WHO South-East Asia Region
Epidemiological Bulletin

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HEALTH EMERGENCIES programme
World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR South-East Asia

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.

Key events and updates

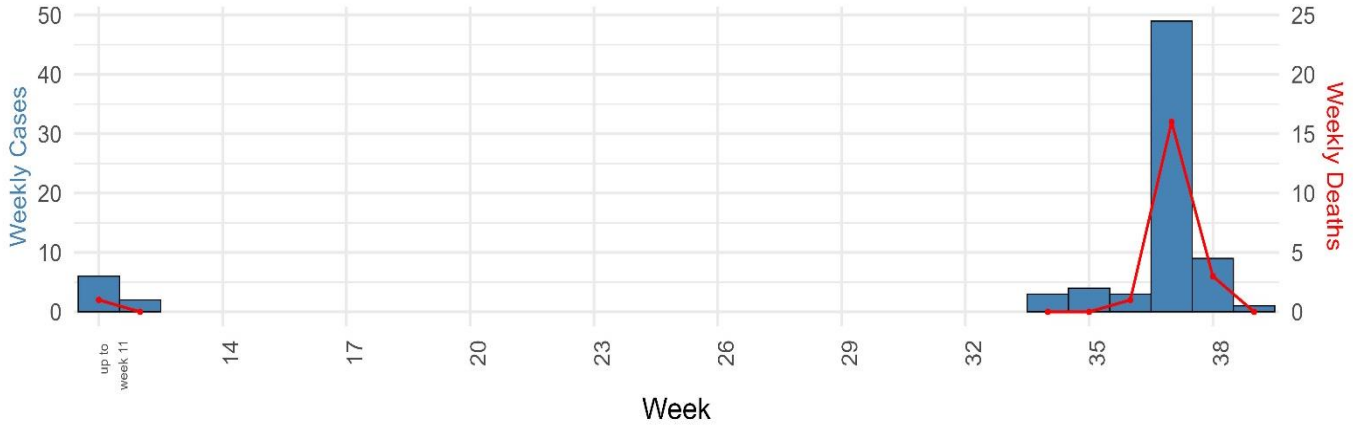
India: Amoebic Meningoencephalitis

Situation overview as of 23 September 2025

According to the official Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) report of Kerala State, India [1]:

- As of 22 September 2025, 77 laboratory-confirmed cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis and 21 related deaths have been reported this year.
    - Of these, 30 cases and 11 deaths were reported in September 2025.

Figure 1. Amoebic Meningoencephalitis - weekly cases and deaths in Kerala State, India, between 1 January 2025 and 22 September 2025 [2]



[1] Kerala State Surveillance Unit. (2025, September 22). Communicable Diseases – Daily Report on 22 September 2025 [PDF]. Directorate of Health Services, Kerala. https://dhs.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/IDSP-Daily-Report-22.09.2025.pdf

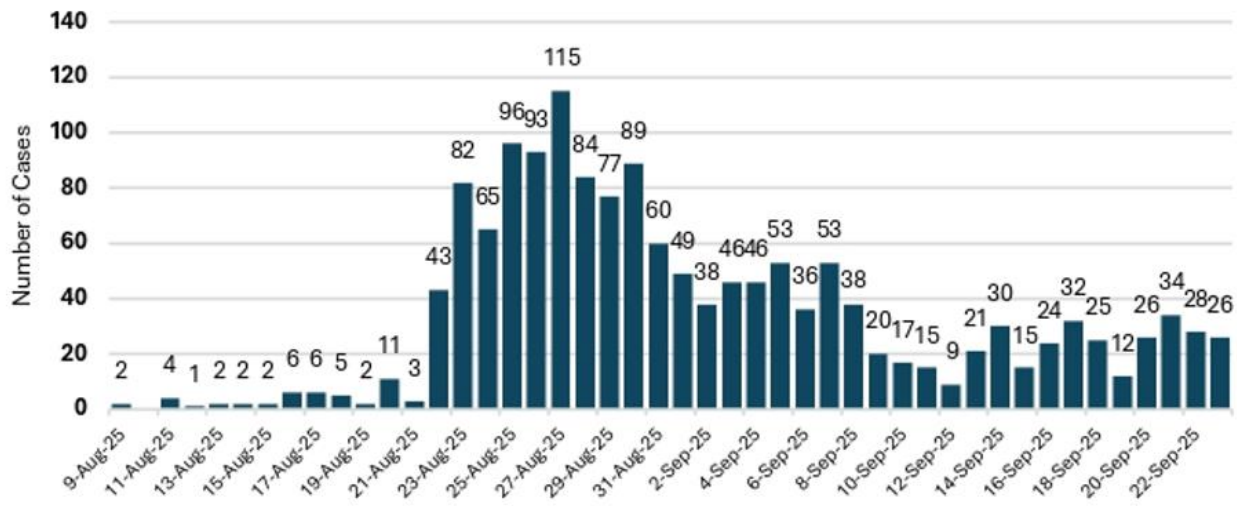
[2] Directorate of Health Services Kerala. IDSP. https://dhs.kerala.gov.in/en/idsp-2/

Nepal: Cholera

Situation overview as of 24 September 2025

- On 22 August, health facilities in Birgunj Metropolitan City reported a sudden increase in Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) cases [3].
- According to the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) of Madhesh Province: [4]
  - Total of 1 543 cases of AWD were reported between 9 August and 23 September
  - Out of 1 543 cases:
    - 1 328 suspected cases
    - 32 culture positive
    - 183 RDT positive
  - As of 23 September:
    - 31 cases remain active, while 1,512 cases have recovered.
    - The 15–24 years age group was most affected, with 360 cases (23.3%), while 112 cases (7.3%) were reported among children under 5 years.
    - Most cholera cases were reported in wards 11, 12, and 13, which are densely populated areas.
    - No cholera deaths were reported.

Figure 2. The daily number of AWD cases reported in Birgunj Metropolitan City, Parsa district, Madhesh province from 9 August to 23 September 2025 [4]



Public health response [4]

- Approximately 13 000 households in Birgunj have been reached with risk communication, social and behavior change (SBC) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions.
- At the community level, series of public health intervention activities were conducted, including household counseling, distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials, handwashing and water treatment demonstrations, and distribution of chlorine tablets, soap and oral rehydration salts (ORS).

[3] Public Health Emergency Operations Center, Madhesh Province SitRep #02
[4] Public Health Emergency Operations Center, Madhesh Province SitRep #27

Update: Amended International Health Regulations enter into force [5]

- In 2024, WHO Member States adopted amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) by consensus at the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- One of the changes is the introduction of a new level of global alert – a "pandemic emergency" – to trigger stronger international collaboration when a health risk escalates beyond a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) and poses the risk of becoming, or has already become, a pandemic, with widespread impact on the health system and disruption to societies.
- The amendments also introduce the establishment of National IHR Authorities by governments to coordinate IHR implementation and include provisions to strengthen access to medical products and financing based on equity and solidarity.
- These changes were driven by lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. The last major revisions were adopted in 2005 following the SARS outbreak.
- Alongside the amended IHR, Member States also adopted the WHO Pandemic Agreement at the World Health Assembly this year, and are actively negotiating an annex to the agreement on Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing.
- States have the sovereign right to implement legislations related to health policies. WHO will support IHR States Parties, as requested, in integrating the amendments to the regulations into national legal frameworks and strengthening institutional capacities to work together to build a safer, healthier future for all.
- The text of the IHR, as amended in 2024, is published on the WHO website.

[5] https://www.who.int/news/item/19-09-2025-amended-international-health-regulations-enter-into-force#:~:text=The%20amendments%20also%20introduce%20the,during%20the%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic.

Influenza

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 24 September 2025 [6]

- The influenza sentinel surveillance data from WHO's FluNet and FluID platforms, extracted on 22 September 2025, illustrate weekly trends in laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, test positivity percentage, and the number of specimens tested across countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region.
- Bangladesh and Maldives have shown declining trend in influenza activities, with the test positivity at 30% and 24% respectively in week 36-38.
- Bhutan continues to show relatively high test positivity (33% in week 37).
- India and Thailand show moderate level of test positivity (14% and 18% respectively in week 35-37).
- Other countries have submitted relatively small number of samples in recent weeks.

Figure 3. Weekly trends of specimens tested at National Influenza Centers (NIC) and laboratory confirmed influenza in the WHO South-East Asia Region (2025)

Source: Respimart/FluNet/FluID

[6] WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2025 [cited 2025 September 22]. Available from: https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs

Influenza virus subtypes and lineages Week 36-38 2025[7]

- Table 1 shows influenza virus subtype and lineage distribution across ten countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region for epidemiological weeks 36 to 38 of 2025, based on data extracted from WHO's RespiMart platform on 24 Sept 2025. The last submission was on 14 September 2025.
- A total of 2 968 samples were tested across the Region, out of which 543 (18%) were positive for influenza.
- Overall, A(H3) is predominant in the Region (61%). A(H3) is predominant strain in Bhutan (98%), India (86%), Myanmar (50%), Nepal (100%) and Thailand (59%).
- In Bangladesh, B(Victoria) lineage was predominant (54%), followed by A(H1N1)pdm09 (24%) and A(H3) (22%).
- B(Victoria) lineage accounted for 25% of influenza virus detected overall in the Region, and for 40% in Maldives and 17% in Thailand.

Table 1: Distribution of influenza virus subtypes in the WHO South-East Asia Region (weeks 36-38, 2025)

Country	Total Samples Tested	Number of Influenza Positive	Positivity Rate %	A (H1) %	A (H3) %	A (H5) %	A (H1N1)pdm09 %	A (Unsubtype) %	B (Yamagata) %	B (Victoria) %	B (Lineage not Determined) %
All Country	2,968	543	18%	0%	61%	0%	13%	1%	0%	25%	0%
Bangladesh	561	166	30%	0%	22%	0%	24%	0%	0%	54%	0%
Bhutan	183	56	31%	0%	98%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DPR Korea	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
India	1,319	191	14%	0%	86%	0%	3%	0%	0%	10%	1%
Maldives	179	43	24%	0%	49%	0%	12%	0%	0%	40%	0%
Myanmar	48	2	4%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nepal	245	15	6%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sri Lanka	19	4	21%	0%	0%	0%	0%	75%	0%	0%	25%
Thailand	414	66	16%	0%	59%	0%	24%	0%	0%	17%	0%
Timor-Leste	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

[7] WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2025 [cited 2025 Sept 10]. Available from: https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs

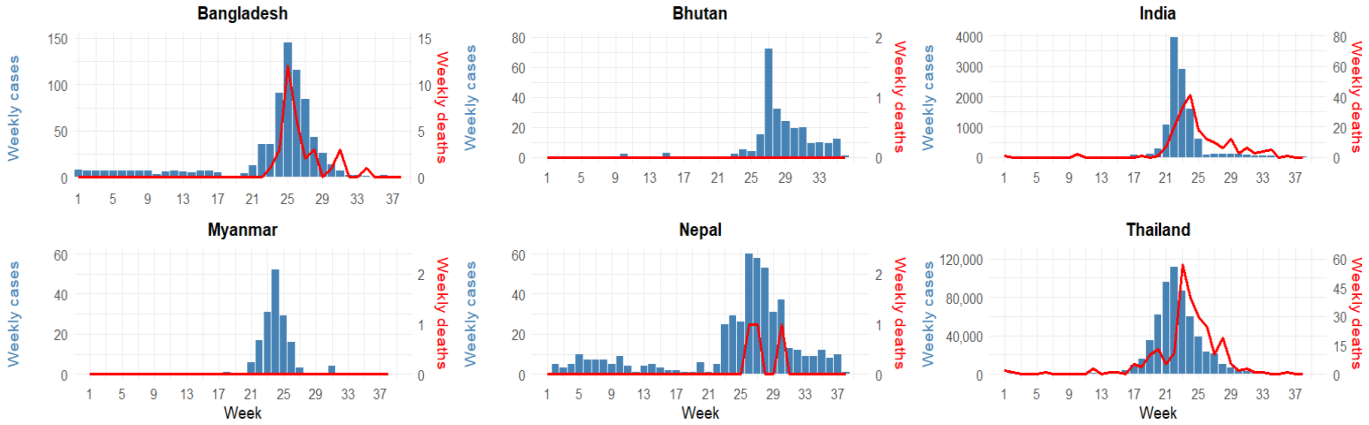
COVID-19

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 22 September 2025

- Some countries in the Region recorded a surge of COVID-19 cases, including Bangladesh[8], Bhutan[9], India[10], Myanmar[11], Nepal[12] and Thailand[13], starting from week 17 to week 20 depending on country (Figure 5). However, the weekly case numbers declined in all these countries.
- Data of the most recent week (week 38) are not available from Bhutan and Myanmar.
- Please visit the WHO COVID-19 dashboard for the global situation of COVID-19.

Figure 4. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported from selected countries since week one of 2025 in the WHO South-East Asia Region (as of week 38)*



* Bhutan data as of week 36.

[8] Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. COVID-19 Dashboard [Internet]. Dhaka: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; 2025 [cited 2025 September 22]. Available from: https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/component/content/article?layout=edit&id=5612

[9] Bhutan, Royal Centre for Disease Control https://www.rcdc.gov.bt/web/

[10] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. COVID-19 India Dashboard [Internet]. New Delhi: MoHFW; 2025 [cited 2025 September 22]. Available from: https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/

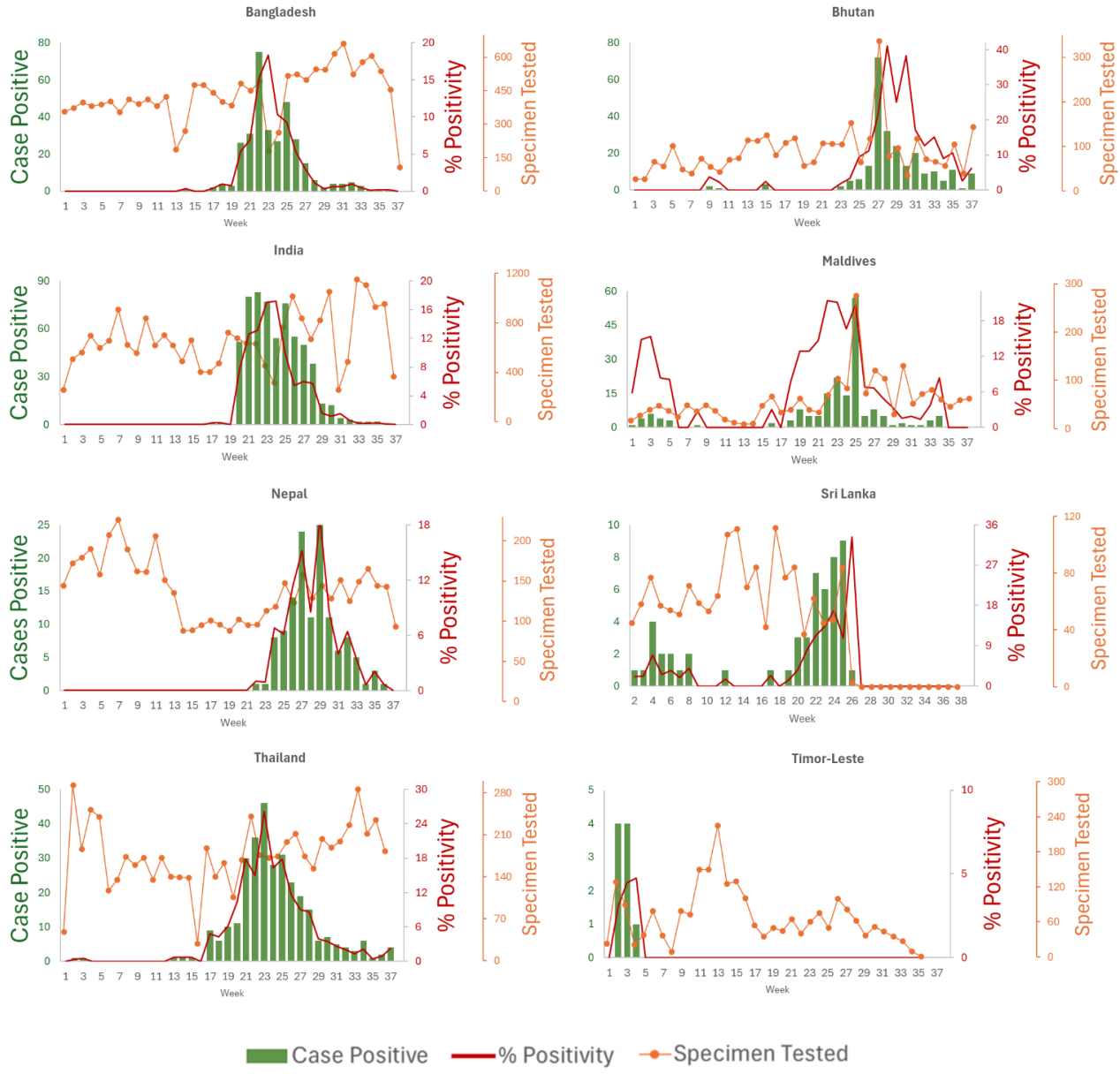
[11] Ministry of Health, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Ministry of Health official website [Internet]. Nay Pyi Taw: MoH; 2025 [cited 2025 September 22]. Available from: https://www.mohs.gov.mm/

[12] Epidemiology and Disease Control Division Nepal. Available from: https://edcd.gov.np/newsroom/outbreak;

[13] Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. Nonthaburi: DDC, MoPH; 2025 [cited 2025 September 22]. Available from: https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1176170881210400&set=a.309744487853048

- Based on data from the integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance system[14], Figure 6 summarizes weekly trends of eight countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste— showing the number of positive COVID-19 cases, the percentage positivity and the number of specimens tested.

Figure 5. COVID-19 update from the integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance system



Source: WHO Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses, 22 September 2025

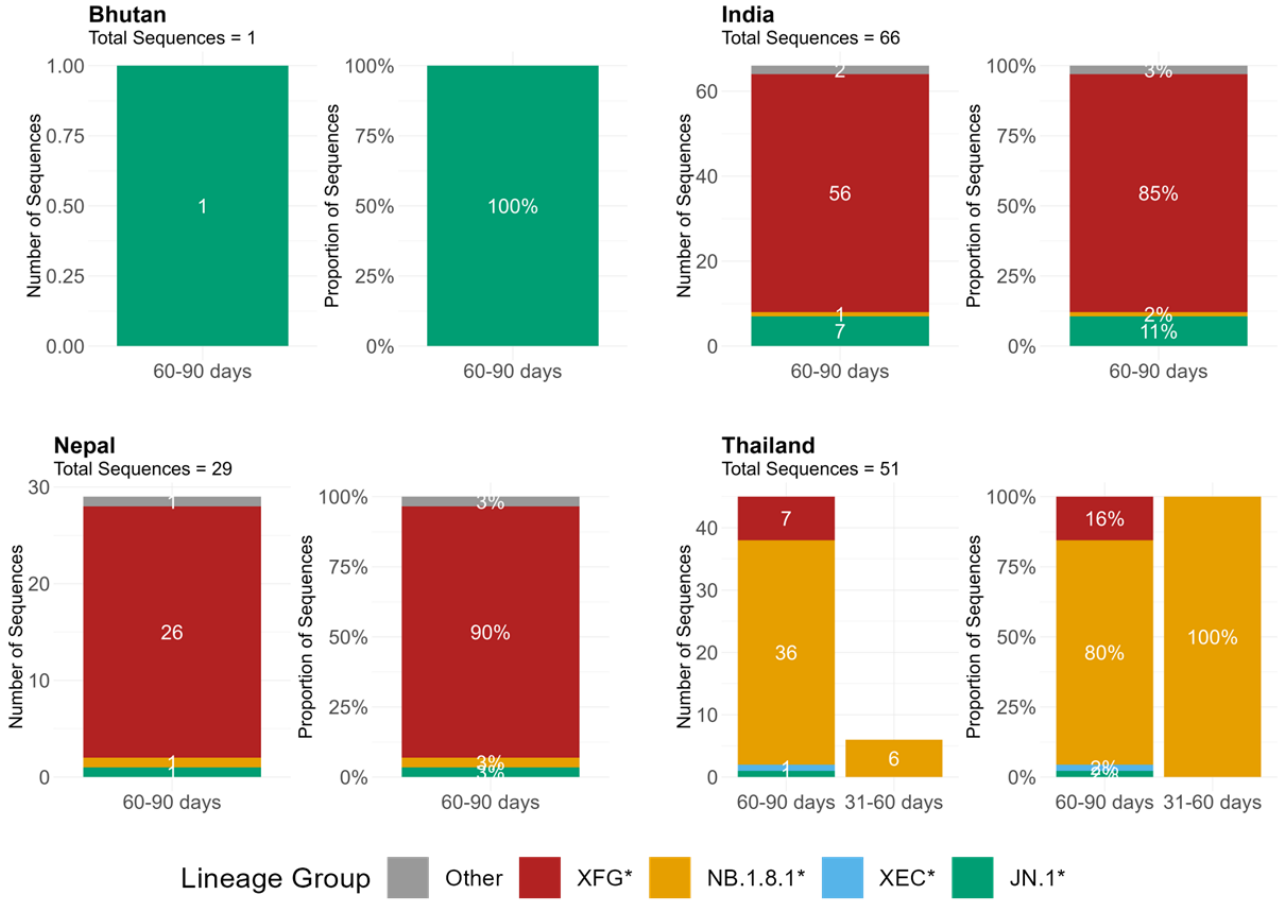
[14] WHO Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses, 22 September 2025

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

In the last 90 days:

- Bhutan submitted 1 sequence with JN.1*.
- India submitted 66 sequences with XFG* being predominant at 85% (56 sequences).
- Nepal submitted 29 sequences with XFG* being predominant at 90% (26 sequences).
- Thailand submitted 51 sequences with NB.1.8.1* being predominant at 82% (42 sequences).

Figure 6. Number and proportion of genomic sequences submitted in the last 90 days from Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Thailand



Note: GISAID dataset accessed on 23 Sept 2025. The last submission was on 18 August 2025.

- As of 01 June 2025, WHO is tracking following SARS-CoV-2 variants and their sub-lineages: [15]
  - One variant of interest (VOIs): JN.1
  - Five variants under monitoring (VUMs): KP.3.1.1; XEC, LP.8.1, NB.1.8.1, and XFG
- Initial risk evaluation of NB.1.8.1 and XFG are available on WHO websites[16] [17]. Considering the available evidence, the additional public health risk posed by both variants is evaluated as low at the global level. Current data do not indicate that these variants lead to more severe illness or deaths than other variants in circulation.
- Information on the status of the global SARS-CoV-2 variants can be found from the WHO COVID-19 dashboard.

[15] Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants. Geneva: WHO; [date unknown, accessed 17 June 2025].
[16] WHO TAG-VE Risk Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Variant Under Monitoring: NB.1.8.1
[17] WHO TAG-VE Risk Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Variant Under Monitoring: XFG

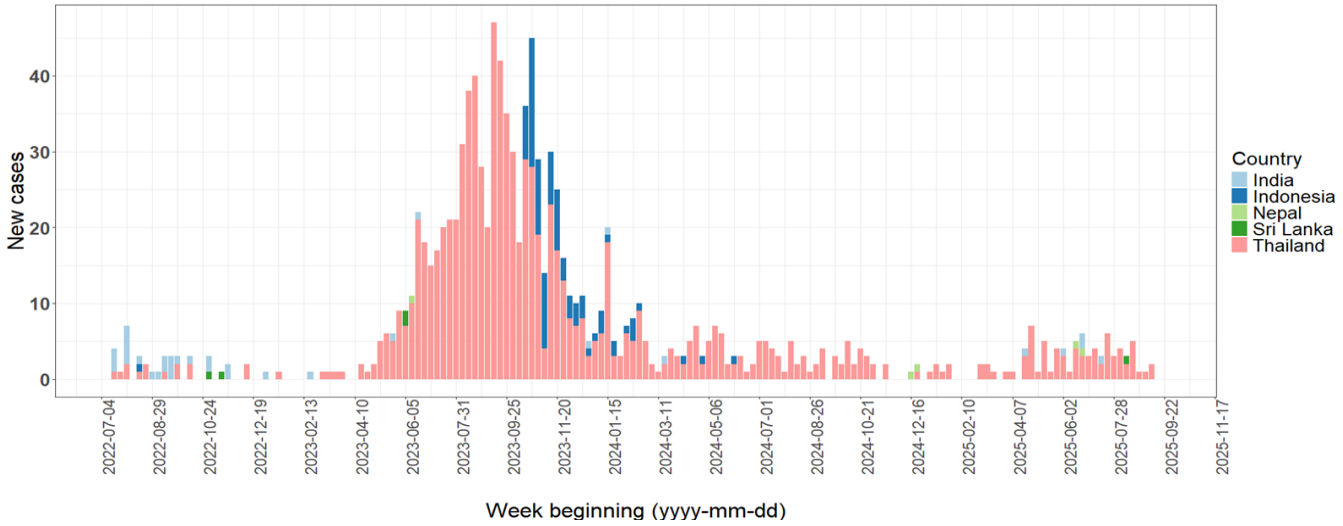
Mpox

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 21 Sept 2025

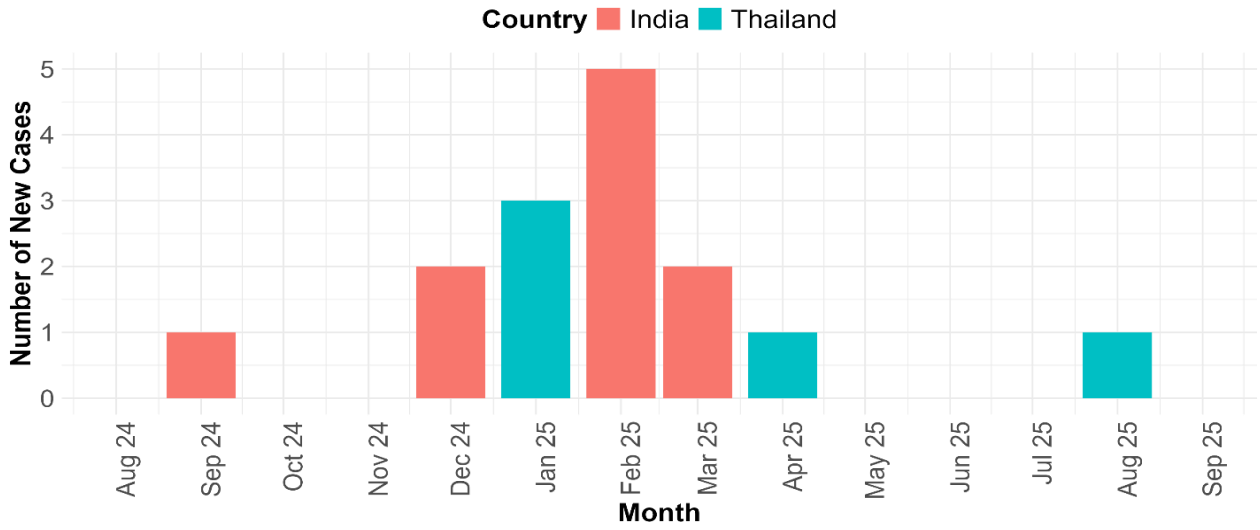
- In week 37 and 38 (08 to 21 September 2025), two new mpox cases were reported from Thailand.
- As of 21 September 2025, in the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 1 089 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 14 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 8).
- Sixteen cases with mpox virus (MPVX) clade Ib were reported in the Region to date – ten from India and six from Thailand. Please see Figure 9 for the trend of MPVX Ib cases detected in the Region.
- For information on global epidemiological situation of mpox, please see: WHO mpox surveillance dashboard

Figure 7. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 21 September 2025)



* Cases are plotted per week of notification - the date on which the case is notified to the public health authority.
** Where the date of notification is missing, this has been replaced with the date of diagnosis. Following the reassignment of Indonesia from the WHO South-East Asia Region to the WHO Western Pacific Region, data of Indonesia after 27 May 2025 will no longer be reflected in the graph.

Figure 8. Number of MPXV clade Ib cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by month of notification (as of 21 September 2025) *



* Cases are plotted as per the month of notification (based on the date on which the case was notified to the public health authority). For 10 cases in India of which the month of notification is missing, the month of diagnosis was used.

Table 2. Profile of the 16 confirmed MPXV clade Ib cases reported in the WHO South-East Asia Region, for which case-based information is available since August 2024 (as of 21 September 2025)

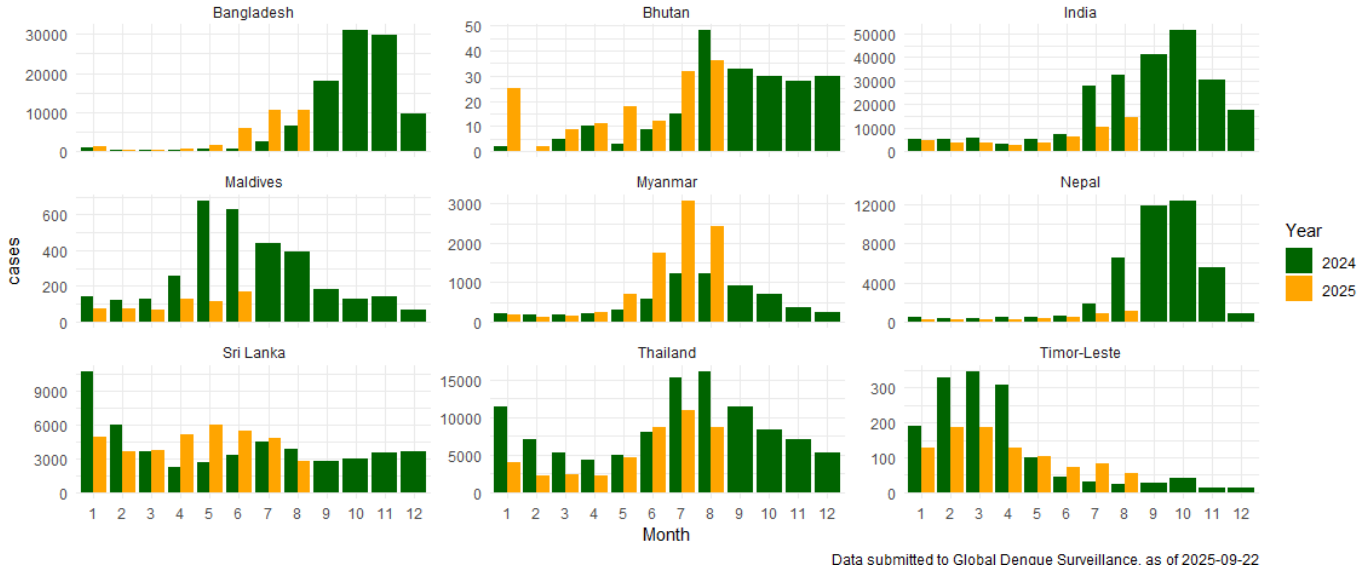
	Total (N=16)
Country	
India	10 (62%)
Thailand	6 (38%)
Recent International Travel	
No	1 (6%)
Yes	15 (94%)
Age Group	
Less than 18	0 (0%)
18-29	3 (19%)
30-39	9 (56%)
40-49	3 (19%)
50 and over	1 (6%)
Gender	
Female	6 (38%)
Male	10 (62%)

Dengue

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region [18]

- In August 2025, India reported 14 303 cases, followed by Bangladesh with 10 496 and Thailand with 8 610 cases. Data for July and August were not available for Maldives. (Figure 7)

Figure 9. Reported dengue cases by country, January 2024 – August 2025



Note:

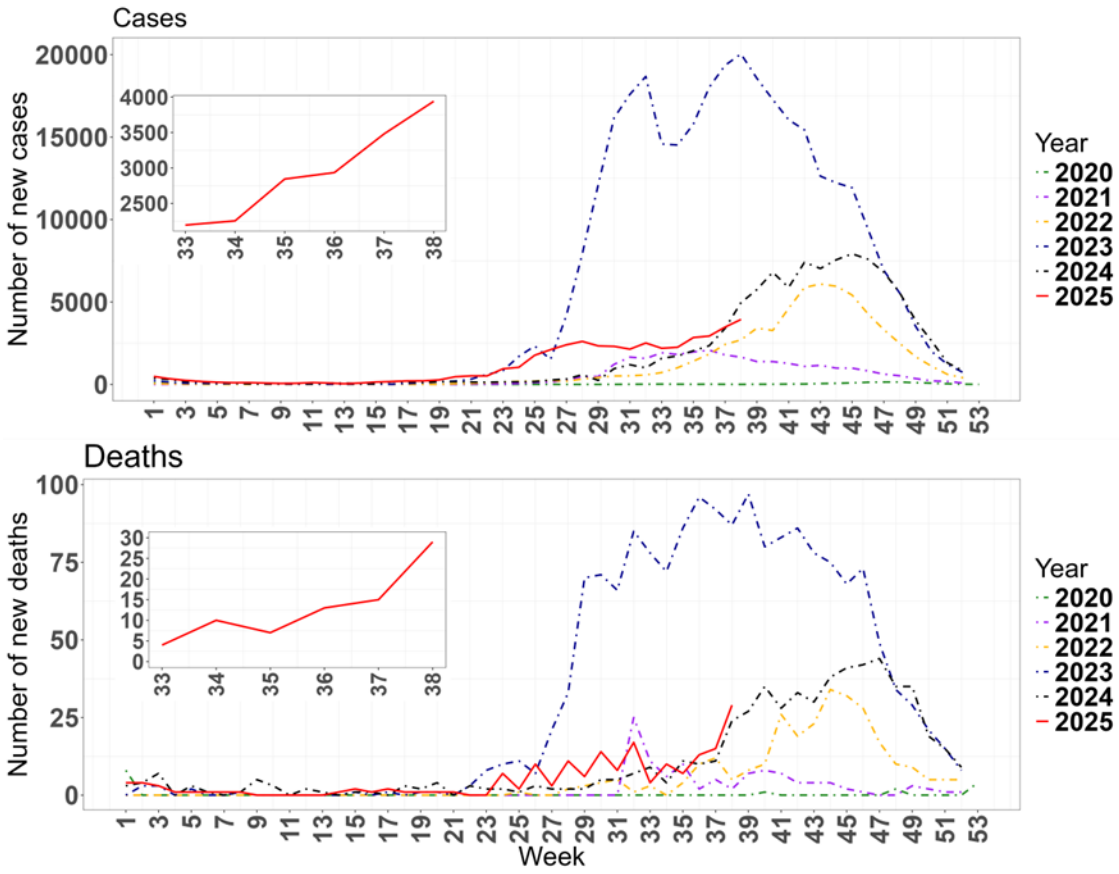
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand and Timor-Leste show the number of confirmed cases.
- Bangladesh reports only hospitalized cases. The majority of Myanmar cases are hospitalized cases.

[18] World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/

Bangladesh [19]

- During week 38 (15 to 21 September 2025), a total of 3 940 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 13.2% increase compared to 3 480 cases reported during week 37 of 2025 (08 to 14 September 2025).
- During week 38, 29 new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, a 93.3% increase compared to 15 deaths reported during week 37 of 2025.
- In 2025, as of week 38, a total of 42 520 dengue cases and 182 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 224% of the number of cases (n= 15 670) and 127% of the number of deaths (n=109) reported till week 36 in 2024.

Figure 10. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 38 of 2025



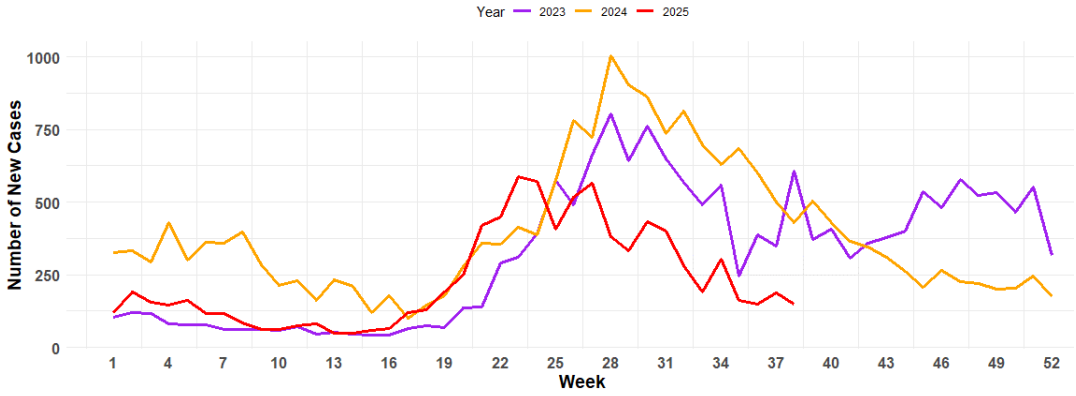
[19] Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. Daily Dengue Status Report [Internet]. Dhaka: DGHS; 2025 [cited 2025 September 8]. Available from: https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report

India

Kerala[20]

- In 2025, cases increased steadily from week 17, but the case number has declined since week 27.

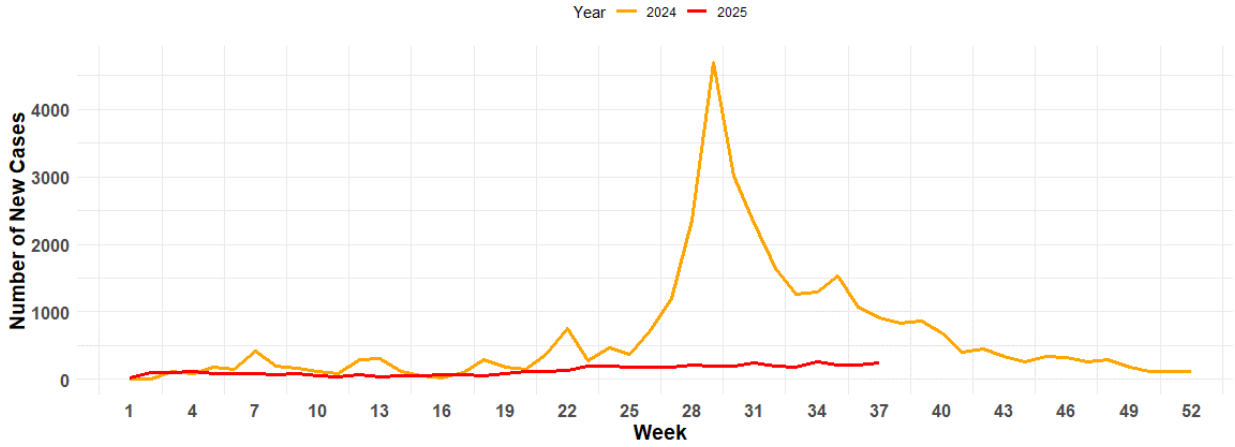
Figure 11. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Kerala state from week 1 of 2023 to week 38 of 2025



Karnataka[21]

- In Karnataka, in 2024, dengue cases peaked at over 4 500 in week 29, while in 2025, case number remains low as of week 37.

Figure 12. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Karnataka state from week 1 of 2024 to week 37 of 2025



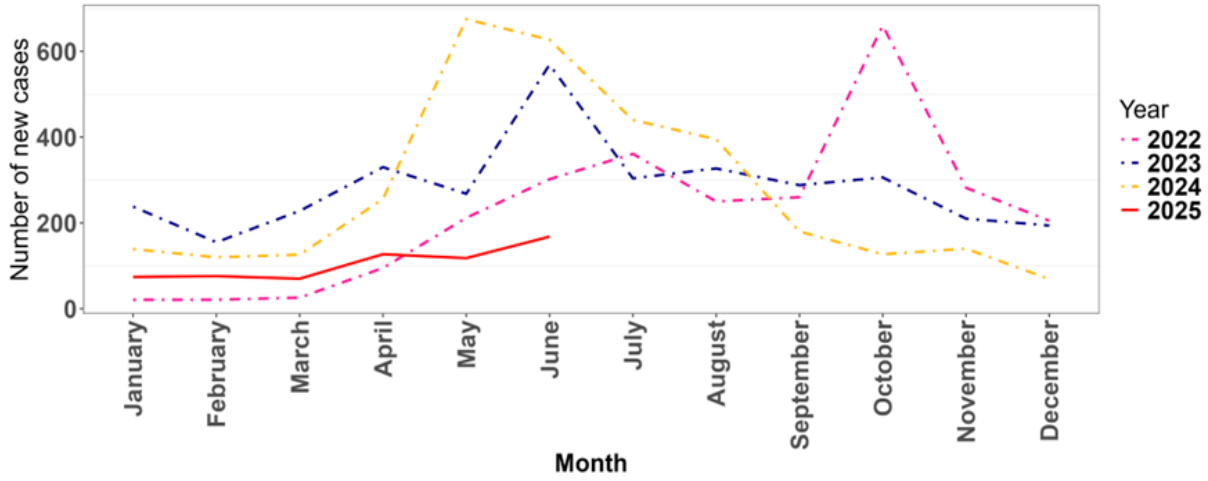
[20] Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala. Health Dashboard – Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) [Internet]. Thiruvananthapuram: DHS Kerala; 2025 [cited 2025 September 23]. Available from: https://dashboard.kerala.gov.in/

[21] Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka. PRISM-H Disease Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. Bengaluru: DHFW-GoK; 2023 [cited 2025 September 23]. Available from: https://hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in/info-4/Weekly%20Infectious%20Disease%20Report/en

Maldives[22]

- No update has yet been made publicly available for July and August 2025. During June 2025, a total of 168 cases of dengue were reported in the Maldives, a 42.4% decrease compared to May 2025 (n=118).
- In 2025, as of 30 June, a total of 633 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 1 943 cases reported during the same period in 2024. A total of 3 294 cases were reported throughout 2024.

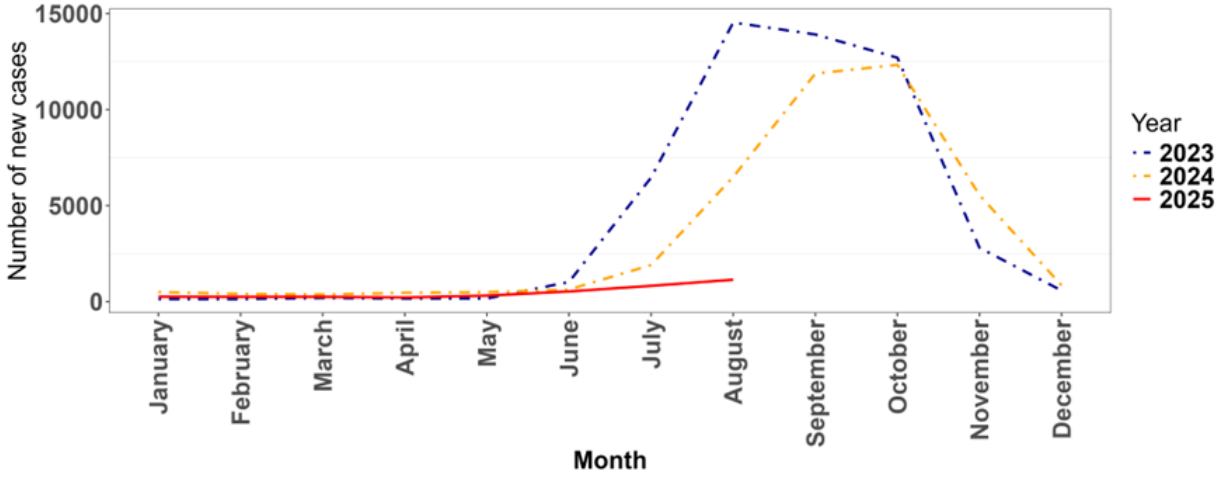
Figure 13. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to June 2025



Nepal [23]

- During August 2025, a total of 1 143 dengue cases were reported in Nepal, a 38.7% increase compared to July 2025 (n = 824).
- In 2025, as of 31 August, a total of 3 789 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 11 270 cases during the same period in 2024. A total of 41 865 dengue cases and 15 deaths were reported throughout 2024.

Figure 14. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Nepal from January 2023 to August 2025

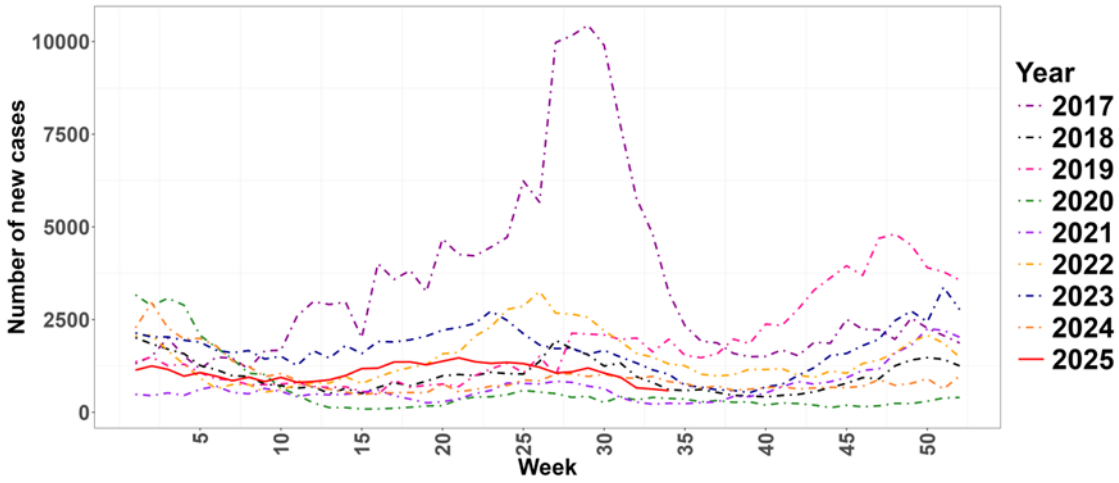


[22] World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/
[23] SEARO CDS

Sri Lanka [24]

- No update has yet been made publicly available post week 34 from Sri Lanka. During week 34 (18 to 24 August 2025), a total of 583 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 38.5% decrease compared to 948 cases reported during week 33 (11 to 17 August 2025).
- From week one to week 34 in 2025, a total of 36 611 cases were reported compared to 35 944 cases and 61 216 cases during the same period in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Figure 15. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 34 of 2025.



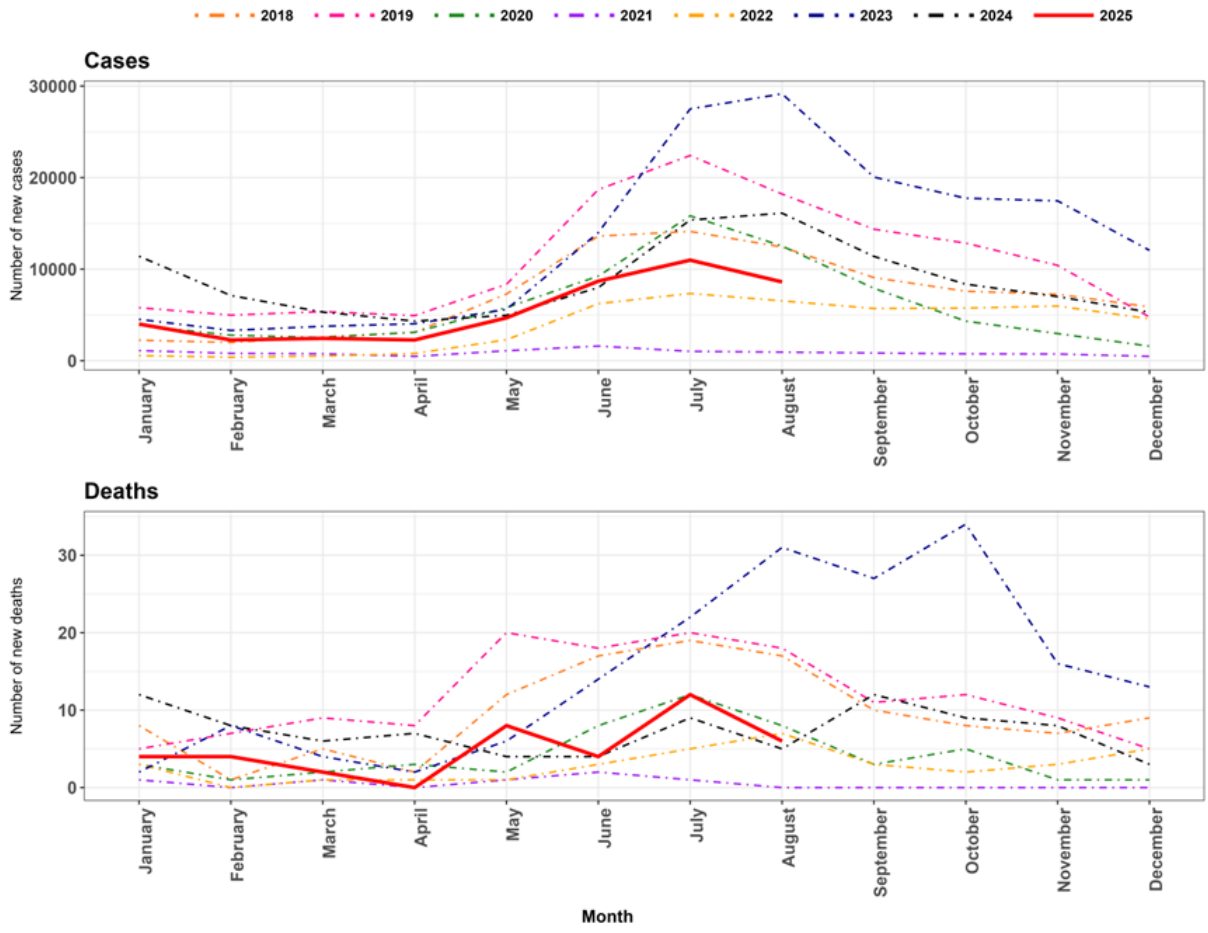
Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - 2017 to 2020; 2021 to 2025

[24] National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU), Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. National Dengue Control Unit [Internet]. Colombo: MoH; 2025 [cited 2025 September 23]. Available from: https://www.dengue.health.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/

Thailand [25]

- During August 2025, a total of 8 610 cases of dengue were reported in Thailand, a 22% decrease compared to July 2025 (n=10 987).
- During August 2025, 6 dengue deaths were reported, a 50% decrease compared to July 2025 (n=12).
- In 2025, as of 31 August, a total of 43 969 dengue cases and 40 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 61% of the number of cases (n=72 628) and 73% of the number of deaths (n=55) reported during the same period in 2024.

Figure 16. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Thailand from January 2018 to August 2025.



[25] World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/

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**
  - Fourth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the upsurge of mpox 2024 – Temporary recommendations (9 June 2025)
  - 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 (17 April 2025)
  - 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
  - Mpox (monkeypox) health topic page
  - Mpox (monkeypox) Q&A
  - Monkeypox outbreak page (2022)

- **Epidemiological situation**
  - Dashboard: https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/
  - Multi-country outbreak of mpox. External situation report #58 (19 September 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