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

Dengue in the WHO South-East Asia Region

- The number of new cases of dengue continues to rise in some countries in the South-East Asia Region.
  - **Bangladesh**: The increase in the number of new cases of dengue has started earlier in 2023 compared to previous years. A total of 13,852 dengue cases including 76 deaths have been reported between 1 January and 10 July 2023 with a case fatality rate of 0.55%, compared to 1,397 cases and one death during the same period in 2022.¹
  - **Nepal**: Between 1 January and 30 June 2023, 1,024 cases of dengue have been reported from 66 districts in Nepal with the highest number of cases reported from Darchula (n=187) and Dhading (n=131) districts.² This compares to 121 cases between 3 January and 4 July 2022.³ In 2022, an outbreak of dengue occurred in Nepal following a surge of cases in August.⁴ Interventions for dengue prevention and control are actively implemented, including: Dissemination of Action Plan on Dengue Prevention and Control to all provinces and districts; routine surveillance using early Warning and Reporting System; a seminar on dengue with a focus on clinical case management; a series of sensitization meetings with stakeholders from different workplaces to raise awareness on dengue control; supplying dengue test diagnostic kits to provinces and districts; and undertaking a joint program review of vector-borne diseases.²
  - **Thailand**: Between 1 January and 21 June 2023, more than 24,030 cases of dengue and over 20 deaths were reported, 4.2 times higher than in 2022 (as of 27 June 2023) with the majority of cases occurring in Nong Bua Lamphu, Pichit, Pathum Thani, Chai Nat and Narathiwat. As the rainy season and El Niño commence, there is a risk that Thailand may experience a severe dengue outbreak and thus health authorities encourage local agencies to reduce the breeding of mosquitoes.⁵
- There is a high probability that 2023 and 2024 will be marked by an El Niño event, which could increase the transmission of dengue virus and other arboviruses such as Zika and chikungunya viruses. The effects of climate change also are fueling mosquito breeding and the spread of these pathogens.⁶

mpox in Thailand ⁷

Situation as of 1 July 2023

- Thailand continues to report an increase in the number of new cases of mpox with 48 cases reported in June 2023 compared to 21 cases in May.
- Of the 48 cases reported in June:
  - 41 (85.4%) were Thai nationals and seven (14.6%) were foreigners.
  - 38 (79.1%) were reported in Bangkok.
  - All reported as men who have sex with men, and 22 (45.8%) were living with HIV.
  - Most reported unprotected sex or sex with someone unknown to them prior to developing symptoms.
  - None had severe symptoms and no deaths were reported.
- The Department of Disease Control recommend that establishments such as spas and saunas should help provide publicity and education about the virus.

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¹ [https://old.dghs.gov.bd/images/docs/vpr/20230625_dengue_all.pdf](https://old.dghs.gov.bd/images/docs/vpr/20230625_dengue_all.pdf)
³ [https://edcd.gov.np/resources/newsletter](https://edcd.gov.np/resources/newsletter)
⁴ [https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON412](https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON412)
Anthrax in Indonesia

As of 6 July 2023

- Between 18 and 26 May 2023, sudden deaths in a number of cows and goats in Dukuh Jati, Semanu District, Gunung Kidul Regency were reported.
- There have been three deaths in humans in the same locality, one of whom had slaughtered livestock and was suspected case of anthrax following testing of blood samples. Soil samples taken from the site of slaughter were positive for anthrax spores.
- A total of 125 exposed people in Gunung Kidul have been provided with prophylaxis, of whom, 87 are seropositive but asymptomatic.
- The Ministry of Health have requested all health offices and health facilities in DI Yogyakarta to increase awareness of anthrax in humans and the potential for spread to other areas.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has been providing vaccines for livestock, and works to prevent the transmission from animals and animal products to humans.

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COVID-19
Status as of 9 July 2023

The WHO South-East Asia Region has recorded a cumulative total of 61,192,989 COVID-19 cases, including 806,530 deaths. In the WHO South-East Asia Region, from 3 to 9 July 2023, 2,232 new cases and 32 new deaths were reported (an increase of 17.4% and a decrease of 36.0%, respectively, compared to the previous week).

Between 3 and 9 July 2023, Thailand (1,193 new cases, +38.9%), Bangladesh (459 new cases, +2.0%), Myanmar (263 new cases, +35.6%), Bhutan (10 new cases, +100%), Sri Lanka (10 new cases, +25.0%) and Timor-Leste (one new case, +100%) reported an increase in the number of new cases, while India (294 new cases, -10.6%) and Nepal (two new cases, -33.3%) reported a decrease in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. Data from Indonesia and Maldives are not available for this period.

For the same period, only India reported an increase in the number of new deaths (six new deaths, +50.0%) while Thailand (25 new deaths, -41.9%), Sri Lanka (one new death, -50%) and Bangladesh (no 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). Data from Indonesia and Maldives are not available for this period.

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 03 to 09 July 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>4,753,615</td>
<td>1,193</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>34,396</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-41.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>2,043,161</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>29,462</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>44,994,575</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>-10.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>531,913</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>640,759</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>19,494</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>6,812,127</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>161,879</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>62,683</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>672,552</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>16,880</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-50.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1,003,372</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-33.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>12,031</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>23,458</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>138</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>Maldives</td>
<td>186,687</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAR total</td>
<td>61,192,989</td>
<td>2,232</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>806,530</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>-36.0</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases reported during the previous eight weeks (15 May – 9 July 2023) in the WHO South-East Asia Region

* Data of Maldives and Indonesia were available up to 1 July 2023 and 3 July 2023 respectively.

Figure 2: Weekly number of SARS-CoV-2 positive samples and test positivity from integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems in the previous seven weeks (15 May – 2 July 2023) in selected counties* (as of 9 July 2023)

* Countries routinely conducting SARS-CoV-2 testing of the samples collected through 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 (15 May – 9 July 2023) in countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region *

* Data of Maldives and Indonesia were available up to 1 July 2023 and 3 July 2023 respectively. DPR Korea has reported no confirmed COVID-19 case.
SARS-CoV-2 variants in the South-East Asia Region

The number of sequences submitted to GISAID from the Region has declined in recent weeks.

As of 8 July 2023, based on data downloaded from GISAID (Figures 4a and 4b):

- In **India**, XBB.1.16 and its sub-lineages (XBB.1.16.1 and FU*) accounted for 67.5% (n=164) of the sequences submitted in the last 60 days. XBB.2.3 and its sub-lineages accounted for 18.5% (n=45).
- In **Indonesia**, XBB.1.9 and its sub-lineages continue to remain predominant accounting for 65.9% (n=358) of the sequences submitted in the last 60 days of which, 41.1% (n=147) were XBB.1.9.1* (including FL*) and 58.4% (n=209) were XBB.1.9.2* (including EG*). XBB.1.16 and its sub-lineages, accounted for 21.2% (n=76) of the sequences.
- In **Thailand**, in the last 30 days, the most prevalent sequences submitted were: XBB.1.16 and its sub-lineages (46.3%, n=75) and XBB.1.9 and its sub-lineages (13.5%, n=22).
- In **Bangladesh**, in the last 60 days, the most prevalent sequences submitted were: XBB.1.16 and its sub-lineages (45.5%, n=15) and XBB.2.3 and its sub-lineages (39.4%, n=13).
- Other countries have not submitted sequences recently to GISAID.

Circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants globally

Currently, WHO is closely tracking two variants of interest (VOI) and six variants under monitoring (VUMs) and their descendant lineages (* includes their descendant lineages).

- The VOIs are XBB.1.5 and XBB.1.16.
- The VUMs are BA.2.75*, CH.1.1*, 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 20 (15 to 21 May 2023) to week 24 (12 to 18 June 2023), the prevalence of XBB.1.16 increased from 18.12% to 21.18%; XBB* from 4.95% to 7.46%; XBB.1.9.2* from 10.26% to 12.68% and XBB.2.3* from 3.47% to 4.25%. The other VOIs and VUMs decreased in prevalence.
- The variants continue to differ by WHO region and countries. Between weeks 20 and 24, XBB.1.5 was dominant in the Region of the Americas (40% of sequences) and XBB.1.16 was dominant in the European Region (31% of sequences), the South-East Asia Region (28% of sequences) and the Western Pacific Region (17% of sequences). Fewer than 20 sequences were submitted during this period in the African and Eastern Mediterranean Regions.

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9 [https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update-on-covid-19---6-july-2023](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update-on-covid-19---6-july-2023)
**Figure 4a. Number of Omicron sub-lineage sequences submitted to GISAID within the past 30 and 31-60 days as of 8 July 2023 by date of collection (countries with recent submissions)**

![Bar charts showing the number of Omicron sub-lineage sequences submitted to GISAID.](image)

*indicates the sub-lineage of each variant

*The date next to the country name indicates the latest date of sample collection for sequence submission to GISAID.

XBB.* excludes XBB.1.* X, XBB.1.11.*, XBB.1.16*, XBB.1.16.1, XBB.1.22*, XBB.1.5*, XBB.1.9*, XBB.1.9.1, XBB.1.9.2 and XBB.2.3*

XBB.1* excludes XBB.1.11*, XBB.1.16*, XBB.1.16.1, XBB.1.22*, XBB.1.5*, XBB.1.9*, XBB.1.9.1 and XBB.1.9.2

XBB.1.16* excludes XBB.1.16.1

XBB.1.9* excludes XBB.1.9.1 and XBB.1.9.2

FL.* is a sub-lineage of XBB.1.9.1

EG.* is a sub-lineage of XBB.1.9.2

FU.* is a sub-lineage of XBB.1.16

**Figure 4b. Proportion of Omicron sub-lineage sequences submitted to GISAID within the past 30 and 31-60 days as of 8 July 2023 by date of collection (countries with recent submissions)**

![Proportion charts showing the proportion of Omicron sub-lineage sequences submitted to GISAID.](image)

**mpox**

Status as of 9 July 2023

In the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 119 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including one death, have been verified since 14 July 2022 (Figure 5). Table 2 summarizes the basic epidemiological profile of the reported mpox cases in the Region.

**Figure 5. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 9 July 2023)**

![Graph showing number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification.](image)

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

**Table 2. Profile of the 119 confirmed mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region since July 2022 (as of 9 July 2023)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>81.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 and over</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual orientation</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men who have sex with men (MSM)</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on the global situation of mpox outbreak, please visit the [global dashboard](https://globaldashboard.org).
Dengue

**Bangladesh**

A total of 5,956 cases of dengue were reported in Bangladesh during June 2023, 5.7 times higher than the number of cases reported in May 2023 (n=1,036) and 6.2 times higher than the mean number of cases reported in June during the years 2019, 2021 and 2022 (n = 964). From 1 to 10 July 2023, 5,865 cases have been reported compared to a total of 1,571 cases reported for the entirety of July 2022 (Figure 6).

**Figure 6. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Bangladesh from January 2019 to 10 July 2023**

![Dengue cases by month in Bangladesh](https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report)


**Maldives**

No new data have been uploaded since the Monthly Communicable Disease report for May 2023 in Maldives. Please refer to previous versions of the [South-East Asia Epidemiological Bulletin](https://www.who.int/who-data) for prior epidemiological information.
Nepal

In 2023, a total of 125 cases of dengue were reported in Nepal in week 25 (26 June to 2 July), a 104.9% increase compared to week 24 (19 to 25 June, n=61) and 10.4 times higher than the mean number of cases reported during week 25 from 2018 to 2022 (n=10) (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Number of new cases of dengue by week in Nepal from January 2018 to 2 July 2023 (week 25)

![Graph showing the number of new cases of dengue by week in Nepal from January 2018 to 2 July 2023 (week 25)]


Sri Lanka

In 2023, a total of 1 816 cases of dengue were reported in Sri Lanka in week 26 (26 June to 2 July 2023), a 14.3% decrease compared to week 25 (19 to 25 June, n=2 120) and 1.4% lower than the mean number of cases reported during week 26 from 2017 to 2022, (n=2 151) (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Number of new cases of dengue by week in Sri Lanka from January 2018 to 2 July 2023 (week 26)*

![Graph showing the number of new cases of dengue by week in Sri Lanka from January 2018 to 2 July 2023 (week 26)]

Thailand

A total of 7,955 cases of dengue were reported in Thailand in June 2023, a 94.2% increase compared to May (n=4,096) and a 22.6% increase compared to the mean number of cases in June between 2017 and 2022 (n=6,491) (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Thailand from January 2017 to June 2023.

**Influenza**

Figure 10: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the test positivity in WHO South-East Asia Region (as of 9 July 2023)

Data sources and information on influenza, please refer to the [WHO SEARO Influenza dashboard](https://www.who.int/SEARO/Influenza).