

WHO South-East Asia Region Epidemiological Bulletin

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South-East Asia Region



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 (West Bengal): Nipah virus infection

Situation overview as of 27 January 2026^{1 2 3 4}

- On 27 January 2026, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India issued press release clarifying that only two confirmed cases of Nipah virus infection have been reported from West Bengal since December last year.
- The two confirmed cases are health care workers at a hospital in North 24 Pargana District, West Bengal State. The two cases were laboratory confirmed at the National Institute for Virology in Pune.
- A total of 196 contact persons linked to the confirmed cases have been identified, traced, monitored, and tested. All contact persons have been found asymptomatic and have tested negative for Nipah virus. No additional Nipah Virus Disease cases have been detected so far.
- This event represents the seventh Nipah outbreak documented in India and the third reported in West Bengal. Since 2001, India has reported six Nipah outbreaks prior to this event: four in the state of Kerala and two in the state of West Bengal. In West Bengal, previous outbreaks occurred in 2001 (Siliguri) and 2007 (Nadia district).

Public Health Response

- Following confirmation of these two cases, the Government of India, in close coordination with the Government of West Bengal, initiated prompt and comprehensive public health measures in accordance with established protocols.
- Enhanced surveillance, laboratory testing, and field investigations were undertaken through coordinated efforts of Central and State health agencies, which ensured timely containment of the cases. The situation is under constant monitoring.

For more information

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Only Two Nipah Virus Disease Cases Reported in West Bengal Since Last December: NCDC. 196 Contacts Linked to Nipah Cases Traced and Found Asymptomatic; All Test Negative. 27 January 2026. Available from: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2219219®=3&lang=1>
- News On AIR. *West Bengal reports two suspected Nipah cases; Centre sends response team*. New Delhi: Prasar Bharati; 13 January 2026. Available from: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/west-bengal-reports-two-suspected-nipah-cases-centre-sends-response-team/>
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). X (formerly Twitter). 12 Jan 2026. Available from: https://x.com/MoHFW_INDIA/status/2010751351232594216
- World Health Organization (6 August 2025). Disease Outbreak News; Nipah virus infection – India. Available at: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2025-DON577>
- World Health Organization. Nipah virus infection. Available from: https://www.who.int/health-topics/nipah-virus-infection#tab=tab_1
- World Health Organization. Nipah virus – Fact sheet. Geneva: WHO. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/nipah-virus>
- World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia. Regional strategy for the prevention and control of Nipah virus infection: 2023–2030. New Delhi: WHO SEARO; 2023. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290210849>
- World Health Organization. Technical brief: Enhancing readiness for a Nipah virus event in countries not reporting a Nipah virus event: interim document. Geneva: WHO; 2024 Feb. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290211273>

¹ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2219219®=3&lang=1>

² <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/centre-deploys-national-joint-outbreak-response-team-in-west-bengal-after-suspected-nipah-cases/>

³ <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/west-bengal-reports-two-suspected-nipah-cases-centre-sends-response-team/>

⁴ https://x.com/MoHFW_INDIA/status/2010751351232594216

Bangladesh: Major Fire in Cox's Bazar Refugee Camp

Situation overview as of 22 January 2026^{5 6 7}

- On 20 January, a large fire broke out in a Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, which hosts more than one million Rohingya refugees.
- The fire affected over 2 000 refugees, causing extensive damage to shelters and camp-based facilities.
- More than 400 shelters were damaged, and camp infrastructure was severely impacted, including over 160 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, eleven learning centres, and two mosques.
- The fire destabilized the hillside terrain on which the camp is constructed, damaging drainage networks and public infrastructure.
- No fatalities or major injuries have been reported. However, many families lost shelter and access to basic services.

Public Health Response

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched an emergency response:
 - Health teams and ambulances were deployed to support individuals with minor injuries.
 - Specialized teams in shelter, WASH, and protection were mobilized to assist affected families.
 - Within 24 hours of the incident, IOM's camp management team, alongside refugee volunteers, cleared debris from fire-affected areas, restoring safe access for emergency assistance and essential services.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) provided emergency food assistance.
- Temporary shelter and psychosocial support services were provided to displaced individuals.

New publication: Statement on the antigen composition of COVID-19 vaccines

- The WHO [Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Vaccine Composition](#) (TAG-CO-VAC) held its twice-yearly decision-making meeting in December 2025 to review the evolution of SARS-CoV-2, the performance of currently approved COVID-19 vaccines and the implications for COVID-19 vaccine antigen composition.⁸
- Based on these evaluations, WHO advises vaccine manufacturers and regulatory authorities that monovalent LP.8.1 is the recommended COVID-19 vaccine antigen.
- The previously recommended JN.1 lineage (JN.1 or KP.2) antigens remain suitable alternatives and vaccination should not be delayed in anticipation of access to vaccines with the LP.8.1 composition.
- The complete statement is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/18-12-2025-statement-on-the-antigen-composition-of-covid-19-vaccines>

⁵ <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-delivers-life-saving-assistance-following-major-fire-coxs-bazar-refugee-camp>

⁶ <https://www.care.org/media-and-press/care-bangladesh-responds-to-fire-at-rohingya-camp/>

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/WFPinBangladesh/posts/our-teams-on-the-ground-continue-to-support-rohingya-families-affected-by-the-fi/1321405746684013/>

⁸ WHO. Statement on the antigen composition of COVID-19 vaccines [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 18 December 2025 [cited 2026]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news/item/18-12-2025-statement-on-the-antigen-composition-of-covid-19-vaccines>

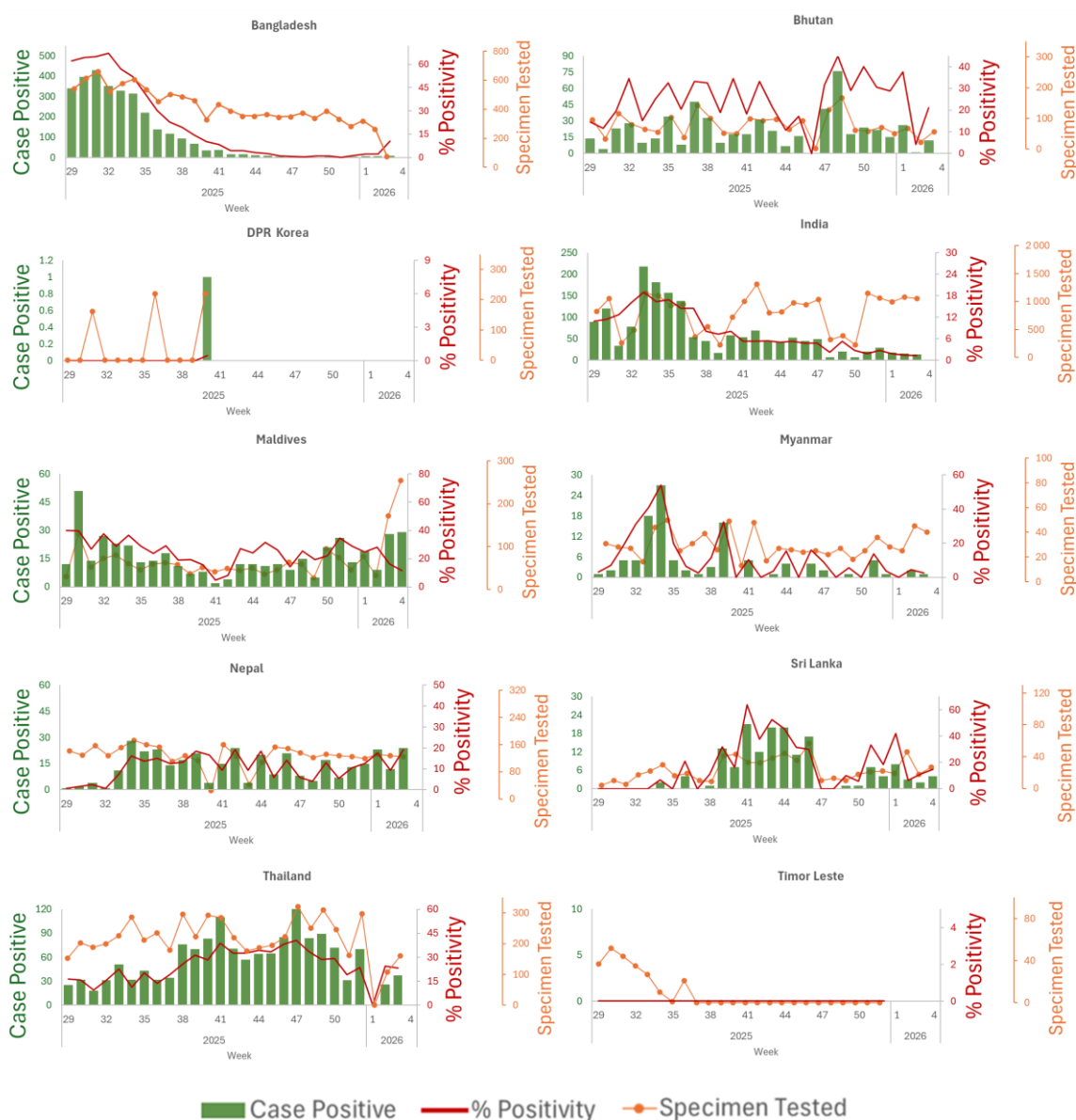
Influenza

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 27 January 2026⁹

- Figure 1 shows the influenza data from the WHO FluNet platform, accessed on 27 January 2026.
- In the SEA Region during week 2–4, there were 232 influenza positive samples among 3 710 samples tested, with an overall positivity percentage of 6%.
- The influenza activity in terms of positivity percentages ranged between 1% in India and 24% in Thailand. Thailand has reported a relatively high test positive proportion of 24% while Bhutan reported 16% test positive proportion (Table 1).

Figure 1. Weekly trends of specimens tested at National Influenza Centers (NIC) and laboratory confirmed influenza in the WHO South-East Asia Region (2025), situation as of 27 January 2026



Source: RespiMart/FluNet

⁹ WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2026 cited 2026]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs>

Influenza A subtypes and B lineages reported in the Region during weeks 52 of 2025 and 2 of 2026, as of 27 January 2026¹⁰

- Table 1 shows influenza virus subtype and lineage distribution across ten countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region for epidemiological weeks 2 to 4 of 2026, based on data extracted from WHO's RespiMart platforms on 27 Jan 2026. The last submission was on 18 Jan 2026, (Week 4).
- The predominant influenza A subtype detected in the region during the reporting period was influenza A(H3) (50%). Among countries that reported Influenza test positive results (10 or more positive samples), it was the major influenza A sub-type in Bangladesh (100%), Bhutan (69%) and Thailand (84%).
- While influenza virus A predominated in majority of countries in the region, Influenza B was pre-dominant in India.
- Also, it is noteworthy to observe that among the positive influenza samples, 35 % were un-subtyped influenza A in Maldives while the same in Nepal was 33%. Though there were only 9 positive samples in Sri Lanka, two third of them (67%) were un-subtyped. The remaining one third of positive influenza samples in Sri Lanka were lineage un-determined influenza B viruses.
- B(Victoria) lineage represented 20% of influenza virus detected overall in the region, with higher percentages in India (82%).
- In week 2 to 4, DPR Korea and Timor-Leste had no samples tested during this period. Myanmar had only three influenza positive samples.

Table 1. Distribution of influenza A virus subtypes and B virus lineages in the WHO South-East Asia Region (weeks 2 to 4 2026), situation as 27 January 2026*

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	3,710	232	6%	0%	50%	0%	6%	18%	0%	20%	6%
Bangladesh	343	14	4%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bhutan	81	13	16%	0%	69%	0%	0%	0%	0%	31%	0%
DPR Korea	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
India	2,132	28	1%	0%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%	82%	0%
Maldives	458	66	14%	0%	29%	0%	20%	35%	0%	8%	9%
Myanmar	85	3	4%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nepal	253	36	14%	0%	36%	0%	3%	33%	0%	14%	14%
Sri Lanka	91	9	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	67%	0%	0%	33%
Thailand	267	63	24%	0%	84%	0%	2%	0%	0%	14%	0%
Timor-Leste	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

* Positivity proportion that less than 0.5 % are shown as 0%.

¹⁰ WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2026 [cited 2026]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs>

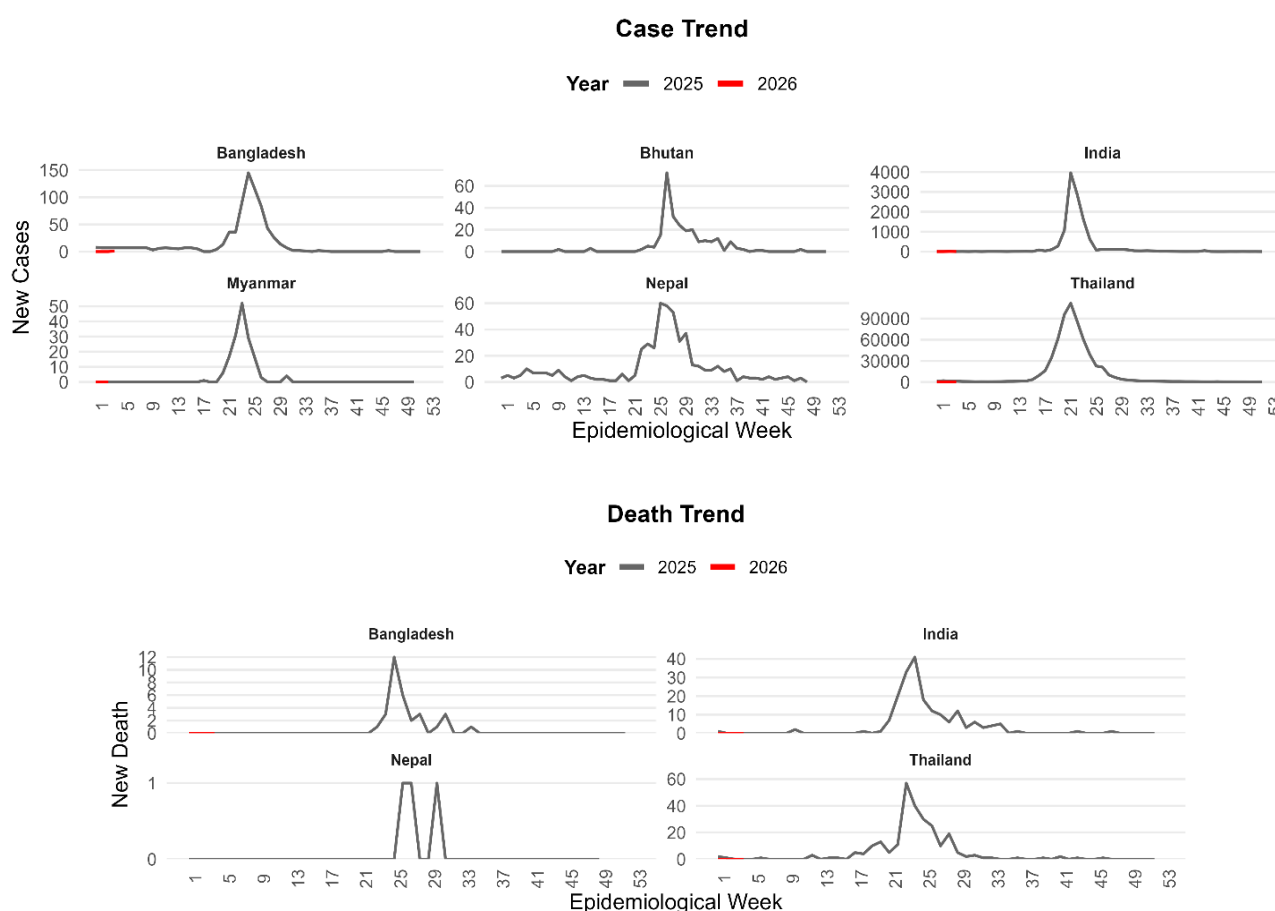
COVID-19

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 25 January 2026

- The weekly number of COVID-19 cases reported on official websites, including Bangladesh¹¹, Bhutan¹², India¹³, Myanmar¹⁴, Nepal¹⁵ and Thailand¹⁶, are presented in Figure 2.
- Data of the most recent week (week 4) are not available from Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar.
- Please visit the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#) for the global situation of COVID-19.

Figure 2. Weekly comparisons of new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported from selected countries since week one of 2025 to week 4 of 2026 in the WHO South-East Asia Region by year*



* Nepal data as of week 49.

¹¹ Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. COVID-19 Dashboard [Internet]. Dhaka: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; 2026 <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/component/content/article?layout=edit&id=5612>

¹² Bhutan, Royal Centre for Disease Control <https://www.rcdc.gov.bt/web/>

¹³ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. COVID-19 India Dashboard [Internet]. New Delhi: Available from: <https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/>

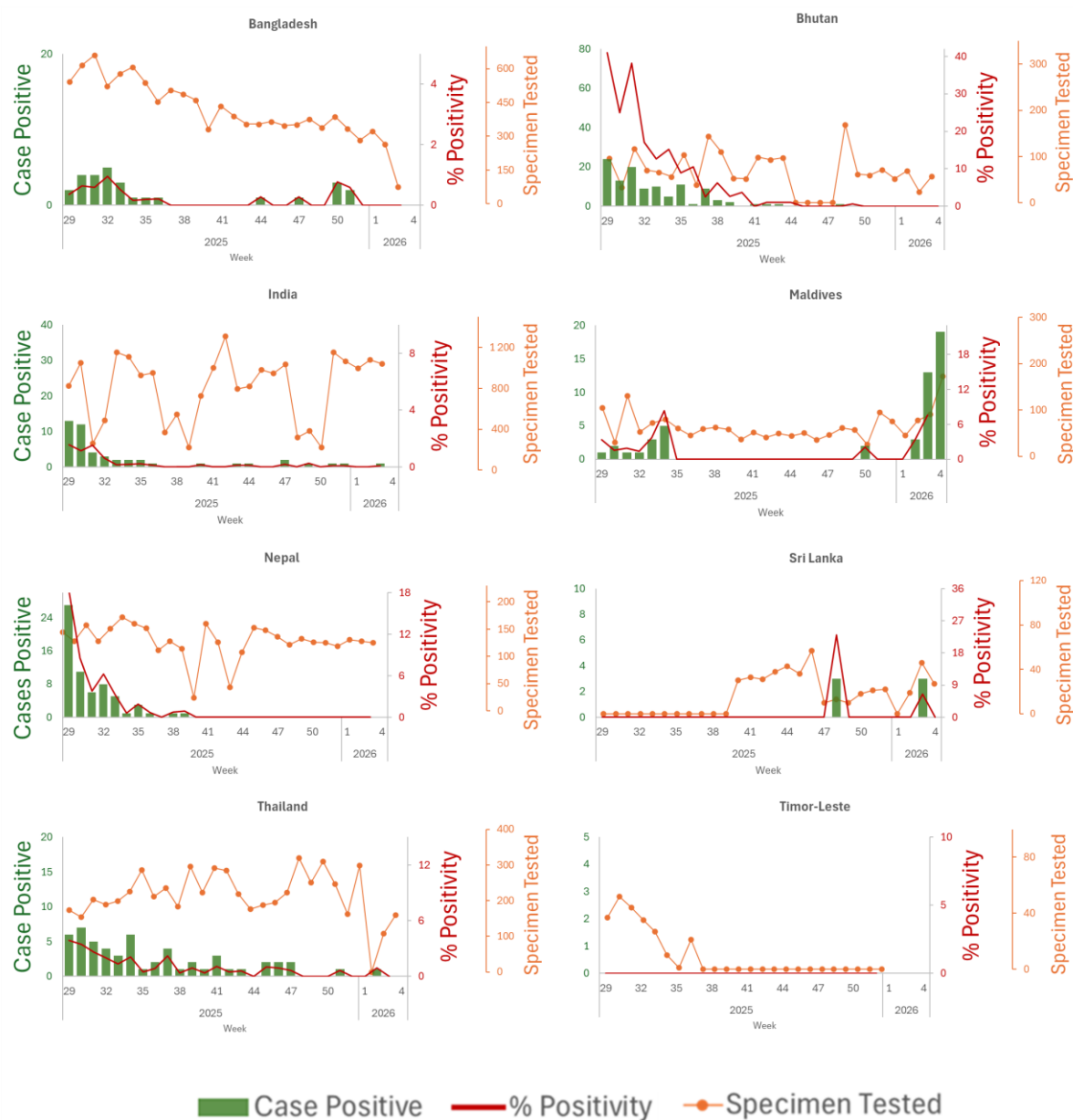
¹⁴ Ministry of Health, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Ministry of Health official website [Internet]. Nay Pyi Taw: MoH; 2026 Available from: <https://www.mohs.gov.mm/>

¹⁵ Epidemiology and Disease Control Division Nepal. Available from: <https://edcd.gov.np/newsroom/outbreak;>

¹⁶ Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. Nonthaburi: DDC, MoPH; 2026 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, Figure 3 summarizes weekly trends of COVID-19 cases in the eight countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste - including the number of positive COVID-19 cases, the percentage positivity and the number of specimens tested.¹⁷

Figure 3. The number of COVID-19 positive case, % positivity and specimen tested from integrated influenza-SARS CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems (as on 27 January 2026)



Source: Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Output Dashboard

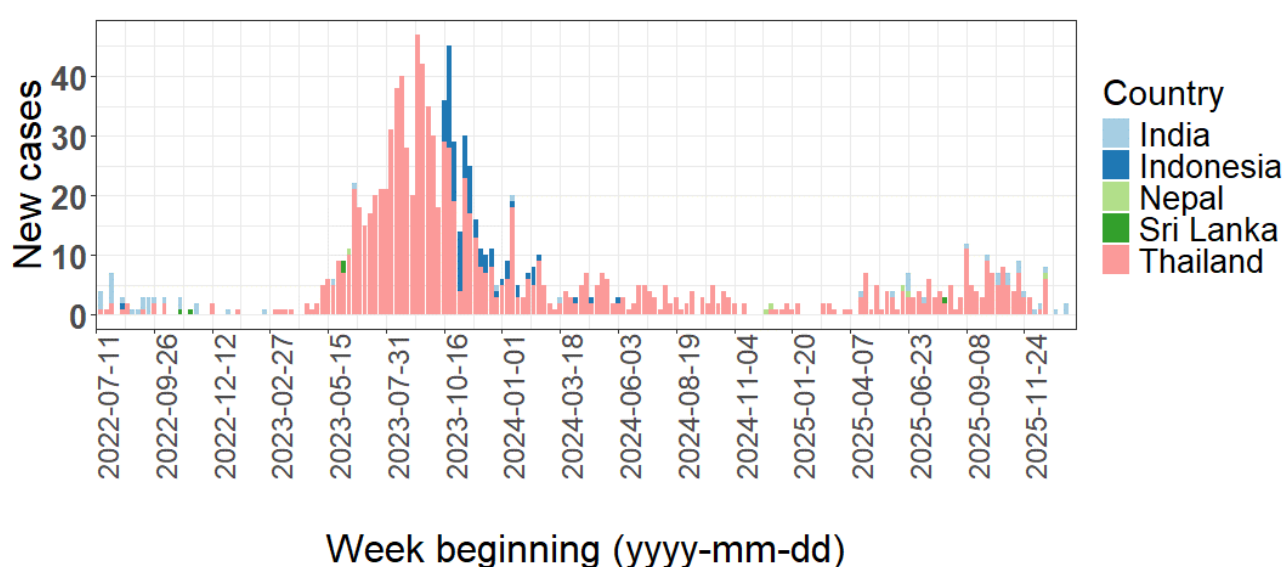
¹⁷ Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Output Dashboard. Available from: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNzdiZTVmY2YtNzY2NC00NTM0LTkzY2QtMWM0MzY0Mjg0YTZiIiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQ0NGl0OS04MTBiLTNkYzI4MGFmYjU5MCIslmMiOjIh9>

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 25 January 2026

- In week 3 and 4 (12 to 25 January 2026), two new mpox cases were reported from India.
- As of 25 January 2026, in the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 1 188 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases including 14 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 4).
- Thirty one MPXV clade 1b cases have been reported in the Region to date – eighteen from India, twelve from Thailand and one from Nepal. Please see Figure 5 for the trend of MPXV 1b cases detected in the Region.
- For information on global epidemiological situation of mpox, please see: [WHO mpox surveillance dashboard](#)

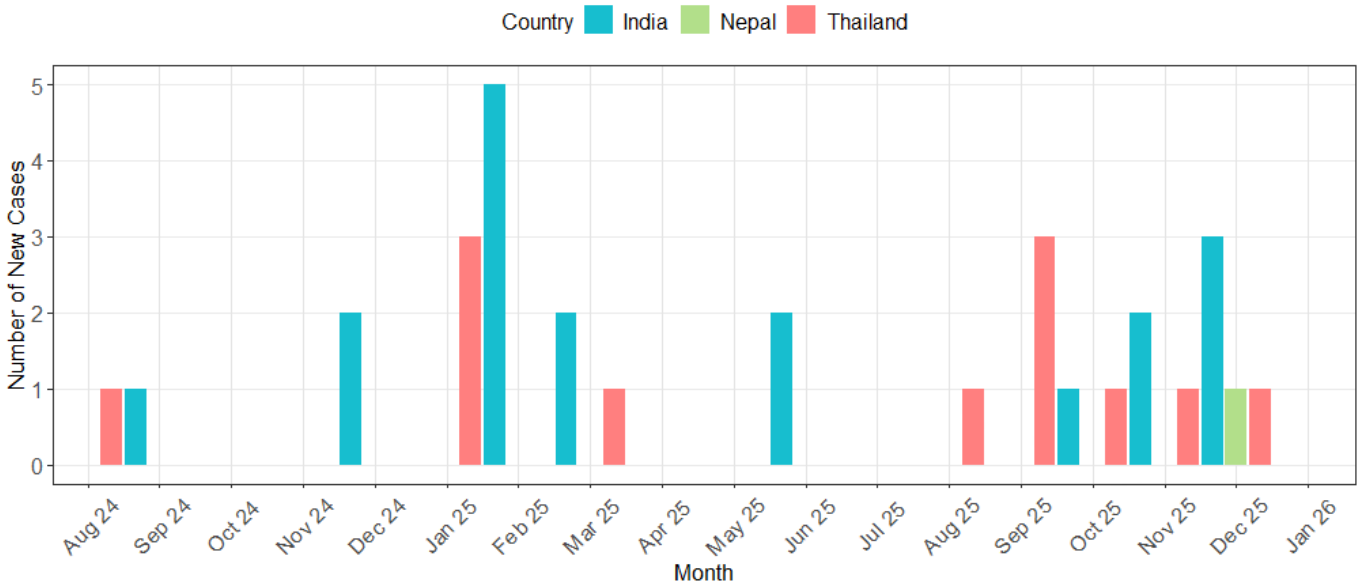
Figure 4. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 25 January 2026)



* 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 5. Number of MPXV clade Ib cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by month of notification (as of 25 January 2026) *



* 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 30 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 25 January 2026)*

Total (N = 31)	
Country	
India	18 (58.1%)
Nepal	1 (3.2%)
Thailand	12 (38.7%)
Recent International Travel	
Yes	28 (90.3%)
No	3 (9.7%)
Age group (years)	
Less than 18	0 (0.0%)
18-29	10 (32.3%)
30-39	14 (45.2%)
40-49	6 (19.4%)
50 and over	1 (3.2%)
Gender	
Female	11 (35.5%)
Male	20 (64.5%)

* One CRF is awaited from Nepal.

Dengue

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region ¹⁸

- In December 2025, Bangladesh reported 8 465 cases, followed by India with 7 539 cases and Sri Lanka with 5900 cases (Figure 6).
- **Timor Leste** is showing an increasing trend of dengue reporting 279 cases in December (2.5 times increased compared to November (n=111), and 23 times higher than 12 cases reported in the same month in 2024).
- **Maldives** also reports steady increase of dengue cases, with 411 cases in December 2025, which is nearly six times higher compared to the number of cases reported in December 2024 (n=69 cases).

Figure 6. Reported dengue cases by country, January 2024 – December 2026



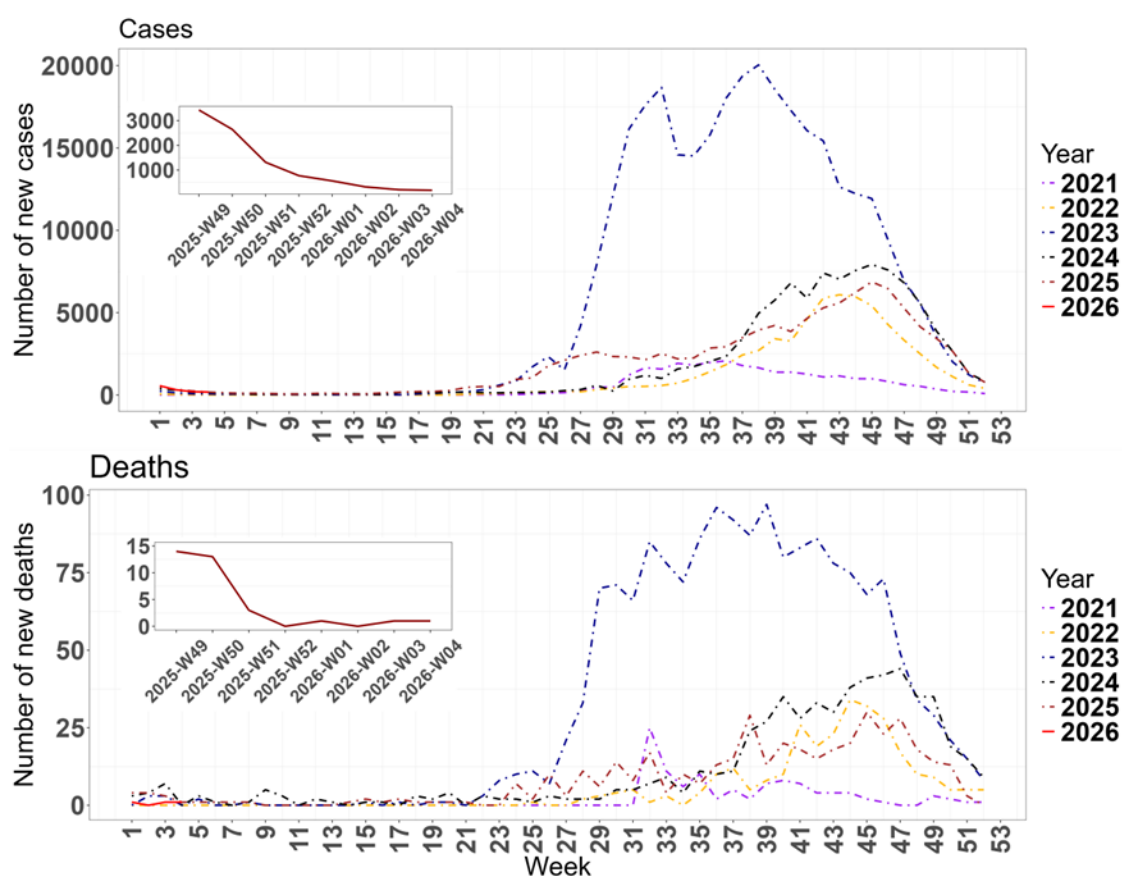
Notes:

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Timor-Leste show 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/

- During week 4 of 2026 (19 to 25 January 2026), a total of 179 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 11.8% decrease compared to 203 cases reported during week 3 of 2026 (12 to 18 January 2026).
- During week 4, one new dengue death was reported in Bangladesh, compared to one death reported during week 3 of 2026.
- In 2026, as of week 4, a total of 1 258 dengue cases and 3 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 100% of the number of cases (n= 1 252) and 25% of the number of deaths (n = 12) reported in 2025. A total of 105 276 cases and 2 440 deaths were reported during 2025.

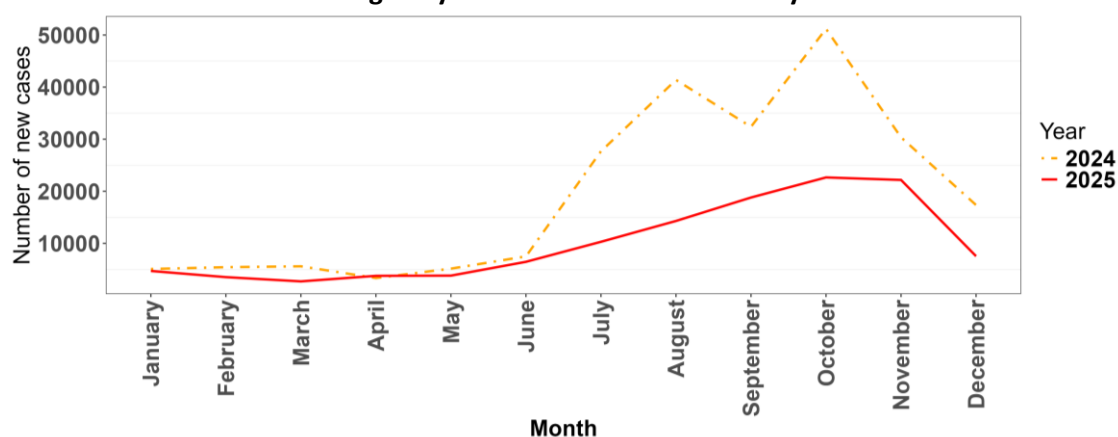
Figure 7. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2021 to week 4 of 2026.



¹⁹ Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. Daily Dengue Status Report [Internet]. Dhaka: DGHS; 2026 Available from: <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report>

- During December 2025, a total of 7 539 cases of dengue were reported in India, a 66% decrease compared to November 2025 (n = 22 175).
- In 2025, as of 31 December, a total of 120 729 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 232 425 cases during the same period in 2024.

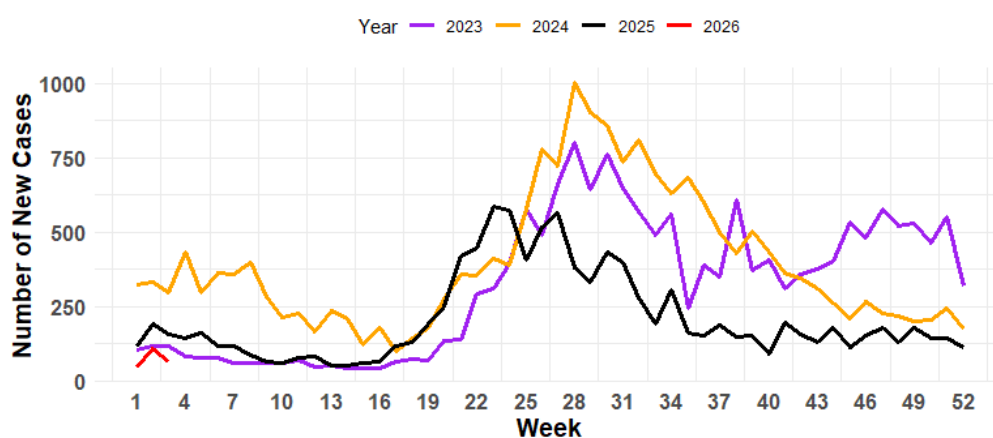
Figure 8. Number of new cases of dengue by month in India from January 2024 to December 2025



Kerala²⁰

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

Figure 9. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Kerala state from week 1 of 2023 to week 3 of 2026

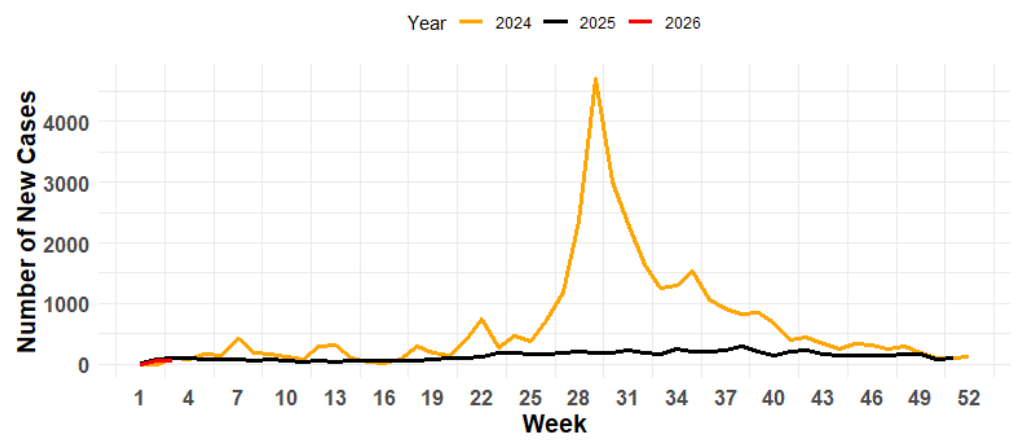


²⁰ Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala. Health Dashboard – Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) [Internet]. Thiruvananthapuram: DHS Kerala; 2026 Available from: <https://dashboard.kerala.gov.in/>

Karnataka²¹

- In Karnataka, in 2024, dengue cases peaked at over 4 500 in week 29, while in 2025, case number remains low as of week 51.

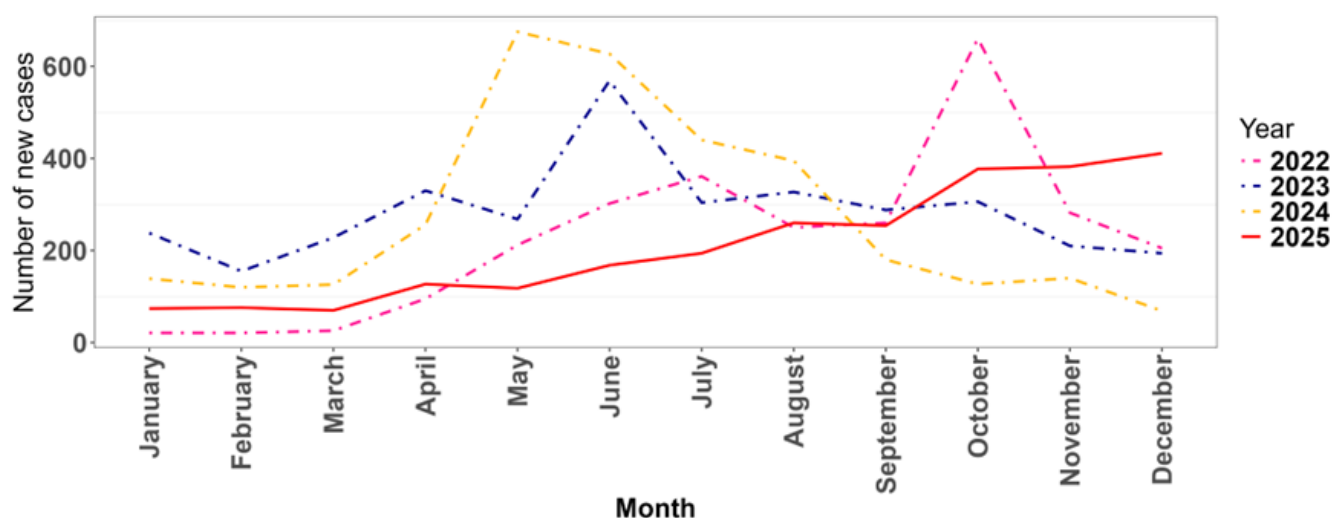
Figure 10. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Karnataka state from week 1 of 2024 to week 3 of 2026



²¹ Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka. PRISM-H Disease Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. Bengaluru: DHFW-GoK; 2026 Available from: <https://hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in/info-4/Weekly%20Infectious%20Disease%20Report/en>

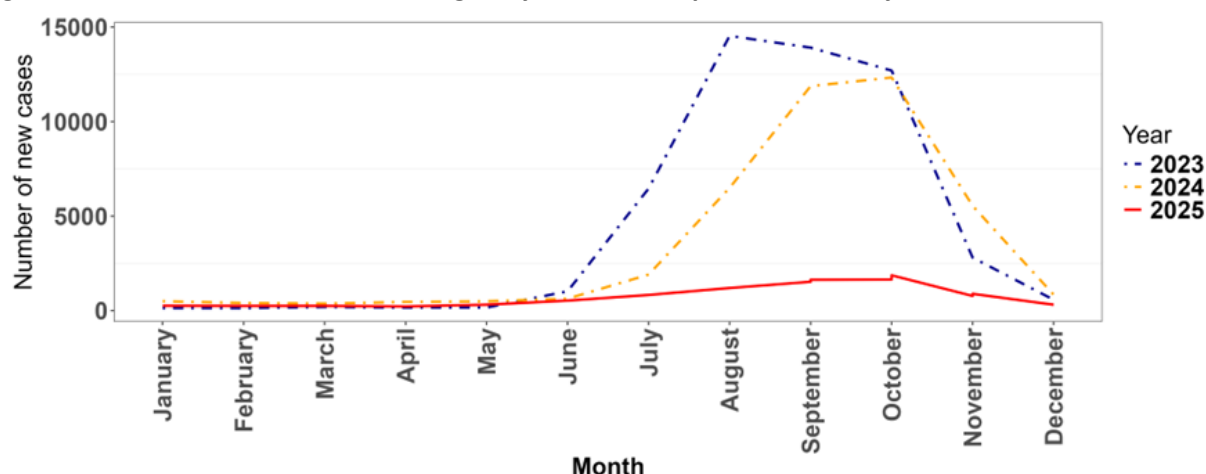
- During December 2025, a total of 411 cases of dengue were reported in the Maldives, an 8% increase compared to November 2025 (n=382).

Figure 11. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to December 2025



- During December 2025, a total of 313 dengue cases were reported in Nepal, a 59.8% decrease compared to November 2025 (n = 778).
- In 2025, as of 31 December, a total of 8 563 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 41 865 cases during the same period in 2024. A total of 41 865 dengue cases and 15 deaths were reported throughout 2024.

Figure 12. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Nepal from January 2023 to December 2025

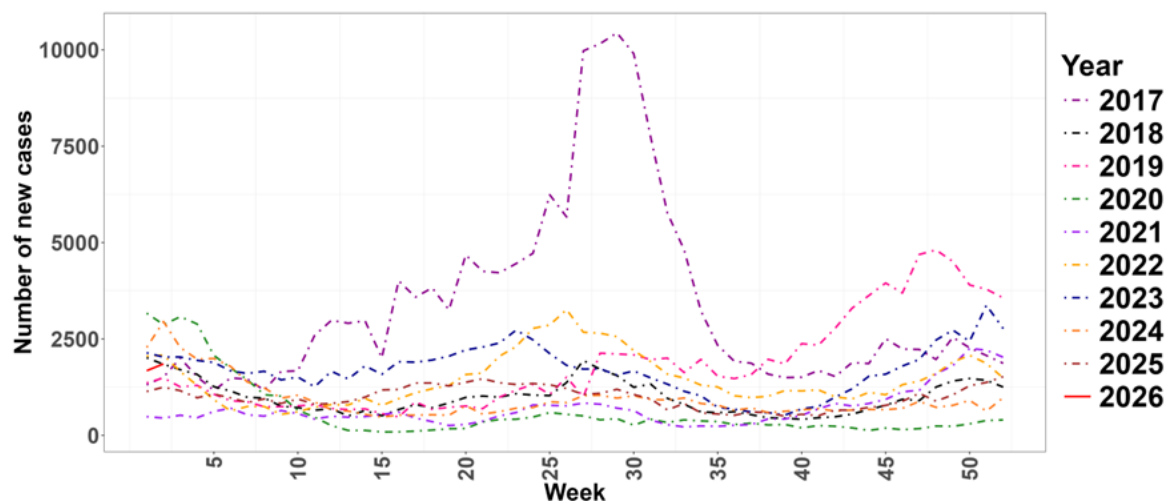


²² World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/

²³ World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/

- During week two (05 to 11 January 2026), a total of 1 853 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 10.5% increase compared to 1 677 cases reported during week one (29 December 2025 to 04 January 2026).
- As of week two in 2026, a total of 3 530 cases were reported compared to 2 387 and 5 230 cases during the same period in 2025 and 2024, respectively.
- The Western Province accounted for 54.5% of total cases, with the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) contributing 8.3%, the rest of Colombo District 25.9%.

Figure 13. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 2 of 2026.

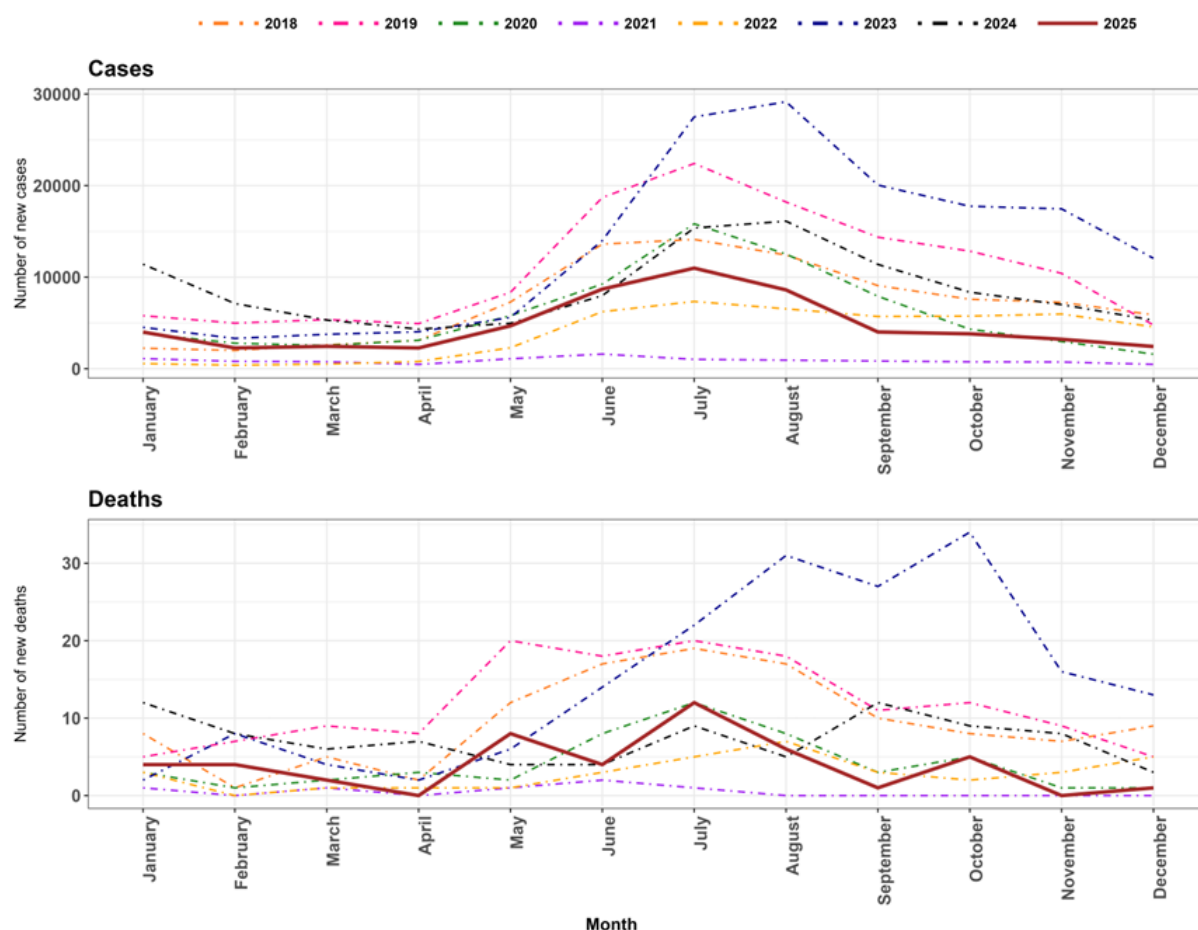


Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - [2017 to 2020](#); [2021 to 2025](#)

²⁴ National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU), Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. National Dengue Control Unit [Internet]. WCO Sri Lanka and Colombo: MoH; 2025 [cited 2026 January 25]. Available from: <https://www.dengue.health.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/>

- During December 2025, a total of 2 427 cases of dengue were reported in Thailand, a 25% decrease compared to November 2025 (n=3 218).
- During December 2025, one dengue death was reported, which compares to nil death reported in November 2025.
- In 2025, as of 31 December, a total of 57 440 dengue cases and 47 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 55% of the number of cases (n=104 681) and 54% of the number of deaths (n=87) reported during the same period in 2024.

Figure 14. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Thailand from January 2018 to December 2025



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