tested positive for influenza, of which 84.6% (n=11) were influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 and 15.4% (n=2) was influenza B (Victoria).

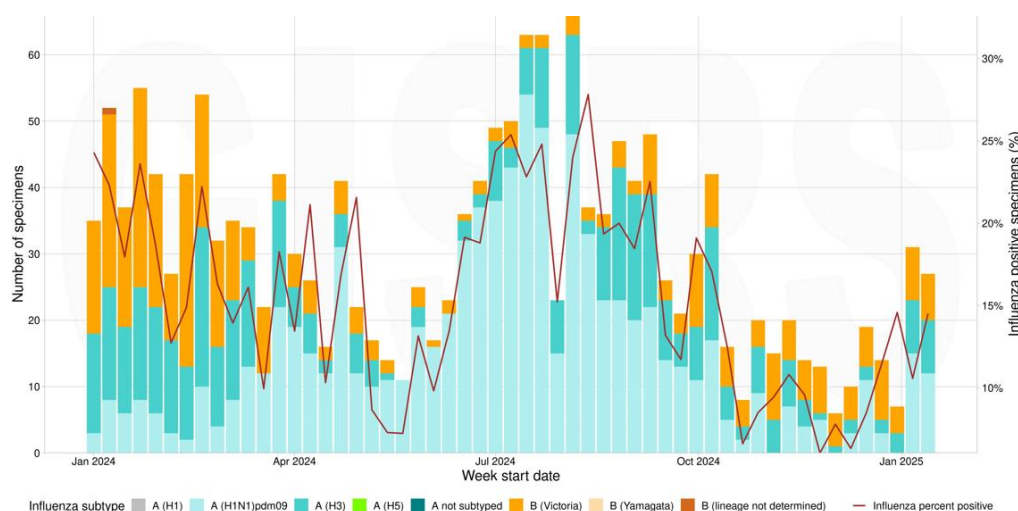
Figure 13. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity from week 1 of 2024 to week 3 of 2025.



Thailand

- As of 19 January 2025, 186 samples (surveillance type not defined) were tested for SARS-CoV-2 & influenza leveraging the integrated ILI and SARI sentinel surveillance platform in week three (13 to 19 January 2025). The weekly test positivity was at 14.5%.
- Twenty seven samples (all with surveillance type not defined) were tested positive for influenza, of which 44.4% (n=12) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 29.6% (n=8) was influenza A(H3) and 25.9% (n=7) was influenza B(Victoria).

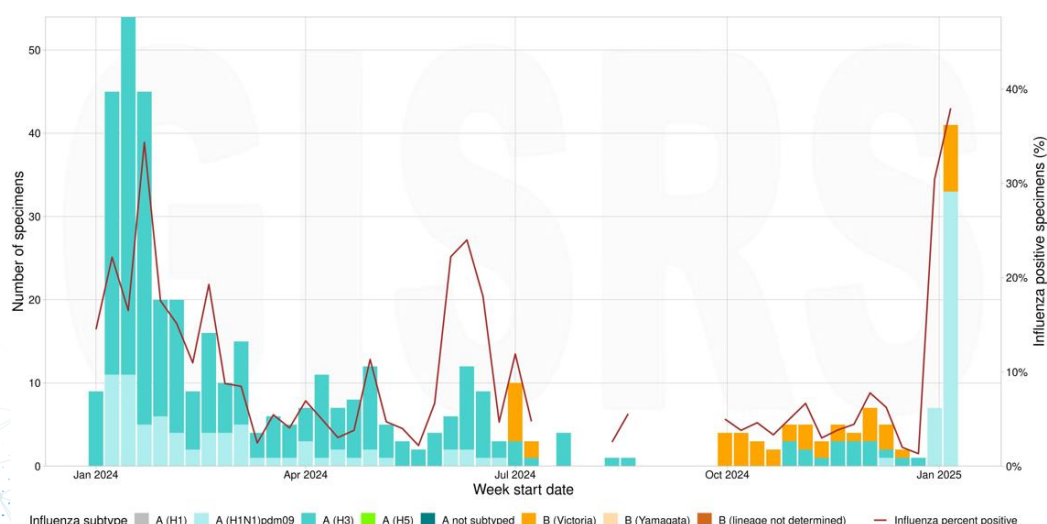
Figure 14. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Thailand from week 1 of 2024 to week 3, 2025.



Timor-Leste

- As of 12 January 2025, 108 samples (all collected through sentinel surveillance) were tested for SARS-CoV-2 & influenza leveraging the integrated ILI and SARI sentinel surveillance platform in week two (6 to 12 January 2025). The weekly test positivity was at 38%.
- Forty one samples were tested positive for influenza, of which 80.5% (n=33) were influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 and 19.5% (n=8) was influenza B(Victoria).

Figure 15. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Timor-Leste from week 1 of 2024 to week 2, 2025.



Annex

WHO resources on mpox

All current WHO interim technical guidance can be accessed on [this page](#) of the WHO website. WHO evidence-based guidance has been and will continue to be updated in line with the evolving situation and updated scientific evidence. The selected publications are listed below for easier reference, along with other relevant resources.

- **IHR Emergency Committee, Temporary Recommendations and Standing Recommendations**
 - [Second meeting of the International Health Regulations \(2005\) Emergency Committee regarding the upsurge of mpox 2024](#) (28 November 2024)
 - [First meeting of the International Health Regulations \(2005\) Emergency Committee regarding the upsurge of mpox 2024](#) (19 August 2024)
 - [Standing recommendations for mpox issued by the Director-General of the World Health Organization \(WHO\) in accordance with the International Health Regulations \(2005\) \(IHR\)](#)
- **Strategic planning**
 - [Mpox global strategic preparedness and response plan](#) (26 August 2024, updated on 6 September 2024)
 - [Strategic framework for enhancing prevention and control of mpox \(2024-2027\)](#) (May 2024)
- **General information on mpox**
 - [Mpox fact sheet](#)
 - [Monkeypox outbreak page \(2022\)](#)
 - [Mpox \(monkeypox\) health topic page](#)
 - [Mpox \(monkeypox\) Q&A](#)
- **Epidemiological situation**
 - Dashboard: https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpox_global/
 - [Multi-country outbreak of mpox, External situation report #46](#) - (28 January 2025)
 - [Genomic epidemiology of monkeypox virus](#) (Nextstrain)
- **Technical documents**
 - [Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for mpox: interim guidance](#) (27 November 2024)
 - [Considerations for wastewater and environmental surveillance for monkeypox virus: interim guidance](#) (25 November 2024)
 - [Technical Brief \(interim\) and Priority Actions: Enhancing Readiness for mpox in WHO South-East Asia Region](#) (13 September 2024)
 - [Diagnostic testing for the monkeypox virus \(MPXV\): interim guidance](#) (10 May 2024)
 - [Risk communication and community engagement readiness and response toolkit: mpox](#) (23 April 2024)
 - [Clinical characterization of mpox including monitoring the use of therapeutic interventions: statistical analysis plan](#) (13 October 2023)
 - [Smallpox and mpox \(orthopoxviruses\): WHO position paper](#) (August 2024)
 - [SAGE on mpox vaccines](#) (page 16)
 - [Vaccines and immunization for monkeypox: Interim guidance](#), 16 November 2022
 - [Annexes to the Vaccines and immunization for monkeypox interim guidance](#)
 - [Background document for the SAGE October 2022 session on monkeypox vaccines](#)
- **Data collection tools**
 - Case report form: [Word](#)
 - Case investigation form: [PDF](#)
- **Mass gathering**
 - [Public health advice for gatherings during the current monkeypox outbreak](#)
 - [Interim advice for public health authorities on summer events during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022](#)
 - [Catalogue of resources on mpox mass and large gathering event preparedness](#)