WHO South-East Asia Region
Epidemiological Bulletin

WHO Health Emergencies Programme
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HEALTH EMERGENCIES programme
World Health Organization
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.

Key events and updates

Maldives: Measles situation update

According to Health Protection Agency (HPA), Maldives [1]

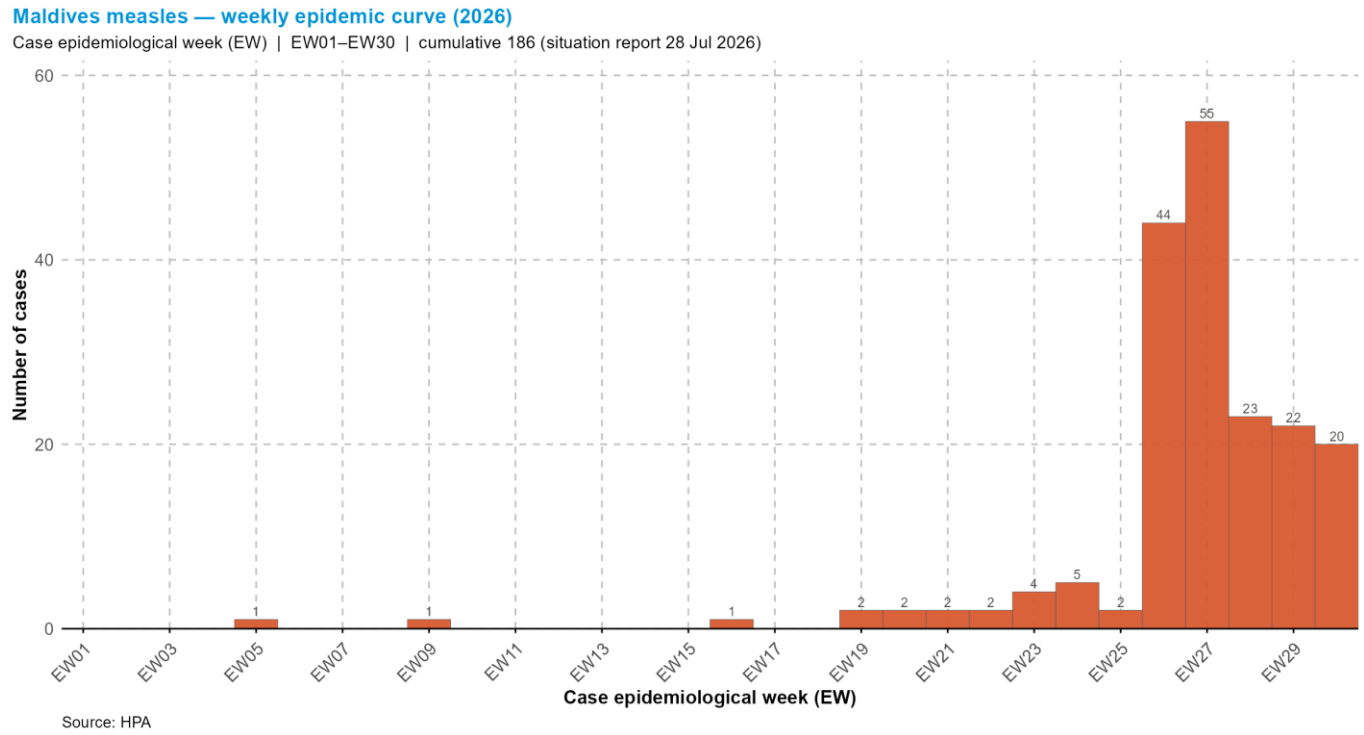
Situation as of 28 July 2026

- As of 28 July 2026, Maldives reported that 20 new measles were reported in the past week. Since beginning of 2026, a total of 186 laboratory-confirmed measles cases have been reported, with three cases reported from January to April 2026 and 183 cases reported from May to July 2026.
- Following a sharp increase in cases in late June (from epidemiological week 26 to 27), cases have remained relatively stable over the past three weeks, suggesting local transmission is likely ongoing. The cases are primarily reported from the Greater Malé Area.

Public Health Response

- As of 28 July 2026, more than 12 000 individuals have been vaccinated through Outbreak Response Immunization.
- HPA Maldives is regularly releasing public communication, providing updates of measles situation, and public health advice to ensure people have received two doses of measles-containing vaccines and a need to seek medical attention following potential exposure to a person diagnosed with measles and upon onset of measles-compatible symptoms.

Figure 1. Weekly number of measles cases in Maldives, as of epidemiological week 30 (2026)



[1] HPA Maldives

WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC) 2025

- On 15 July 2026, WHO and UNICEF released the annual WHO-UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC) [2], [3], [4].
- The estimates show modest global progress in routine childhood immunization in 2025, despite persistent challenges from conflict, humanitarian crises, vaccine hesitancy and health system disruptions.
- Global coverage with **the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine (DTP1) reached 90%** (about 116 million infants), while **85% completed the three-dose DTP series (DTP3),** indicating a slight improvement over 2024.
- The number of zero-dose children—those who did not receive a single routine vaccine—declined by nearly 750,000, from 14.2 million in 2024 to 13.5 million in 2025, reflecting progress in reaching previously missed children.
- Compared to their 2019 baselines, **the Americas and South-East Asia have fully recovered and improved their performance, with the latter now the highest performing region.** While Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and Europe regions saw gains last year, their coverage remains below pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. By contrast, the Western Pacific experienced a decline, leaving it the region furthest below its 2019 baseline.
- However, **drop-out remains a major concern**. Globally, 7.3 million infants are estimated to have received their first DTP dose but dropped out before receiving their first measles dose. This drop-out rate contributed to stalled **measles coverage with 84% of children receiving the first measles dose (MCV1) and 77% receiving the second dose (MCV2).**
- More than half of the world's zero-dose children live in countries affected by conflict and humanitarian emergencies, where insecurity, displacement and fragile health systems continue to limit access to immunization services.
- WHO and UNICEF warn that recent gains remain fragile. Funding constraints, increasing outbreaks of measles, diphtheria and cholera, and persistent inequities threaten to reverse progress unless countries strengthen routine immunization, prioritize underserved populations and invest in resilient primary health care systems.

[2] https://www.who.int/news/item/15-07-2026-global-childhood-immunization-coverage-inches-forward-despite-conflict-and-hesitancy---unicef--who
[3] https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-health/immunization/
[4] https://immunizationdata.who.int/

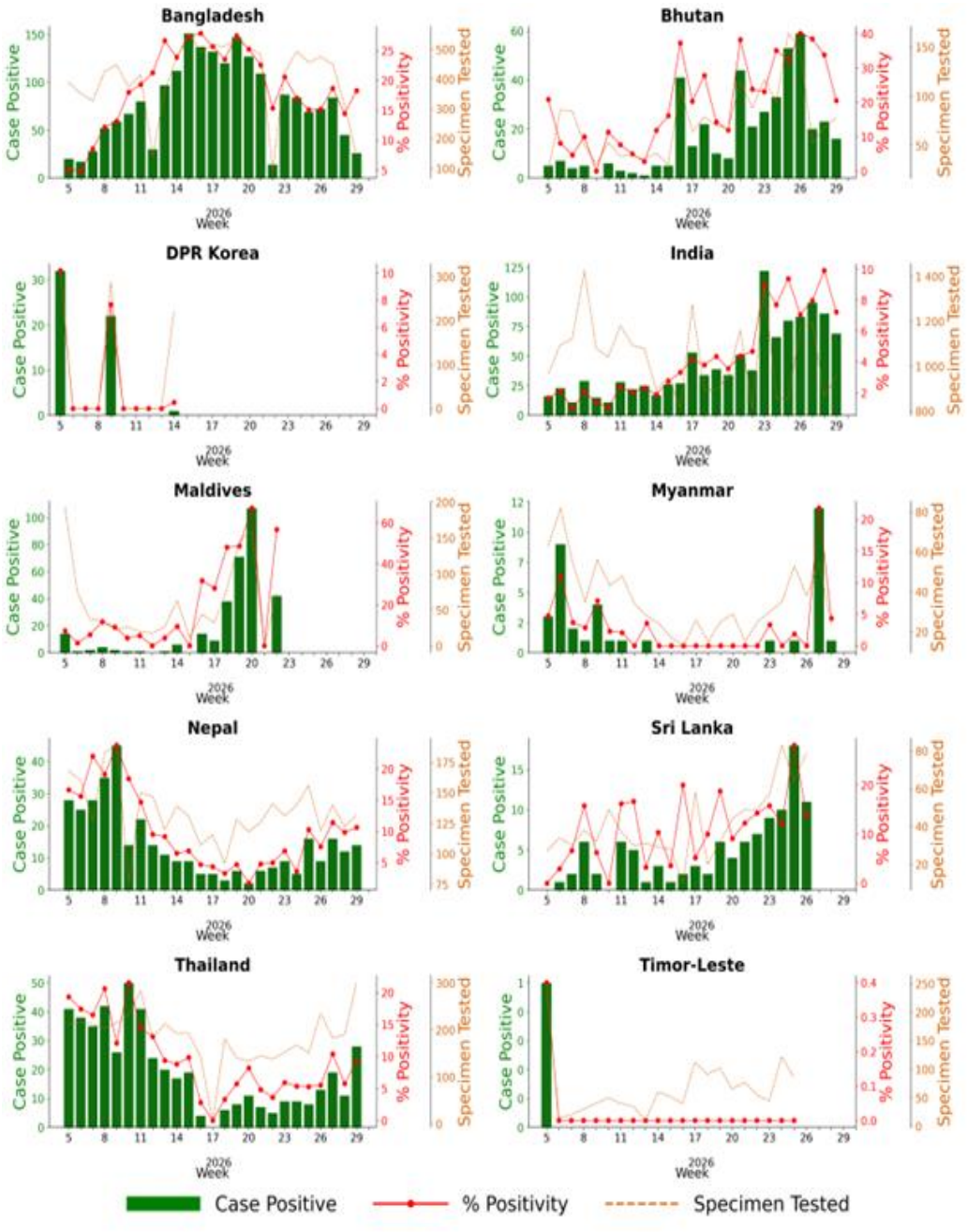
Influenza

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 27 July 2026 [5]

- Figure 3 shows the influenza data from the WHO FluNet platform, accessed on 27 July 2026.
- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, during weeks 28-29, there were 331 influenza positive samples.
- Among 3 189 samples tested from four countries, the overall positivity was 10%.
- Bhutan reported high test positivity in the region with 27% (Table 1).

Figure 3. Weekly trends of specimens tested at National Influenza Centers (NIC), positivity percentage and laboratory confirmed influenza cases in the WHO South-East Asia Region, as of 27 July 2026



Source: Respimart/FluNet

[5] World Health Organization. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. 2026 [cited 2026 Jul 27]. 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 from week 28 to 29 in 2026, as of 27 July 2026 [6]

- Table 1 shows influenza A virus subtypes and B lineages distribution across ten countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region for weeks 28 to 29 of 2026, based on data extracted from WHO's RespiMart platforms on 27 July 2026. The last submission was on 13 July 2026 (Week 29).
- DPR Korea, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste reported "no samples tested" during this period. One country in the region tested samples less than the WHO recommended minimum (50 samples per week at the national level) for this 2-week period spanning weeks 28-29.
- The overall positivity percentage for the region was 10%. This was a 9% reduction in the overall test positivity percentage relative to the value (11%) observed during the period reported in the previous bulletin.
- The highest test positivity percentages were reported by Bhutan (27%; down from 40%) and Bangladesh (16%; up from 17%). Compared with the previous reporting period, influenza test positivity decreased by 32% in Bhutan while it increased by 6% in Bangladesh.
- At the regional level, influenza A and influenza B accounted for 89% and 11% of all influenza-positive samples, respectively. In the previous reporting period, the corresponding distribution was 91% for influenza A and 9% for influenza B.
- The predominant Influenza A subtype detected in the region was A (H1N1)pdm09, accounting for 60% of all influenza-positive samples.
    - Among countries that reported >=10 positive samples, A(H3) was the predominant subtype in Bangladesh (97%).
    - The subtype A(H1N1)pdm09 was predominant in Bhutan (97%), India (80%), and Thailand (77%).
    - In Nepal (65%), positive samples were influenza A not subtyped.
- Influenza B (Victoria lineage) accounted for 10% of all influenza-positive samples in the region, compared with 9% in the previous reporting period — an 11% relative increase compared with the preceding period.
    - The proportion of influenza B (Lineage not Determined) was reported in Nepal (15%).

Table 1. Distribution of influenza A virus subtypes and B virus lineages in the WHO South-East Asia Region* (weeks 28 to 29, 2026), situation as of 27 July 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 Countries	3 189	331	10%	0%	24%	0%	60%	5%	0%	10%	1%
Bangladesh	453	71	16%	0%	97%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bhutan	146	39	27%	0%	0%	0%	97%	0%	0%	3%	0%
DPR Korea	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
India	1 822	155	8%	0%	2%	0%	80%	0%	0%	18%	0%
Maldives	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Myanmar	23	1	4%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nepal	254	26	10%	0%	0%	0%	19%	65%	0%	0%	15%
Sri Lanka	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Thailand	491	39	8%	0%	15%	0%	77%	0%	0%	8%	0%
Timor-Leste	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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

[6] World Health Organization. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. 2026 [cited 2026 Jul 27]. Available from: https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs

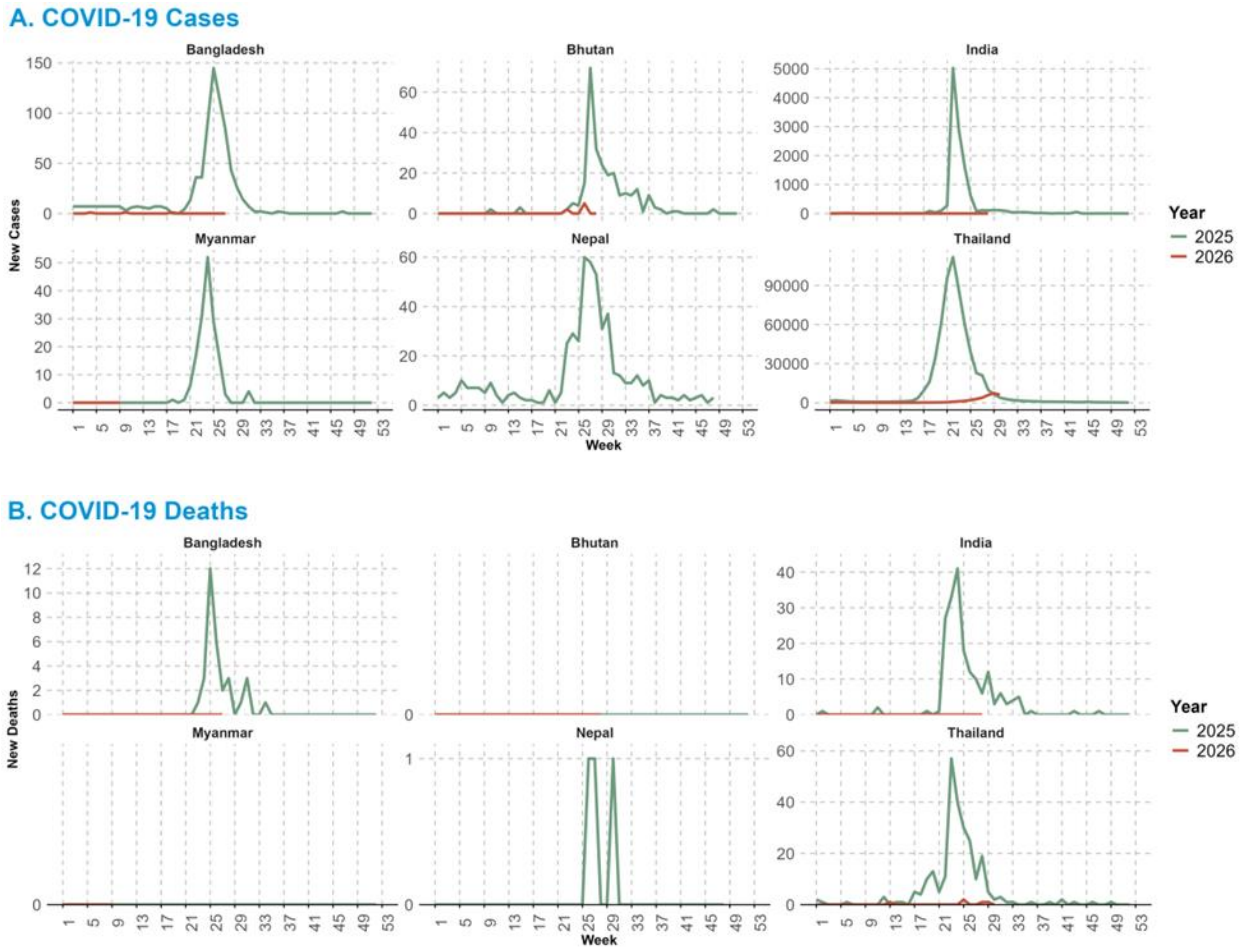
COVID-19

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 27 July 2026

- The weekly number of COVID-19 cases reported on official websites, including Bangladesh[7], Bhutan[8], India[9], Myanmar[10], Nepal[11] and Thailand[12], are presented in Figure 4**.
- Data of the most recent week (week 30) are available from Thailand.
- Please visit the WHO COVID-19 dashboard for the global situation of COVID-19.

Figure 4. Weekly comparisons of new COVID-19 cases (A) and deaths (B) reported from selected countries from week one of 2025 to week 30 in 2026 in the WHO South-East Asia Region*

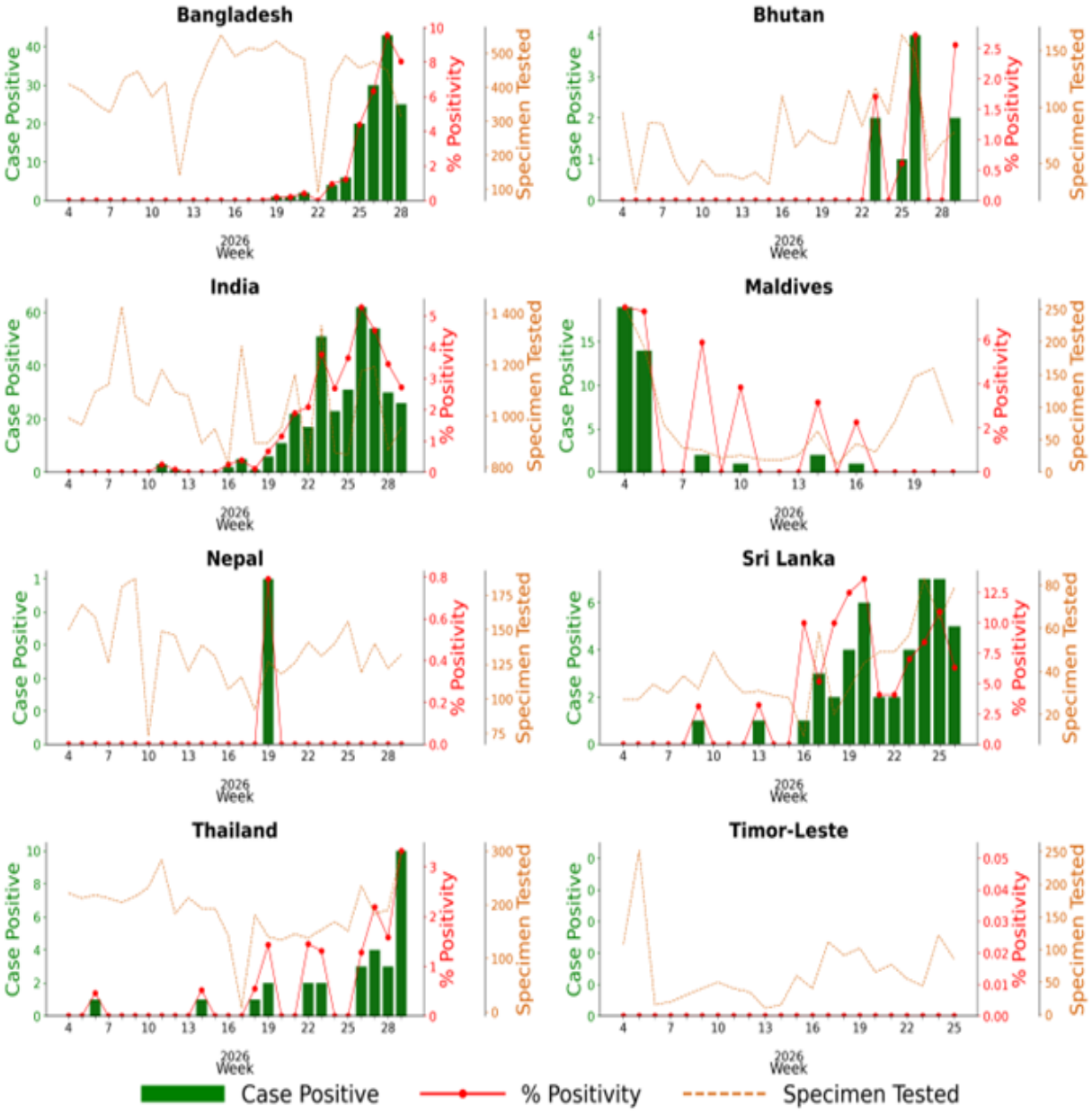


* Nepal data as of week 49 of 2025. India data as of week 6, Myanmar data as of week 9. Bangladesh data as of week 20 and Bhutan data as of week 28 of 2026.
** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Myanmar data as of ISO Week. Nepal and Thailand data as of Epidemiological week.

[7] Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. COVID-19 Dashboard [Internet]. 2026 [cited 2026 Jul 27]. Available from: https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/component/content/article?layout=edit&id=5612
[8] Bhutan, Royal Centre for Disease Control. [Internet]. [cited 2026 Jul 27]. Available from: https://www.rcdc.gov.bt/web/
[9] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. COVID-19 India Dashboard [Internet]. [cited 2026 Jul 27]. Available from: https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/
[10] Ministry of Health, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Ministry of Health official website [Internet]. 2026 [cited 2026 Jul 27]. Available from: https://www.mohs.gov.mm/
[11] Epidemiology and Disease Control Division Nepal. [Internet]. [cited 2026 Jul 27]. Available from: https://edcd.gov.np/newsroom/outbreak
[12] Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. 2026 [cited 2026 Jul 27]. 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 5 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.[13]

Figure 5. The number of COVID-19 positive case, % positivity and specimen tested from integrated influenza-SARS CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems (as of 27 July 2026).



[13] Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Output Dashboard. [Internet]. [cited 2026 Jul 27]. Available from: Dashboard

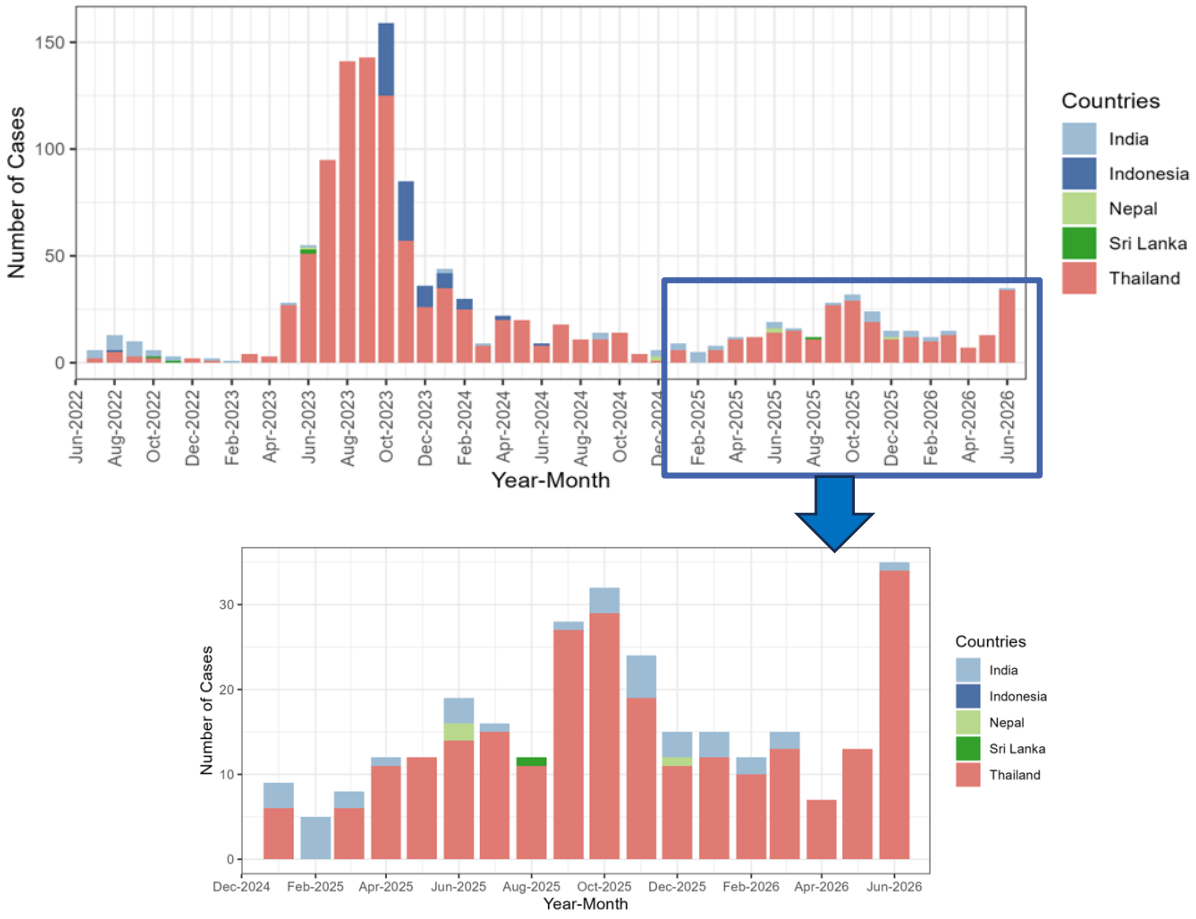
mpox

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 27 July 2026

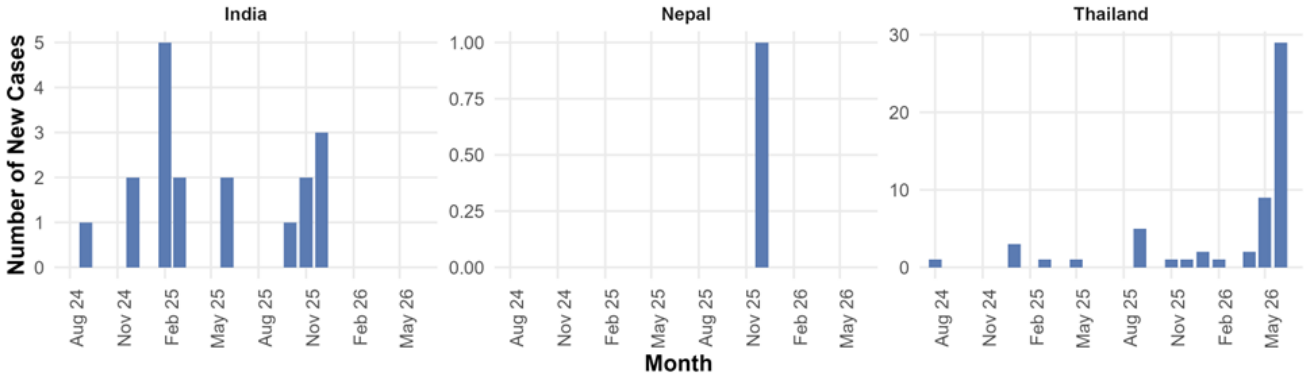
- In weeks 29 and 30 (13 to 26 July 2026), no new mpox were reported.
- As of 27 July 2026, in the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 1 282 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 16 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 6).
- Seventy-Five mpox virus (MPXV) clade Ib cases have been reported in the Region to date – 56 from Thailand, 18 from India and one from Nepal. Please see Figure 7 for the trend of MPXV Ib cases detected in the Region and Table 2 for the profile of the cases.
- For information on global epidemiological situation of mpox, please see:
  WHO mpox surveillance dashboard

Figure 6. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (Upper, 14 July 2022 – 27 July 2026; lower 1 January 2025 – 27 July 2026).



Notes:
* Cases are plotted per month 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 7. Number of MPXV clade Ib cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by month of notification (as of 27 July 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 cases in India of which the month of notification is missing, the month of diagnosis was used.

Table 2. Profile of the 46 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 27 July 2026)*.

	Category	Total (n = 75)
Country		
	India	18 (24.0%)
	Nepal	1 (1.3%)
	Thailand	56 (74.7%)
Recent international travel		
	Yes	32 (42.7%)
	No	43 (57.3%)
Age group (years)		
	18-29	23 (30.7%)
	30-39	33 (44.0%)
	40-49	18 (24.0%)
	50 and over	1 (1.3%)
Gender		
	Male	61 (81.3%)
	Female	14 (18.7%)

Notes: * One CRF is awaited from Nepal.

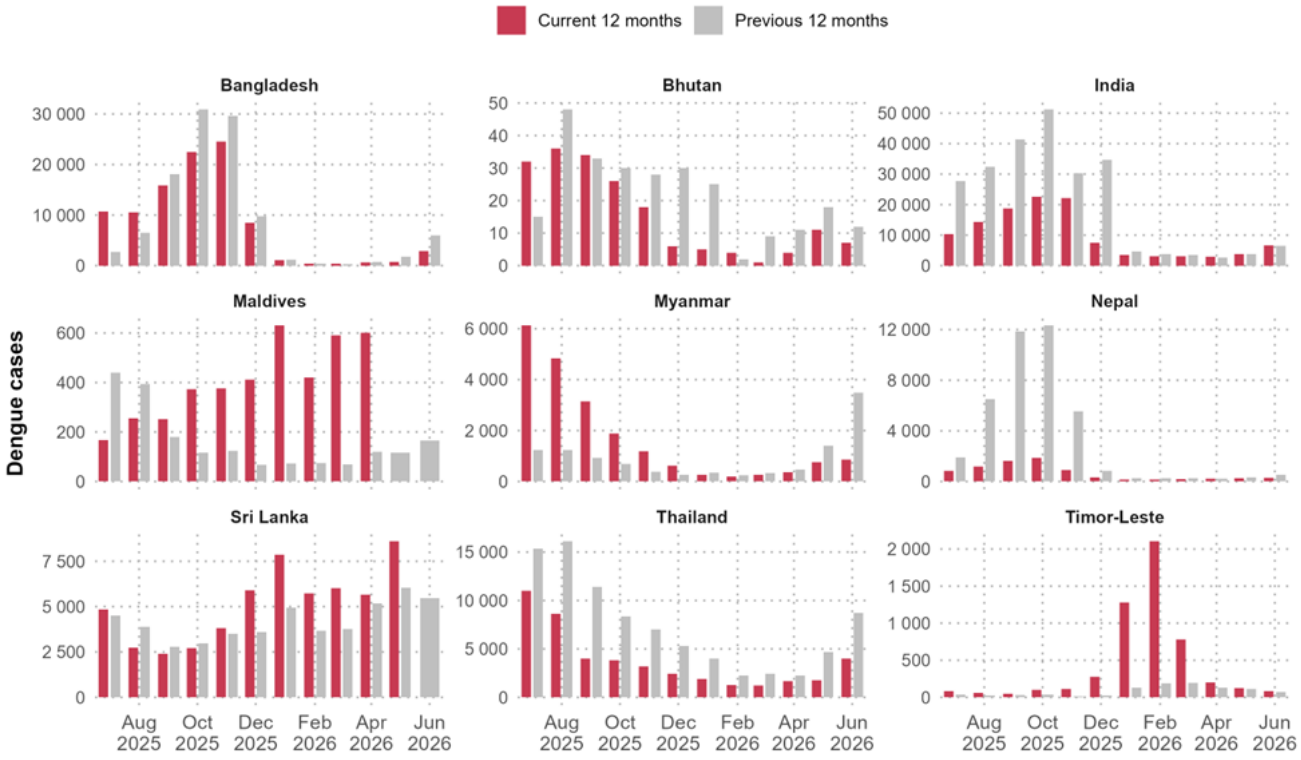
Dengue

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region [14]

Situation as of 27 July 2026

- In June 2026, India reported 6 625 cases, Thailand reported 3 992 cases and Bangladesh reported 2 907 cases (Figure 8). Data of June were not available yet for Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Figure 8. Monthly reported dengue cases by country, July 2025 – June 2026



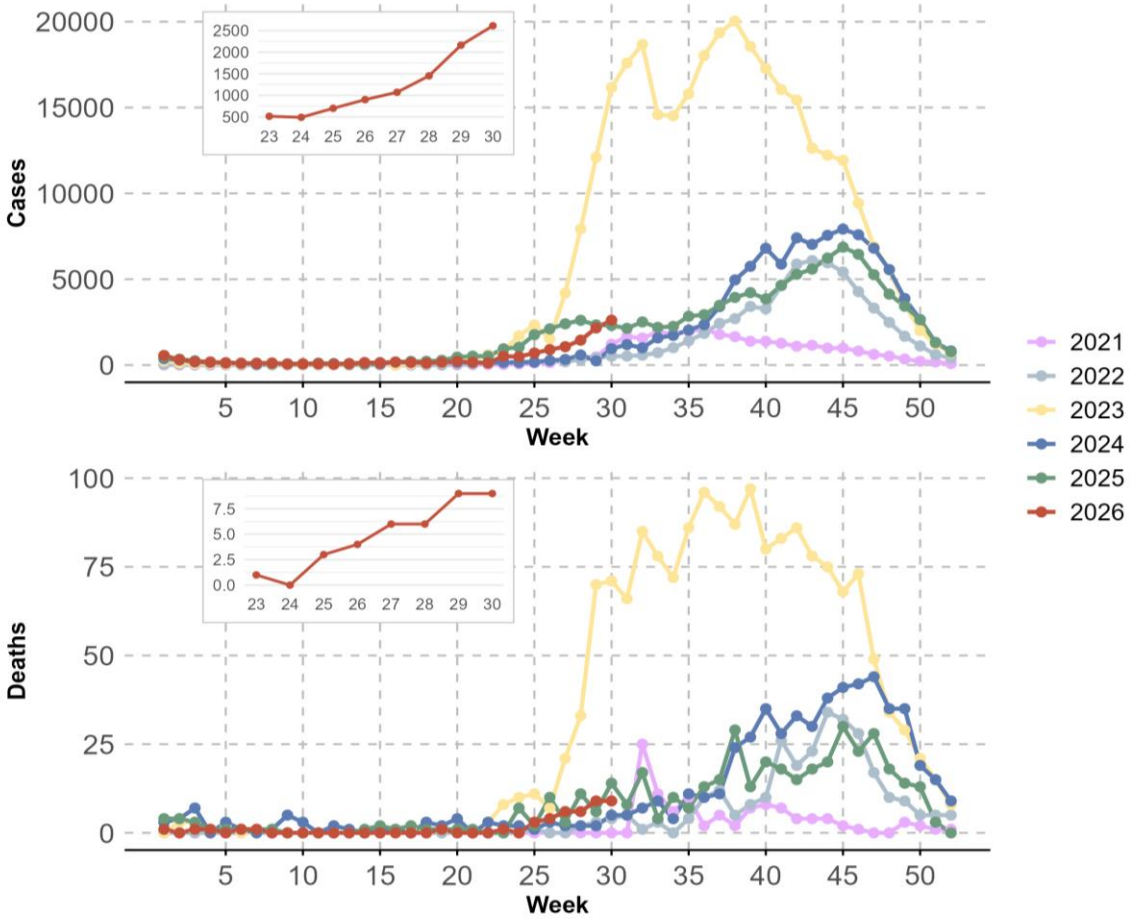
Notes:
Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Timor-Leste show confirmed cases.
Bangladesh reports only hospitalized cases.
The majority of Myanmar cases are hospitalized cases.

[14] World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance [Internet]. Available from: https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/

Bangladesh [15]

- In Bangladesh, during Week 30 of 2026, a total of 2 613 suspected dengue cases were reported, representing a 21% increase compared with the 2 162 cases reported in Week 29. Compared with the same week in 2025, when 2 311 cases were reported, the Week 30 caseload in 2026 was 13% higher.
- During week 30, nine new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, compared to nine dengue deaths reported in Week 29.

Figure 9. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2021 to week 30 of 2026.



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

India

- During June 2026, a total of 6 625 cases of dengue were reported in India, a 77% increase compared to May 2026 (n = 3 747).
- In 2026, as June 2026, a total of 22 938 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 24 948 cases during the same period in 2025.

Figure 10. Number of new cases of dengue by month in India from January 2024 to June 2026

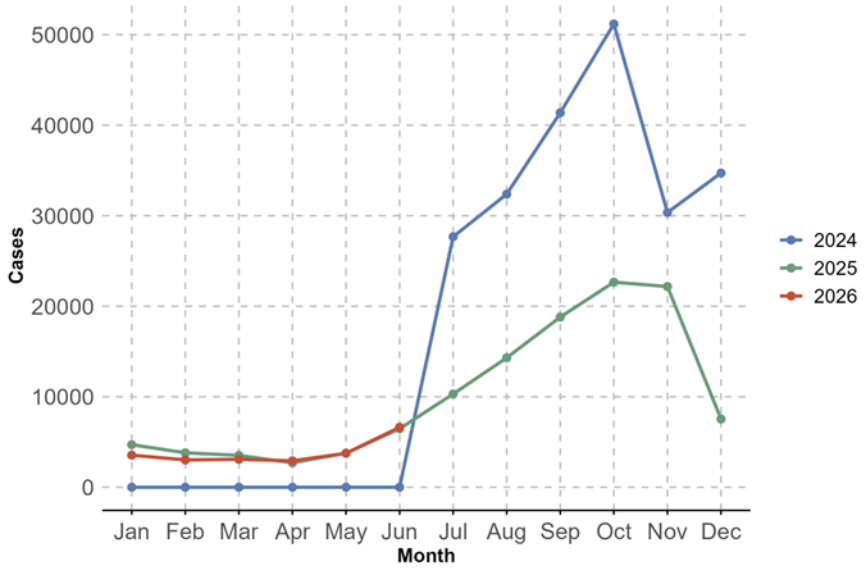
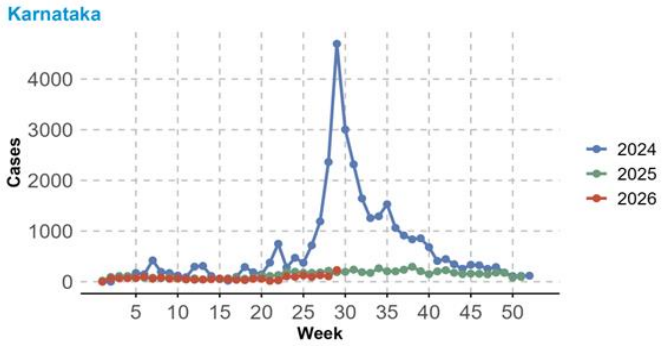


Figure 11. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Karnataka and Kerala states from week 1 of 2024 to week 30 of 2026

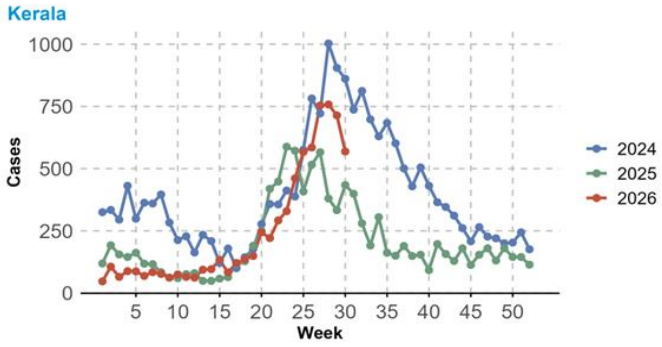
Karnataka[16]

- In Karnataka, during week 29, a total of 229 cases were reported, representing a 116% increase compared to 106 cases reported in week 28.



Kerala[17]

- In 2025, cases increased steadily from week 17, but case numbers have declined since week 27.
- In 2026, the trend remained consistently low since the start of the year.
  But from week 16, it is again showing some increasing trend.



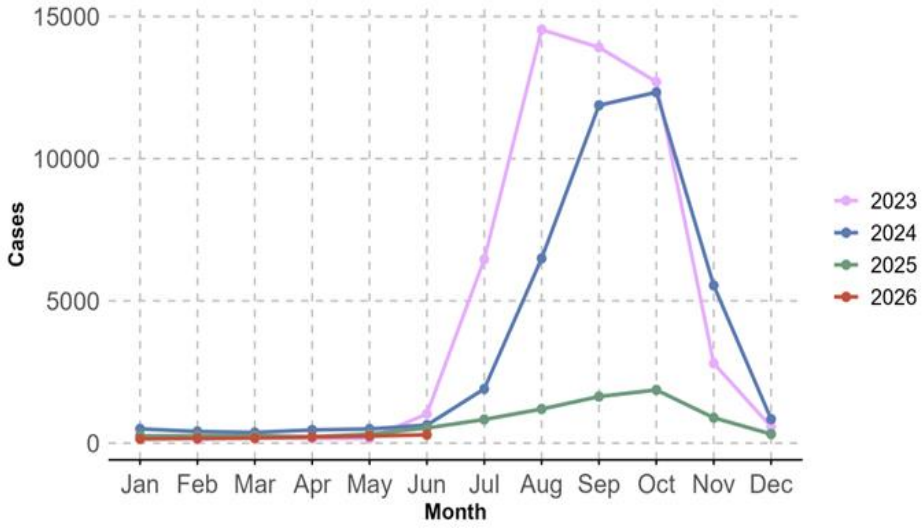
[16] Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka. PRISM H Disease Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. 2026. Available from: Karnataka

[17] Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala. Health Dashboard – Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) [Internet]. 2026. Available from: Kerala

Nepal

- In June 2026, a total of 292 dengue cases were reported in Nepal, a 18.2% increase compared to May 2026 (n = 247).

Figure 12. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Nepal from January 2023 to June 2026

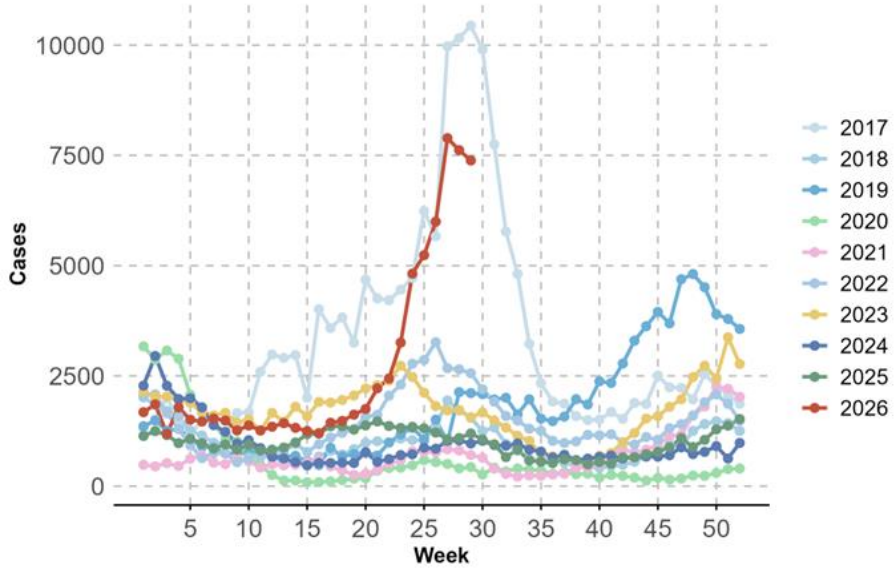


Source: WHO Global dengue surveillance

Sri Lanka [18]

- In Sri Lanka during Week 29 of 2026, a total of 7 385 suspected dengue cases were reported, representing a 3% decrease compared with the 7 619 cases reported in Week 28. Compared with the same week in 2025, when 1 194 cases were reported, the Week 29 caseload in 2026 was 5.2 times higher.
- The Western Province accounted for 52.4% of total cases, with the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) contributing with 3.6% of cases, and the rest of Colombo District with 17.1%.

Figure 13. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 29 of 2026



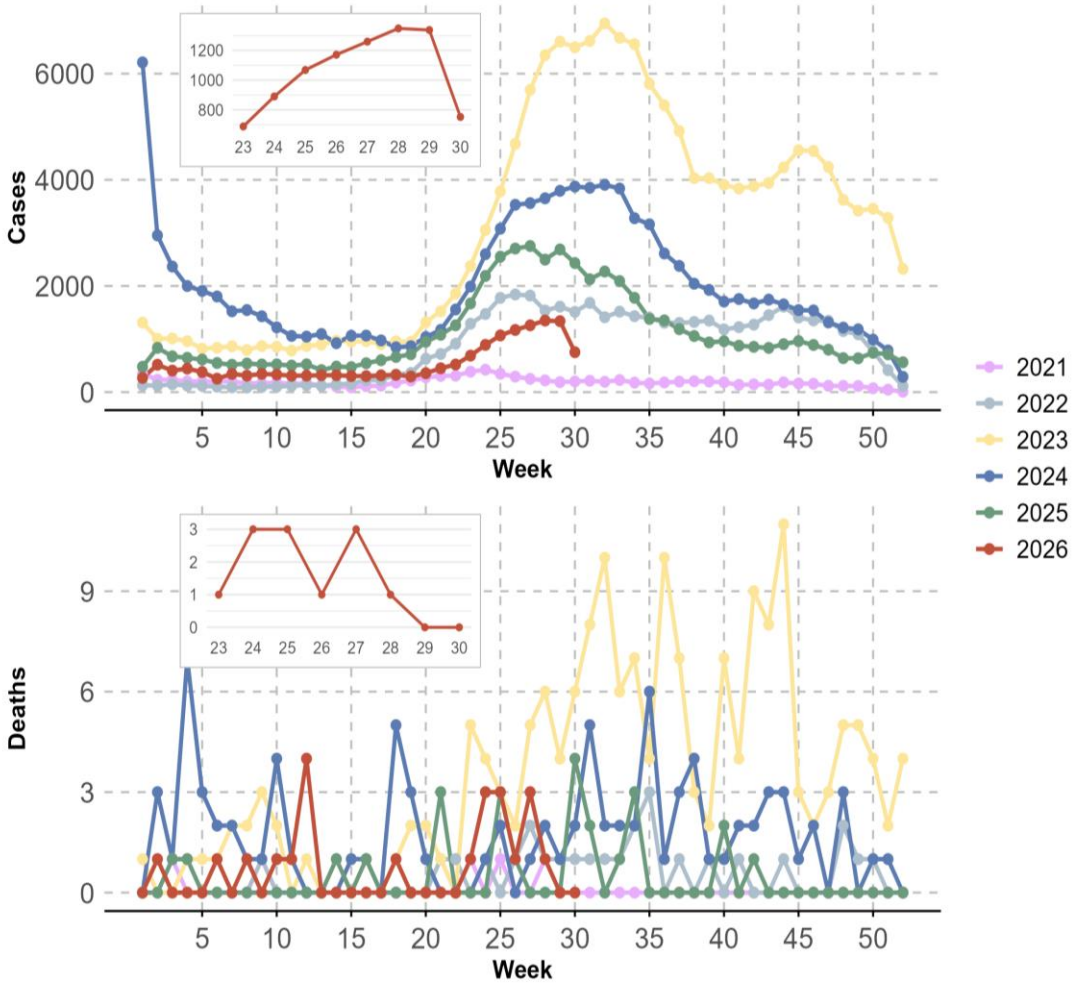
Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - 2017 to 2020; 2021 to 2025; 2026

[18] National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU), Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. National Dengue Control Unit [Internet]. 2026 [cited 2026 July 27]. Available from: https://www.dengue.health.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/; Sri Lanka weekly Dengue update.

Thailand

- In Thailand, during Week 30 of 2026, a total of 752 suspected dengue cases were reported, representing a 44% decrease compared with the 1 337 cases reported in Week 29. Compared with the same week in 2025, when 2 432 cases were reported, the Week 30 caseload in 2026 was 69% lower.

Figure 14. Number of new cases of dengue by week in Thailand, from week one of 2021 to week 30 of 2026.



Source: WHO Global dengue surveillance