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

**Bangladesh and India: Cyclone Remal**

**Situation as of 29 May 2024**

- On 26 May, the severe cyclonic storm Remal made landfall near the Bangladesh-India border, at the western part of Sundarbans in Shatkhira district. The highest recorded wind speed was 111 km/h at 1:30 am on May 27th, according to Bangladesh Meteorological Department in Khepupara of Patuakhali coastal district.
- The storm surge, accompanied by extremely heavy rainfall, caused flooding of 5-8 feet in the coastal districts in Bangladesh.
- On 28 May 2024, Remal was weakened into a Cyclonic Storm and then to a Land Deep Depression over eastern Bangladesh.
- The Echo Flash reported, citing media articles, as of 29 May, a total of 54 fatalities, of which 44 in India and 10 across Bangladesh.
- The passage of the REMAL has left very heavy rainfall, strong winds and storm surges, and have caused floods, landslides and several severe weather-related incidents - mainly due to the strong.

**Bangladesh**

According to the United Nations Bangladesh Situation Report, as of 29 May 2024:

- As of 28 May 2024, the Directorate General of Health Services reports 16 deaths from causes including falling trees, wall collapses, drowning, and snake bites, with 22 injuries.
- Over 807,023 people have been evacuated to 9,424 evacuation shelters across 19 districts.
- The Government’s Situation Report (SoS) form reported 3.75 million people across 19 districts were affected.
- Based on the available information a total of 150,475 houses have been damaged fully and partially in Pirojpur, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola districts and Assasuni and Shyamnagar sub-districts of Satkhira District.

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1. United Nations Bangladesh: Cyclone Remal 2024 - Situation Report No. 03 (As of 29 May 2024)
COVID-19
Status as of 26 May 2024

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, from 13 to 26 May 2024, 5 112 new COVID-19 cases and 36 deaths were reported which is a decrease of 8.6% and 7.7% respectively, compared to the previous 14 days (Table 1).
  - From 13 to 26 May 2024, Thailand (3 683 new cases, +0.3%), Bangladesh (211 new cases, +13.4%), Myanmar (184 new cases, +34.3%) and Indonesia (36 new cases, +50%) reported an increase in the number of new cases while India (992 new cases, -36.6%) reported a decrease in the number of new cases, compared to the previous 14 days.
  - Data were not available from Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Timor-Leste for this period.
- The Region has recorded a cumulative total of 61 292 047 COVID-19 cases, including 808 713 deaths (Table 1).
- No further updates related to the proportion of respiratory samples collected at influenza sentinel surveillance sites. Details on proportion of respiratory samples collected can be found in prior version of the External Bulletin Update.
- Please refer to the WHO SEARO COVID-19 dashboard for further information of COVID-19 in WHO South-East Asia Region.
- Globally, 775 481 326 COVID-19 cases, including 7 049 376 deaths have been cumulatively reported, as of 12 May 2024. Please visit WHO COVID-19 dashboard for global situation of COVID-19.

Table 1. COVID-19 cases, deaths, and the weekly change in countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region in the week from 13 to 26 May 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Cumulative cases</th>
<th>New cases (last 14 days)</th>
<th>% change in new cases</th>
<th>New cases per 1M pop</th>
<th>Cumulative deaths</th>
<th>New deaths (last 14 days)</th>
<th>% change in new deaths</th>
<th>New deaths per 1M pop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>4,781,659</td>
<td>3,683</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>34,647</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-4.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>45,039,510</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>-36.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>533,612</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-7.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>2,050,367</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>29,495</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>642,413</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>15,494</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>6,829,029</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>162,058</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>672,758</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-25.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>16,901</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>62,697</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>186,694</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1,003,450</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>23,460</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAR Total</td>
<td>61,292,047</td>
<td>5,112</td>
<td>-8.6</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>808,713</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>-7.7</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past 14 days, compared to the previous 14 days.
NA = data not available.
DPR Korea has not reported confirmed COVID-19 cases.
Thailand data were for the period from 12 to 25 May 2024 in comparison to the preceding 14 days.
As for cumulative numbers, Maldives data are as of 5 August 2023, Timor-Leste data as of 11 August 2023, Bhutan data as of 8 October 2023, Nepal data as of 20 October 2023, Indonesia data as of 18 May and Sri Lanka data as of 20 May 2024.

4 Data as 12 May 2024 link: [https://data.who.int/dashboards/covid19/cases](https://data.who.int/dashboards/covid19/cases)
Figure 2. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases reported during the previous ten weeks (as of 26 May 2024) in the WHO South-East Asia Region *

Global circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants

- WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants and their sub-lineages including:
  - Five variants of interest (VOIs): XBB.1.5; XBB.1.16; EG.5; BA.2.86 and JN.1
  - Four variants under monitoring (VUMs): JN.1.7; JN.1.18; KP.2; KP.3
- Information on the current status of the global SARS-CoV-2 variants can be found from the WHO COVID-19 dashboard.

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

- As of 25 May 2024, the genomic sequence data submitted to GISAID by countries in the South-East Asia region in the last 60 days by date of collection are shown in Figures 3a and 3b. Only a small number of genomic sequences have been submitted from countries and therefore the data should be interpreted with caution.
  - In the last 60 days:
    - In India, 35 genomic sequences were submitted, with KP.2* (JN.1 descendant variant) increasing and accounting for 42.9% (n = 15). Proportion of JN.1* accounted for 28.6% (n = 10). One genomic sequence with KP.3* was also submitted.
    - In Thailand, 102 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1* accounting for 70.6% (n=72) followed by KP.2* (8.8%, n=9), JN.1.18* (3.9%, n=4), KP.3* (3.9%, n=4), JN.1.7* (2%, n=2). One genomic sequence each with BA.2.86* and EG.5* was also submitted.
    - In Myanmar, four genomic sequences with JN.1* were submitted.
    - Other countries have not submitted genomic sequences recently to GISAID.

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* Data of Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal and Timor-Leste are not available. Indonesia data as of 18 May and Sri Lanka data as of 20 May 2024.

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5 https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/covid-19-epidemiological-update-edition-167
6 https://gisaid.org/
Figure 3a. Number of SARS-CoV-2 variants of interest and variant under monitoring sequences submitted to GISAID within the past 31-60 days as of 25 May 2024 by date of collection (countries with recent submissions) ¹

Figure 3b. Proportion of SARS-CoV-2 variants of interest and variant under monitoring sequences submitted to GISAID within the past 31-60 days as of 25 May 2024 by date of collection (countries with recent submissions) ¹

No sequences were submitted to GISAID in the recent 30 days from these three counties. Other countries in the region have not submitted genomic sequences to GISAID in the past 60 days.

* indicates the sub-lineage of each variant.

¹ The date next to the country name indicates the latest date of sample collection for sequence submission to GISAID.

XBB* excludes XBB.1.16*, XBB.1.5*, XBB.1.9.1*, and XBB.2.3*.

**mpox**

**Status as of 26 May 2024**

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 906 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases (including two deaths) have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 4).
- In epidemiological weeks 19 (06 to 12 May 2024) and 20 (13 to 19 May 2024), 12 new mpox cases were reported from Thailand (787 confirmed cases cumulatively as of 14 May 2024) (Figure 5).
- In epidemiological weeks 20 and 21, no new mpox case was reported from Indonesia (Figure 6).
- For more information on the global situation of mpox outbreak, please visit the [global dashboard](http://aidsboe.moph.go.th/aids_system/).

**Figure 4. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 27 May 2024)**

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

* Cases are plotted as per the week of notification (based on the date on which the case was notified to the public health authority). For 86 cases in Indonesia for which the date of notification is missing, the date of diagnosis was used.

**Figure 5. Weekly number of mpox cases reported in Indonesia (n=86) and Thailand (n=773) since 1 January 2023 by date of notification* (as of 26 May 2024)**

![Graph showing weekly number of mpox cases reported in Indonesia and Thailand](image)

* Cases are plotted as per the week of notification (based on the date on which the case was notified to the public health authority). Where the date of notification is missing for cases in Indonesia, this was replaced with the date of diagnosis.

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7 [http://aidsboe.moph.go.th/aids_system/](http://aidsboe.moph.go.th/aids_system/)
Dengue

**Bangladesh**

- During week 21 (20 May 2024 to 26 May 2024), a total of 145 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 13.7% decrease compared to 168 cases reported during week 20 (13 May 2024 to 19 May 2024).
- During week 21, no new dengue death was reported in Bangladesh. Four new deaths were reported during week 20.
- During 2024 (as of 26 May 2024), a total of 2,784 dengue cases and 33 dengue related deaths have been reported. This was 1.6 times the number of cases (n=1,730) and 2.5 the number of deaths (n=13) reported during the same period in 2023.

**Figure 6. Number of new cases and deaths from dengue by week in Bangladesh from epidemiological week (EW) 1 of 2020 to EW 21 of 2024**


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10 [https://old.dghs.gov.bd/images/docs/vpr/20240512_dengue_all.pdf](https://old.dghs.gov.bd/images/docs/vpr/20240512_dengue_all.pdf)
**Maldives**

- No new data are available. Please refer to previous versions of the South-East Asia Epidemiological Bulletin for prior epidemiological information.

**Nepal**

- No new data are available. Please refer to previous versions of the South-East Asia Epidemiological Bulletin for prior epidemiological information.

**Sri Lanka**

- During week 20 (13 May 2024 to 19 May 2024), a total of 770 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 47.2% increase compared to 523 cases reported during week 19 (06 May 2024 to 12 May 2024).
- Between weeks one and 20 in 2024, a total of 23,934 cases were reported compared to 35,720 and 21,484 cases during the same period in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Figure 7. Number of new suspected cases of dengue by week in Sri Lanka from epidemiological week (EW) 1 of 2017 to EW 20 of 2024

![Graph showing number of new suspected dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka](source)

Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health.  
https://lookerstudio.google.com/reporting/95b978f1-5c1a-44fb-a436-e19819e939c0/page/XRtTB (2021 to 2024)

13 [https://lookerstudio.google.com/reporting/95b978f1-5c1a-44fb-a436-e19819e939c0/page/XRtTB](https://lookerstudio.google.com/reporting/95b978f1-5c1a-44fb-a436-e19819e939c0/page/XRtTB)
During week 20 (13 May 2024 to 19 May 2024), a total of 623 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 19.6% decrease compared to 745 cases reported during week 19 (6 May 2024 to 12 May 2024).

During week 21, one new dengue death was reported in Thailand which is similar to the week 20.

During 2024, (as of 23 May) a total of 29 536 cases including 32 deaths (CFR=0.1%) have been reported. This compares to 21 231 cases reported between January and May in 2023 including 22 deaths (CFR=0.1%).

**Figure 8. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Thailand from epidemiological week (EW) 1 of 2019 to EW 20 of 2024**


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**Thailand**

Influenza

Situation as of 26 May 2024

- According to the data submitted to the FluMart of the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response system (GISRS), in the WHO South-East Asia Region, in epidemiological week 20 in 2024 (13 to 19 May), the weekly test positivity was at 12.18% and the most frequently reported strains were influenza A/H1N1pdm09, influenza A/H3, influenza A (Unsubtyped), and influenza B (Victoria lineage) (Figure 9).
- Data sources and information on influenza, including updates of integrated surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 using influenza sentinel surveillance systems, are available at WHO SEARO Influenza dashboard and WHO SEARO monthly updates.

Figure 9. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in WHO South-East Asia Region during 2023 and 2024 (as of week 13 – 19 May 2024)

Bangladesh

- As of 12 May 2024, 350 samples were tested on the integrated SARS-CoV-2 & influenza surveillance platform in week 19 (6 to 12 May 2024).
- 106 samples (30.3%) were tested positive for influenza.
- Of samples tested positive for influenza (n=106), 84.9% were A/H3 and 15.1% were A(H1N1pdm09)
- So far this year, no samples have been positive for Influenza type B which was dominant last year.

Figure 10. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Bangladesh in 2024 (as of week 6 – 12 May 2024)
Bhutan

• As of 19 May 2024, 136 samples were tested on the integrated SARS-CoV-2 & influenza surveillance platform in week 20 (13 to 19 May 2024).
• 42 samples (30.9%) were tested positive for influenza.
• Of the samples tested positive for influenza (n=42), 93% were positive for A(H1N1pdm), 5% for B Victoria and 2% for A (unsubtyped).

Figure 11. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Bhutan in 2024 (as of week 13 – 19 May 2024)