This epidemiological bulletin aims to provide the situation of key infectious diseases in the WHO South-East Asia region to inform risk assessment and response by countries. 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

Rabies in Indonesia\(^1\)^\(^2\)

- On 2 June 2023, the Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia reported 11 human deaths due to rabies this year.
- Rabies is endemic in 26 of 37 provinces in Indonesia and by April, a total of 31 113 humans had bitten by an animal with the potential to transmit rabies virus of whom 23 211 had received anti-rabies virus vaccine following the bite in 2023.
- Rabies has previously been detected in Nusa Tenggara Timur; however, the disease was limited to Flores Island. The disease has now been detected on Timor Island. Two districts, namely Sikka Regency (Flores Island) and South Central Timor Regency (Timor island), declared outbreaks of rabies.

Marburg Virus Diseases in Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania\(^3\)^\(^4\)^\(^5\)

- On the 2 June and 8 June 2023, outbreaks of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) in Tanzania and Equatorial Guinea, in the WHO African Region, were respectively, declared over.
- A total of 17 laboratory-confirmed cases of MVD including 12 deaths, and 23 probable cases (all of whom died) were reported in Equatorial Guinea since the start of the outbreak on 13 February 2023.
- A total of nine cases (eight laboratory-confirmed and one probable) including six deaths were reported in Tanzania since the start of the outbreak on 21 March 2023.

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2. [https://wahis.woah.org/#/in-review/5077](https://wahis.woah.org/#/in-review/5077)
5. [https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON451](https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON451)
COVID-19
Status as of 11 June 2023

The WHO South-East Asia Region has recorded a cumulative total of 61,179,469 COVID-19 cases, including 806,271 deaths. In the WHO South-East Asia Region, during the week from 5 to 11 June 2023, 6,871 new cases and 116 new deaths were reported (a decrease of 18.5% and 18.3% in new cases and deaths respectively, compared to the previous week).

During the week from 5 to 11 June 2023, two countries reported an increase in the number of new cases - Bangladesh (831 new cases, +24.4%), and Timor-Leste (6 new cases, +200%), whereas Thailand (2,709 new cases, -12.2%), Indonesia (1,582 new cases, -29.7%), India (1,206 new cases, -34.4%), Myanmar (487 new cases, -3.9%), Maldives (11 new cases, -47.6%) and Bhutan (0 new cases, -100%) reported a decline, compared to the previous seven days.

For the same period, two countries reported increase in the number of new deaths - Thailand (69 new deaths, +1.5%) and Bangladesh (3 new deaths, +50%) while three countries Indonesia (32 new deaths, -36%), India (11 new deaths, -31.2%), Sri Lanka (1 new deaths, -80%) and Maldives (0 new deaths, -100%) reported a decrease in the number of new deaths compared to the previous week. The remaining countries reported no new death (no change from the previous week).

Please refer to the WHO SEARO COVID-19 dashboard for further information.

Table 1. COVID-19 cases, deaths, and the weekly change in countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region in the week from 5 to 11 June 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Cumulative cases</th>
<th>New cases (last 7 days)</th>
<th>% change in new cases</th>
<th>New cases per 1M pop</th>
<th>Cumulative deaths</th>
<th>New deaths (last 7 days)</th>
<th>% change in new deaths</th>
<th>New deaths per 1M pop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>4,747,752</td>
<td>2,709</td>
<td>-12.2</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>34,232</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>6,810,119</td>
<td>1,562</td>
<td>-29.7</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>161,621</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>-36.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>44,992,788</td>
<td>1,206</td>
<td>-34.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>531,891</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-31.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>2,040,470</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>29,451</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>639,662</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>-3.9</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>19,494</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>672,514</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-37.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>16,876</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-80.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>186,683</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-47.6</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-100.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1,035,353</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-37.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>12,031</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>23,456</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>200.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>62,572</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-100.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPR Korea</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAR total</td>
<td>61,179,469</td>
<td>6,871</td>
<td>-18.5</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>806,271</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>-18.3</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to previous week. NA = data not available. The data of Maldives and Thailand are for the period from 04 to 10 Jun 2023 in comparison to the preceding week.
Figure 1. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases reported during the previous eight weeks (17 April – 11 June 2023) in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Figure 2: Weekly number of samples tested, and test positivity for SARS-CoV-2 from integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems in the previous seven weeks (17 April – 4 June 2023) in selected counties* (as of 11 June 2023)

* Countries conducting SARS-COV2 testing at their influenza sentinel surveillance sites (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Timor-Leste).
Figure 3. Number of weekly new COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population in the previous eight weeks (17 April – 11 Jun 2023) in countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region *

* DPR Korea has reported no confirmed COVID-19 case.
Figure 4a. Number of Omicron sub-lineage sequences submitted to GISAID within the past 30 and 31-60 days as of 12 June 2023 by date of collection (countries with recent submissions)

Figure 4b. Proportion of Omicron sub-lineage sequences submitted to GISAID within the past 30 and 31-60 days as of 12 June 2023 by date of collection (countries with recent submissions)

XBB.X excludes XBB.1.X, XBB.1.11.X, XBB.1.16.X, XBB.1.16.1, XBB.1.22.X, XBB.1.5.X, XBB.1.9.1 and XBB.2.3.X.
XBB.1.X excludes XBB.1.11.X, XBB.1.16.X, XBB.1.16.1, XBB.1.22.X, XBB.1.5.X and XBB.1.9.1
XBB.1.16.X excludes XBB.1.16.1

Sources: GISAID (https://gisaid.org/), accessed on 10 June 2023
SARS-CoV-2 variants in the South-East Asia Region

- As of 12 June 2023, based on data downloaded from GISAID on 10 June 2023 (Figures 4a and 4b):
  - In India, XBB.1.16 and its sub-lineage XBB.1.16.1, remain predominant accounting for 78.9% (n=2361) of the sequences submitted in the last 60 days. XBB.2.3 and its sub-lineages (XBB.2.3.X) accounted for 13.1% (n=393). Of the 133 sequences classified as ‘other’, 63 (47.4%) were unassigned and 21 (15.8%) were BA.3.
  - In Indonesia, 67.7% (n=919) of the sequences submitted in the last 60 days were XBB.1.9 and its sub-lineages, of which, 62.9% (n=578) were XBB.1.9.2 and 36.3% (n=334) were XBB.1.9.1. XBB.1.16 and XBB.1.16.1 accounted for 11.2% (n=103) of the sequences.
  - In Thailand, in the last 60 days, the most prevalent sequences submitted were: XBB.1.16 and XBB.1.16.1 (32.5%, n=331), XBB.1.9.1 (21.8%, n=222) and XBB.1.5.X (19.5%, n=199).
  - In the last 60 days, Bangladesh submitted six sequences of which four were XBB.1.16, one was XBB.1.16.1 and one was XBB.2.3.X; Myanmar submitted nine sequences (XBB.1.1.16, n=4), XBB.1.16.1 (n=3), XBB.1.5.X (n=1) and BA.2.75.1 (n=1); and Sri Lanka submitted 18 sequences (XBB.1.16 (n=10), XBB.1.16.1 (n=2), XBB.1.9.1 (n=2), XBB.1.9.2 (n=3) and CH.1.1.X (n=1).
  - Other countries have not submitted sequences recently to GISAID.

Circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants globally6

- Currently, WHO is closely tracking two variants of interest (VOI), XBB.1.5 and XBB.1.16, and seven variants under monitoring (VUMs) and their descendent lineages (* includes their descendent lineages)
  - The VUMs are BA.2.75*, CH.1.1*, BQ.1*, XBB* (excluding XBB.1.5*, XBB.1.16* and XBB.1.9.1*), XBB.1.9.1*, XBB.1.9.2* and XBB.2.3*.
  - From epidemiological week 16 (17 to 23 April 2023) to week 20 (15 to 21 May 2023), the prevalence of XBB.1.16 increased from 10.15% to 16.81%; XBB* from 4.30% to 5.27%; XBB.1.9.1* from 13.31 to 18.19%; XBB.1.9.2* from 4.12% to 6.63% and XBB.2.3* from 3.29% to 7.09%. The other VOIs and VUMs decreased in prevalence.

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6 https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update-on-covid-19---8-june-2023
mpox

Status as of 12 June 2023
In the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 79 laboratory-confirmed mpx cases including one death have been verified since 14 July 2022 (Figure 5). Table 2 summarizes the basic epidemiological profile of the reported mpx cases in the Region.

Figure 5. Number of mpx cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 12 June 2023)

Table 2. Profile of 79 confirmed mpx cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region since July 2022 (as of 12 June 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Sexual orientation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22 (27.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26 (32.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>19 (24.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22 (27.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>MSM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Notification - The date on which the case is notified to the public health authority.

For more information on the global situation of mpx outbreak, please visit the global dashboard.
Dengue

**Bangladesh**

A total of 1,036 cases of dengue were reported in Bangladesh during May 2023, 7.2 times higher than the number of cases reported in April 2023 (n=143) and 6.4 times higher than the total number of cases reported in May 2022 (n = 163). From 1 to 11 June 2023, 1,188 cases have been reported compared to a total of 737 cases reported for the entirety of June, 2022 (Figure 6).

**Figure 6. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Bangladesh from January 2019 to 11 June 2023**

![Graph showing dengue cases by month in Bangladesh from January 2019 to 11 June 2023](https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report)


**Maldives**

A total of 263 new cases of dengue were reported in May 2023, a 17.8% decrease compared to April 2023 (n=320) and a 24.1% increase compared to May 2022 (n=212) (Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to May 2023**

![Graph showing dengue cases by month in Maldives from January 2022 to May 2023](https://health.gov.mv/en/publications/roagaage-gothugai-fethuremundhaa-balithah-meit-2023-1)

**Nepal**

No new data have been uploaded since epidemiological week three (15-21 January 2023) in Nepal. Please refer to the previous version of the [South-East Asia Epidemiological Bulletin](https://www.epid.gov.lk/web/index.php?option=com_casesanddeaths&Itemid=448&lang=en) for prior epidemiological information.

**Sri Lanka**

In 2023, a total of 1 584 cases of dengue were reported in Sri Lanka in week 21 (20 to 26 May 2023), a 10.2% increase compared to week 20 (13 to 19 May, n=1 438) and 2.6 times higher than the number of cases reported during week 21 in 2022, (n=680). The three-week moving average for week 21, 2023 was 1 558.3, an increase of 8.7% compared to week 20 (n=1 433.3) and 2.3 times higher than three week moving average for week 21 in 2022 (n=671.7) (Figure 8).

**Figure 8. Three-week moving average of the number of new cases of dengue by week in Sri Lanka from January 2018 to 26 May 2023 (Week 21)**


* For weeks where data are missing, zero cases are used to calculate the three-week moving average.

Source: Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health.
Thailand

A total of 3,167 cases of dengue were reported in Thailand in May 2023, a 13.3% increase compared to April (n=2,795) and a 76.7% increase compared to May 2022 (n=1,792) (Figure 9). From 1 to 12 June 2023, a total of 89 new cases were reported (not shown in the figure) compared to 4,977 new cases for entirety of June 2022.

Figure 9. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Thailand from January 2018 to May 2023.

Influenza

Figure 10: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the percentage positive in WHO South-East Asia Region (as of 11 June 2023)

Data sources and information on influenza, please refer to the WHO SEARO Influenza dashboard.