

WHO South-East Asia Region Epidemiological Bulletin

WHO Health Emergencies Programme

WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia

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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

Myanmar, Acute Water Diarrhea

Situation overview

- On 7 July, according to an official press release¹ published by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, cases of acute watery diarrhea were reported in the Yangon region since early June 2024.
 - Since late June, severe diarrhea cases have been admitted to hospitals in some townships in the eastern district of Yangon, including Thaketa Township.
 - No deaths have been reported.
- On 6 July, a daily newspaper² produced by the Government of Myanmar, reported a rise in acute watery diarrhea cases in Nwe Aye Ward, Dawbon Township, and Anawmar Ward, Thaketa Township, Yangon Region.
 - On July 5 2024, the Yangon Regional Chief Minister and a team of health authorities and government officials visited the affected areas.
 - They inspected a temporary clinic in Dawbon Township, implementing health education, disinfection, and water purification tablet distribution.
 - In Nwe Aye Ward, 646 people in 166 households with limited latrine facilities rely on rainwater, tube wells, and bottled water.
 - The team checked pipeline leakage in Thaketa Township and conducted water sanitation activities, including water testing at the National Health Laboratory. The team inspected water storage and distribution facilities in Thaketa Township.
 - A clinic was set up in Anawmar Ward to monitor the situation, with 12 cases reported, including one death who had an underlying immune deficiency.

Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar), Cholera

Situation overview ³

- From 23 June to 6 July 2024, 33 Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT)-positive acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) cases/suspected cholera cases were detected and reported in Cox's Bazar, of which 20 were culture-positive for cholera.
 - No confirmed cholera fatalities have been reported since the upsurge began in epidemiological week 26.
 - Majority of culture-confirmed cholera cases have been reported from Rohingya Refugee Camps, while a few cases are from the surrounding host Bangladesh population.
- The Multi-sectoral Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Response Team is investigating and responding to the outbreak in all affected camps.

¹ [Press release | Ministry of Health, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar](#)

² Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar: <https://tinyurl.com/2kcjmtdc>

³ Cholera Situation Report #2, Cox's Bazar sub-office, World Health Organization Bangladesh Country Office
[Press release | Union Health Ministry](#)

India, Zika virus

Situation overview

- On 3 July 2024, the Union Health Ministry of India⁴ published a press release reporting cases of Zika virus infection in the state of Maharashtra. They also issued an advisory to other states to screen pregnant women for Zika virus infections, and to strengthen vector surveillance and control.
- Since 2016, Zika virus cases have been reported in several states in India, including Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- Maharashtra
 - According to unverified media⁵ citing a press conference on 2 July, the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) reported the first Zika case of 2024 in Pune was detected on 16 June.
 - Following increased surveillance among pregnant women, additional cases have been detected. According to an informal media article⁶, as of 10 July, the number of Zika virus infections in Pune has increased to 15, including 8 pregnant women.
- Karnataka
 - According to unverified media⁷ citing officials from the Health and Family Welfare Department, an elderly male tested positive for Zika virus on 21 June in Shivamogga city. Additionally, a suspected case is pending laboratory confirmation.

Maldives, Meningococcal disease

Situation overview⁸

- On 25 June 2024, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) reported a case of invasive meningococcal disease in Maldives.
 - Case investigation and contact tracing have been initiated.
 - Prophylactic treatments have been provided to contacts.
 - Unvaccinated individuals have been advised to get vaccinated.
 - Symptomatic individuals have been advised to seek treatment.
- On 27 June, HPA issued an alert to the public: “If you have recently returned from Hajj and had not taken the meningitis vaccine or had the vaccine less than 14 days before travel to Saudi Arabia and have any of the above symptoms, it is important that you see a doctor immediately”.

Global situation

- According to the US CDC⁹, as of 29 May 2024, 12 cases of meningococcal disease, associated with travel to Saudi Arabia, were reported in the United States (five), France (four), and the United Kingdom (three).
 - Nine cases were unvaccinated; the vaccination status of three cases remains unknown.
 - All 12 cases visited Saudi Arabia for Umrah during March–May 2024, and symptom onset occurred upon return to their country of origin in April and May.
 - Isolates from two cases were Ciprofloxacin-resistant.
- Reference material: US CDC published a health advisory¹⁰.

⁴ [Press release | Union Health Ministry](#)

⁵ PMC Press conference: <https://tinyurl.com/5erfxy8>

⁶ Media article: <https://tinyurl.com/4dbm8zww>

⁷ Media articles: <https://tinyurl.com/tbthbecs>; <https://tinyurl.com/552fhywx>

⁸ [Health Protection Agency, Maldives | Facebook](#)

⁹ [Cases of Meningococcal Disease Associated with Travel to Saudi Arabia for Umrah Pilgrimage — United States, United Kingdom, and France, 2024 | US CDC](#)

¹⁰ [Meningococcal Disease Cases Linked to Travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia \(KSA\): Ensure Pilgrims are Current on Meningococcal Vaccination | US CDC](#)

New publication: IHR event communication exercise SAPHIRE 2023, South-East Asia Regional Practice of All-Hazard IHR Event Communication

The International Health Regulations (2005) [IHR (2005)] lay the foundation for operational communications and coordination between State Parties and WHO in the detection, assessment and management of a public health event.

The role of the national IHR (2005) focal points (IHR NFPs) in ensuring effective and timely IHR event communication is critical. The COVID-19 pandemic and other recent emergencies have reiterated the need to continue strengthening the roles and functions of NFPs.

The South-East Asia Regional Practice of All Hazard IHR Event Communication (SAPHIRE) 2023 was a simulation exercise, designed to practice and test IHR event communication in the Region.

SAPHIRE 2023 used a fictional scenario involving cases of infection with a Nipah-like virus; it was carried out on 30 March 2023. Approximately 95 participants from all 11 WHO South-East Asia Member States participated in SAPHIRE 2023. The exercise ran for 3.5 hours and involved a total of 19 injects, simulating events over an approximate period of 2.5 months.

The report also summarizes recommended actions, based on feedbacks and observations, to further strengthen IHR event communications in the WHO South-East Asia Region.

The report was published on 9 July 2024 and is available at the following link:

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/SEA-WHE-23>



COVID-19

Status as of 7 July 2024

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, from 24 June to 7 July 2024, 5 521 new COVID-19 cases, an increase of 0.1% and 32 deaths, an increase of 18.5%, were reported, compared to the previous 14 days (Table 1).
 - From 24 June to 7 July 2024, India (468 new cases, +17.9%), Bangladesh (230 new cases, +16.8%) and Sri Lanka (12 new cases, +9.1%) reported an increase in the number of new cases while Thailand (4 633 new cases, -1.5%), Myanmar (115 new cases, -15.4%) and Indonesia (63 new cases, -11.3%) reported a decrease in the number of new cases, compared to the previous 14 days.
 - Data were not available from Indonesia, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Timor-Leste for this period.
- The Region has recorded a cumulative total of 61 308 546 COVID-19 cases, including 808 789 deaths (Table 1).
- During week 25 in 2024, the proportion of respiratory samples collected at influenza sentinel surveillance sites in the selected countries that tested positive for COVID-19 ranged from 2.9% (Nepal) to 7.4% (Indonesia) (Figure 2).
- Please refer to the [WHO SEARO COVID-19 dashboard](#) for further information of COVID-19 in WHO South-East Asia Region.
- Globally, 775 678 432 COVID-19 cases, including 7 052 472 deaths have been cumulatively reported, as of 23 June 2024 ¹¹. 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 24 June to 7 July 2024:

Country		Cumulative cases	New cases (last 14 days)	% change in new cases	New cases per 1M pop	Cumulative deaths	New deaths (last 14 days)	% change in new deaths	New deaths per 1M pop
Thailand		4,795,621	4,633	-1.5	64.6	34,704	27	42.1	0.4
India		45,040,752	468	17.9	0.3	533,622	1	-66.7	0.0
Bangladesh		2,051,130	230	16.8	1.3	29,498	1	-50.0	0.0
Myanmar		642,733	115	-15.4	2.1	19,494	0	0.0	0.0
Indonesia		6,829,219	63	-11.3	0.2	162,058	0	0.0	0.0
Sri Lanka		672,791	12	9.1	0.5	16,907	3	0.0	0.1
Bhutan		62,697	NA	NA	NA	21	NA	NA	NA
Maldives		186,694	NA	NA	NA	316	NA	NA	NA
Nepal		1,003,450	NA	NA	NA	12,031	NA	NA	NA
Timor-Leste		23,460	NA	NA	NA	138	NA	NA	NA
SEAR Total		61,308,547	5,521	0.1	NA	808,789	32	18.5	NA

Notes:

Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past 14 days, compared to the previous 14 days.

NA = data not available.

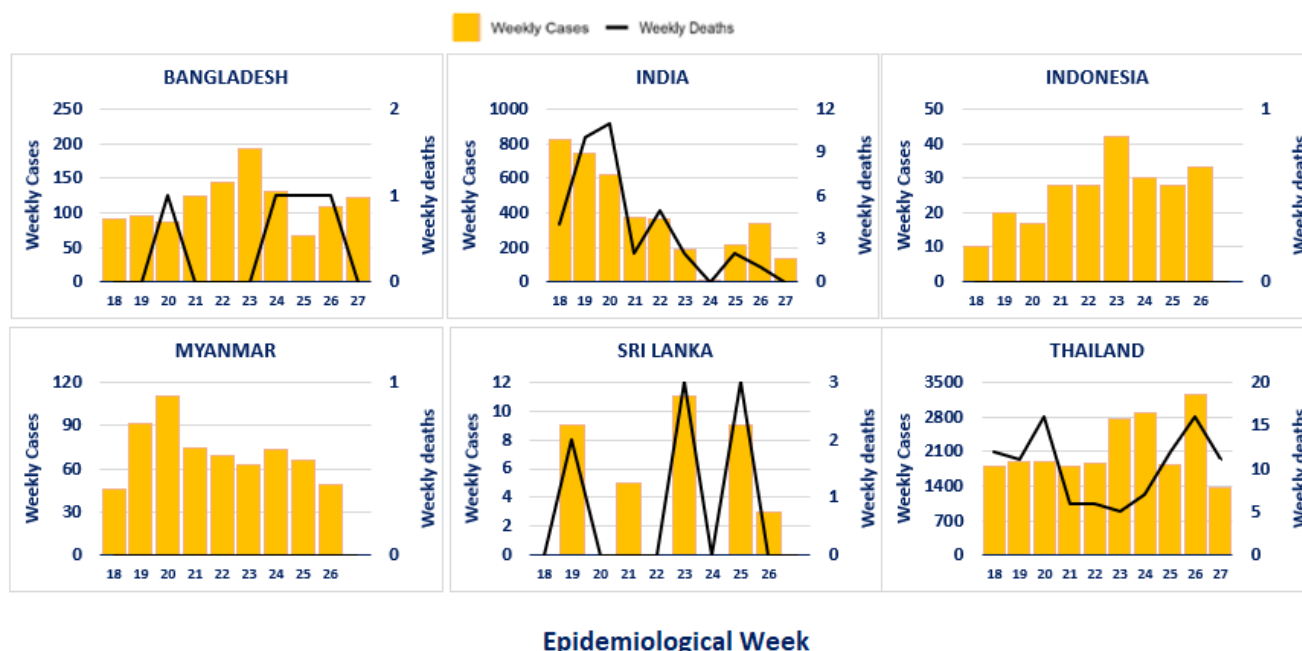
DPR Korea has not reported confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Thailand data were for the period from 23 June to 6 July 2024, India data were for the period from 18 June to 1 July 2024, Sri Lanka and Myanmar data were for the period from 17 to 30 June 2024 and Indonesia data were for the period from 16 to 29 June 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 and Nepal data as of 20 October 2023.

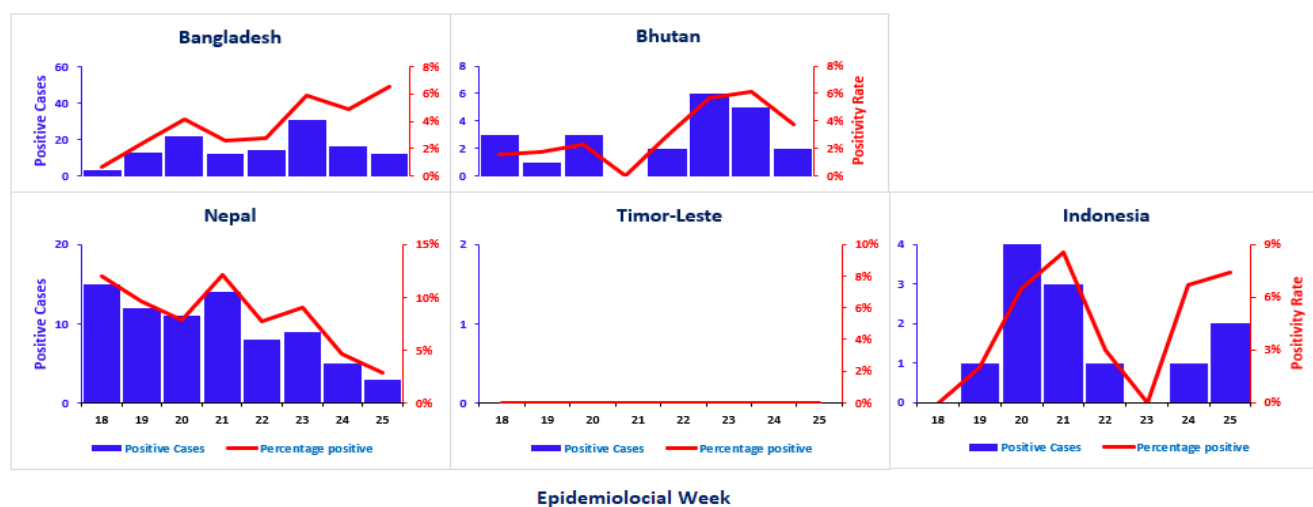
¹¹ [Global Dashboard](#) Data as 23 June 2024

Figure 2. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases reported during the previous ten weeks (as of 7 July 2024) in the WHO South-East Asia Region*:



* Data for Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, and Timor-Leste are not available. Sri Lanka and Myanmar data as of 30 June. Indonesia data as of 29 June 2024.

Figure 3. Weekly number of SARS-CoV-2 positive samples and test positivity from integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems in the previous eight weeks in selected countries* (as of 7 July 2024):



* Countries routinely conducting SARS-CoV-2 testing of the samples collected through influenza sentinel surveillance sites (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Nepal, and Timor-Leste).



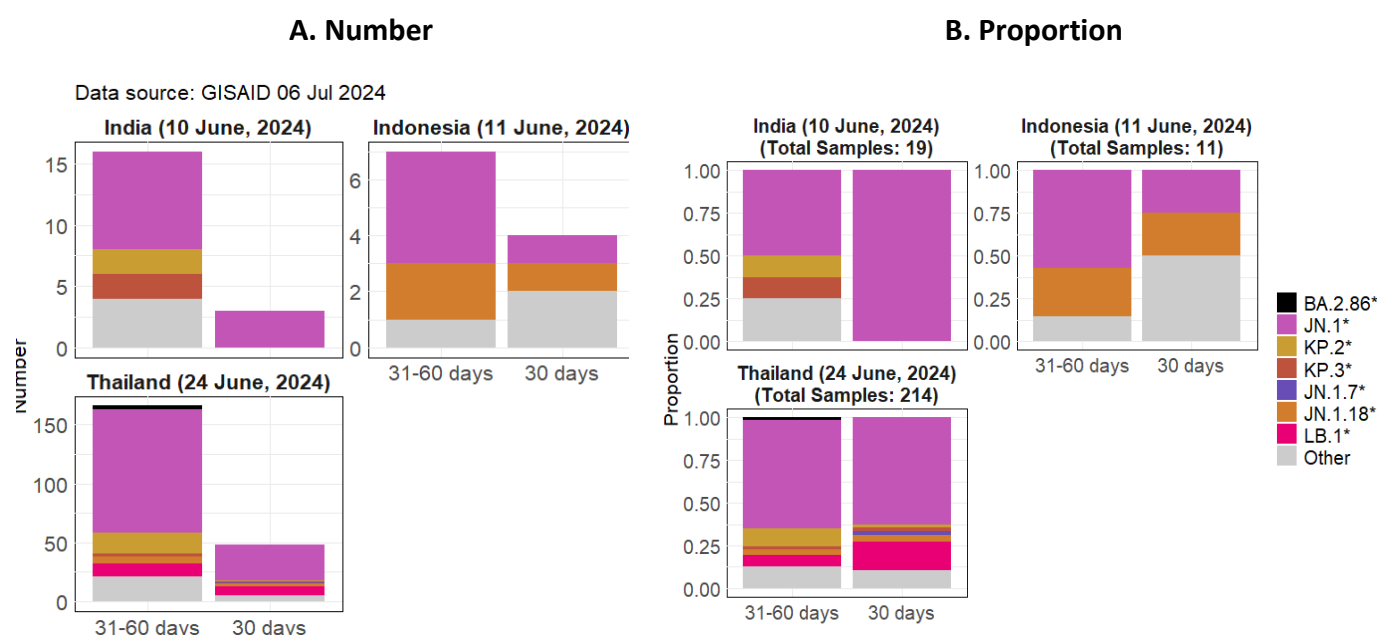
Global circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants

- WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants and their sub-lineages including ¹²:
 - Two variants of interest (VOIs): BA.2.86 and JN.1
 - Five variants under monitoring (VUMs): JN.1.7; KP.2; KP.3, JN.1.18 and LB.1
- Information on the current status of the global SARS-CoV-2 variants can be found from [the WHO COVID-19 dashboard](https://covid19.who.int/).

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

- As of 6 July 2024, the genomic sequence data submitted to GISAID¹³ by countries in the South-East Asia region in the past 60 days by date of collection are shown in Figure 4. 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 **Indonesia**, 11 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1* accounting for 45.5% (n=5) followed by JN.1.18* (27.3%, n=3).
 - In **India**, 19 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1* accounting for 57.9% (n=11) followed by 2 genomic sequences each with KP.2* and KP.3*.
 - In **Thailand**, 214 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1* accounting for 63.1% (n=135) followed by LB.1* (8.9%, n=19), KP.2* (8.4%, n=18), JN.1.18* (3.7%, n=9) and KP.3* (1.9%, n=4). Three genomic sequences with BA.2.86* and one genomic sequence with JN.1.7* were also submitted.
 - Other countries have not submitted genomic sequences recently to GISAID.

Figure 4. Number (A) and proportion (B) of SARS-CoV-2 VOI and VUM sequences submitted to GISAID within the past 30 days and 31-60 days as of 6 July 2024 by date of collection (countries in South-East Asia Region, with recent submissions) †



Other countries in the region have not submitted genomic sequences to GISAID in the past 60 days.

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

Source: GISAID (<https://gisaid.org/>), as of 6 July 2024.

¹² <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/covid-19-epidemiological-update-edition-168>

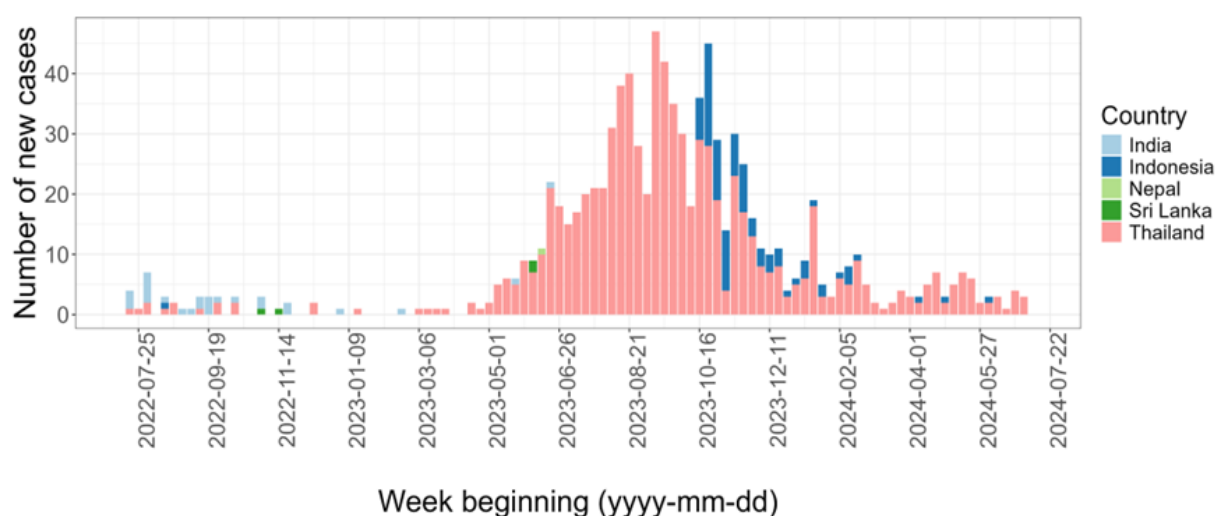
¹³ <https://gisaid.org/>

mpox

Status as of 7 July 2024

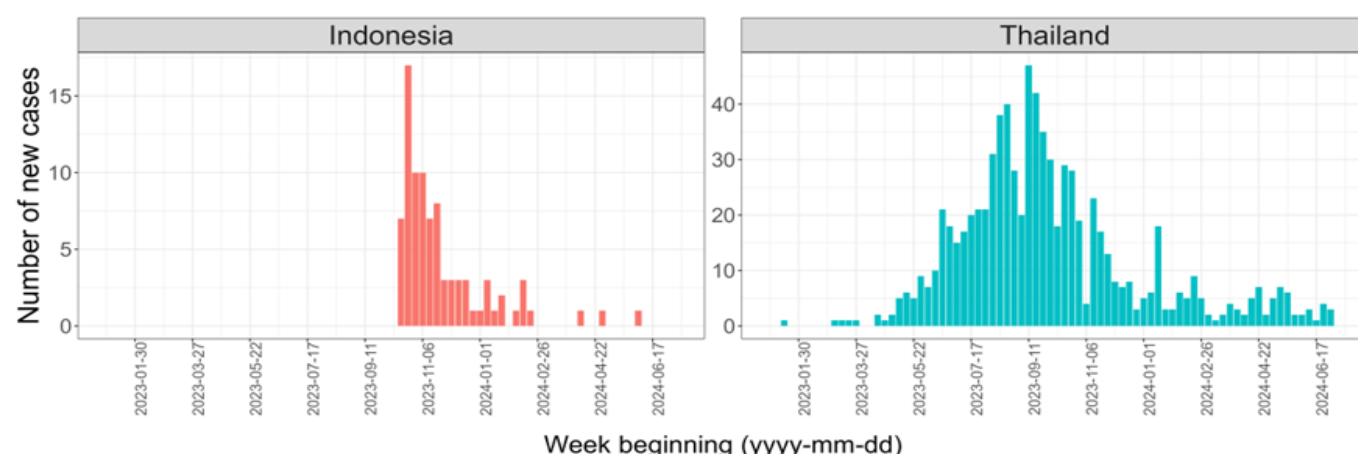
- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 928 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 11 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 5).
- In weeks 26 (24 to 30 June 2024) and 27 (1 to 7 July 2024), 7 mpox were reported from Thailand ¹⁴ (Figure 6).
- In epidemiological weeks 26 and 27, no mpox cases were reported from Indonesia ¹⁵ (Figure 6).
- For more information on the global situation of mpox outbreak, please visit the [global dashboard](#).

Figure 5. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 7 July 2024):



* 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 87 cases in Indonesia for which the date of notification is missing, the date of diagnosis was used.

Figure 6. Weekly number of mpox cases reported in Indonesia (n=87) and Thailand (n=794) since 1 January 2023 by date of notification* (as of 7 July 2024):



* 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.

¹⁴ [Thailand Mpox](#)

¹⁵ [Indonesia Mpox](#)

Table 2. Yearly profile of the 921 confirmed mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region for which case-based information is available since July 2022 (as of 7 July 2024):

	Total (n = 921)	2022 (n=40, 4.3%)	2023 (n=752, 81.7%)	2024 (n=129, 14.0%)
Country				
India	27 (2.9%)	23 (57.5%)	4 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)
Indonesia	86 (9.3%)	1 (2.5%)	72 (7.8%)	13 (10.1%)
Nepal	1 (0.1%)	0	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Sri Lanka	4 (0.4%)	2 (5.0%)	2 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Thailand	803 (87.2%)	14 (35.0%)	673 (73.1%)	116 (89.9%)
Gender				
Female	36 (3.9%)	16 (40.0%)	18 (2.0%)	2 (1.6%)
Male	884 (96.0%)	24 (60.0%)	733 (79.6%)	127 (98.4%)
Transgender	1 (0.1%)	0	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Age group (years)				
Less than 18	4 (0.4%)	0	4 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)
18-29	313 (34.0%)	20 (50.0%)	247 (32.8%)	46 (35.7%)
30-39	389 (42.2%)	16 (40.0%)	324 (43.1%)	49 (38.0%)
40-49	179 (19.4%)	3 (7.5%)	148 (19.7%)	28 (21.7%)
50 and over	36 (3.9%)	1 (2.5%)	29 (3.9%)	6 (4.7%)
Sexual orientation				
Heterosexual	64 (6.9%)	20 (50.0%)	37 (4.9%)	7 (5.4%)
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	749 (81.3%)	4 (10.0%)	637 (84.7%)	108 (83.7%)
Bisexual	21 (2.3%)	0	13 (1.7%)	8 (6.2%)
Other	26 (2.8%)	2 (5.0%)	21 (2.8%)	3 (2.3%)
Unknown	61 (6.6%)	14 (35.0%)	44 (5.9%)	3 (2.3%)
Recent travel				
Yes	45 (4.9%)	18 (45.0%)	27 (3.6%)	0 (0.0%)
No	868 (94.2%)	20 (50.0%)	719 (95.6%)	129 (100.0%)
Unknown	8 (0.9%)	2 (5.0%)	6 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)

Dengue

Bangladesh^{16 17}

- During week 27 (1 to 7 July 2024), a total of 327 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, representing a 22.9% increase compared to 266 cases reported during week 26 (24 to 30 June 2024).
- During week 27 a total of 2 new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, a 33.3% decrease compared to 3 deaths reported during week 26.
- During 2024 (as of 7 July 2024), a total of 3 989 dengue cases and 46 dengue related deaths have been reported. This is 31% compared to the number of cases (n=12 913) and 63% compared to the number of deaths (n=73) reported during the same period in 2023.

Figure 7. Number of new cases and deaths from dengue by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 27 of 2024.



Source: Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room, DGHS Reported Monthly Dengue cases & Dengue Deaths in Bangladesh.

Available at: <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report>

¹⁶ [Bangladesh Dengue press releases](#)

¹⁷ [Bangladesh daily Dengue press release 7 July 2024](#)

Maldives¹⁸

- No new data is available. Please refer to previous versions of the [South-East Asia Epidemiological Bulletin](#) for prior epidemiological information.

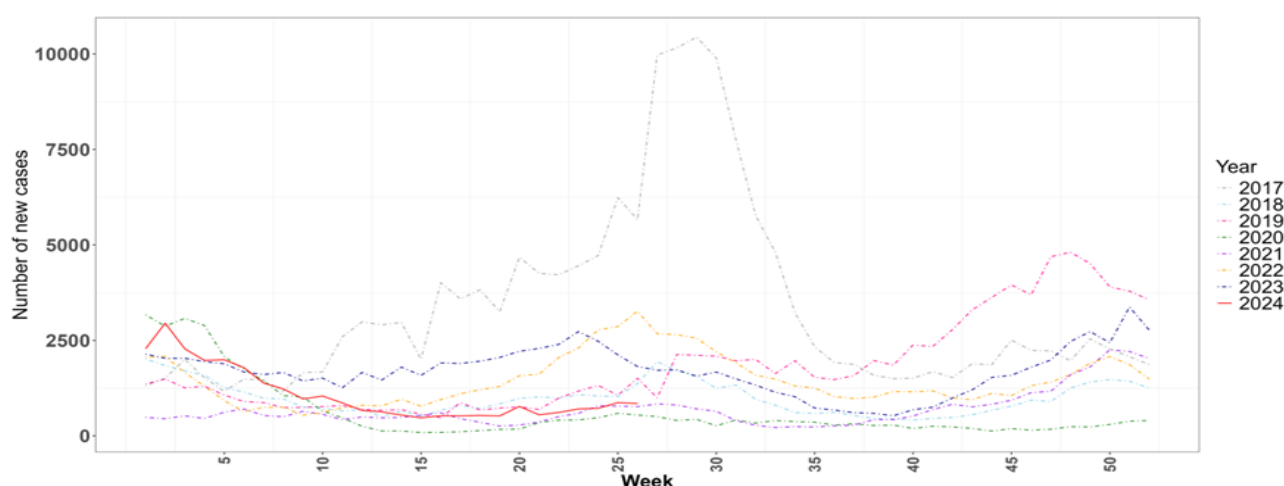
Nepal¹⁹

- No new data is available. Please refer to previous versions of the [South-East Asia Epidemiological Bulletin](#) for prior epidemiological information.

Sri Lanka²⁰

- During week 26 (24 to 30 June 2024), a total of 848 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 2.5% decrease compared to 870 cases reported during week 25 (17 to 23 June 2024).
- From the week one to the week 26 in 2024, a total of 28 242 cases were reported compared to 49 548 and 36 354 during the same period in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Figure 8. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 26 of 2024:



Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - [2017 to 2020](#); [2021 to 2024](#)

¹⁸ [Maldives Monthly Communicable Diseases Report \(May 2024\)](#)

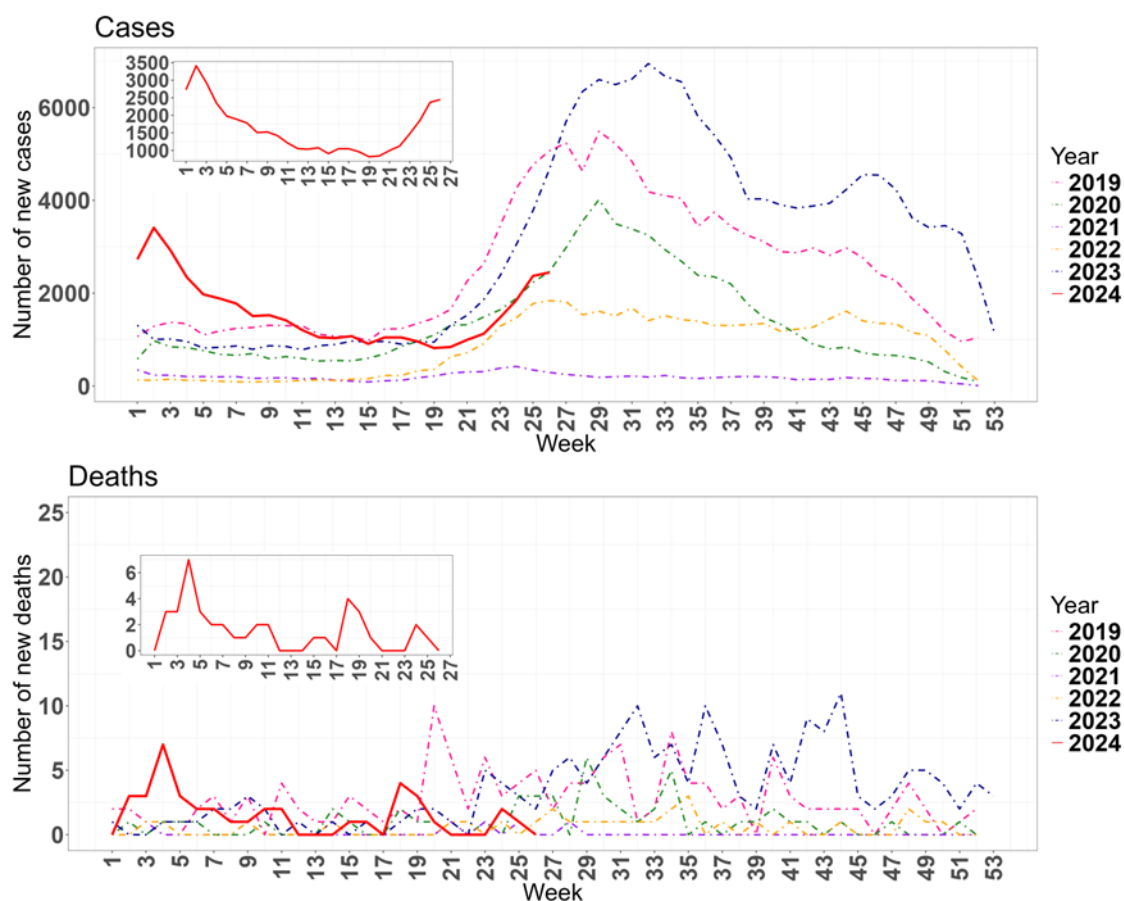
¹⁹ [Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health and Population, Department of Health Services, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division. EWARS Weekly Bulletin](#)

²⁰ [Sri Lanka National Dengue Control Unit](#)

Thailand^{21 22 23}

- During week 26 (24 to 30 June 2024), a total of 2 448 new dengue cases were reported in Thailand, a 3.2% increase compared to 2 372 cases reported during week 25 (17 to 23 June 2024).
- During week 26, no new dengue deaths were reported in Thailand. One dengue death was reported during week 25.
- In 2024, (as of 4 July) a total of 36 246 cases including 37 deaths (CFR=0.1%) have been reported. This compares to 35 227 cases reported between January and June in 2023 including 36 deaths (CFR=0.1%).

Figure 9. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Thailand from 2019 to week 26 of 2024



Source: [Ministry of Public Health, Thailand](#)

²¹ [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](#)

²² [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](#)

²³ [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](#)

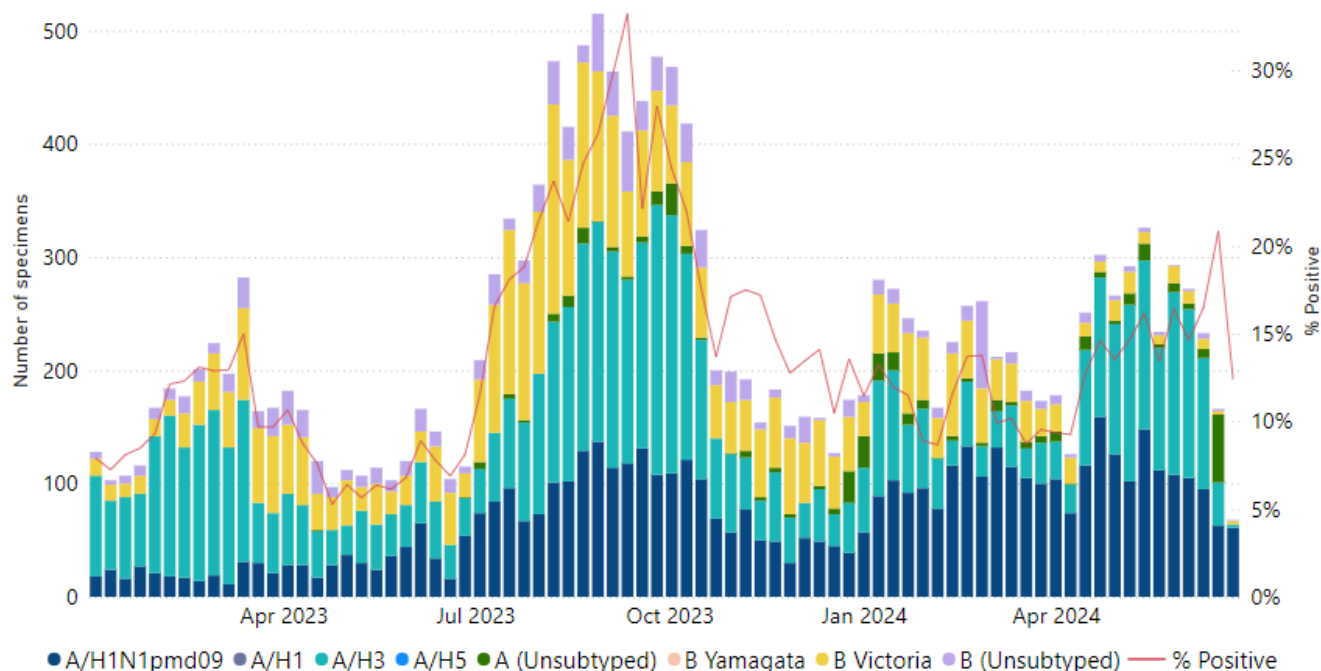
Influenza

WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 7 July 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 26 in 2024 (24 to 30 June), the weekly test positivity was at 12.4% and the most frequently reported strains were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, Influenza B/Victoria and influenza A(H3) (Figure 10).
- 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](#).

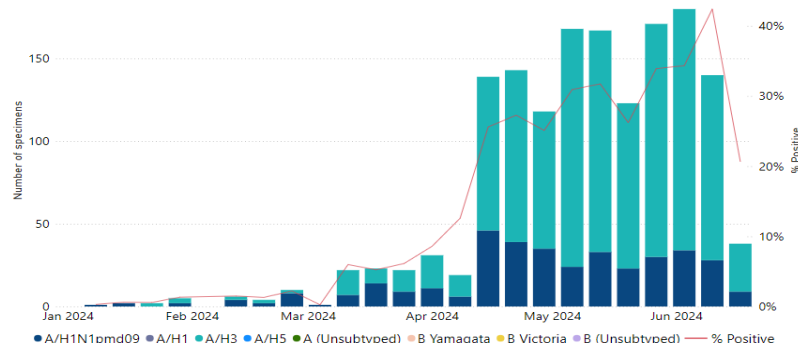
Figure 10. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in WHO South-East Asia Region during 2023 and 2024 (as of week 26 2024):



Bangladesh

- As of 23 June 2024, 184 samples were tested on the integrated SARS-CoV-2 & influenza surveillance platform in week 25 (17 to 23 June 2024).
- 38 samples (20.65%) were tested positive for influenza.
- Of samples tested positive for influenza (n=38), 76.3% (n=29) were A(H3) and 23.7% (n=9) were A(H1N1)pdm09.

Figure 11. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Bangladesh in 2024 (as of week 25 2024)



Sri Lanka

- As of 23 June 2024, 82 samples were tested on the integrated SARS-CoV-2 & influenza surveillance platform in week 25 (17 to 23 June 2024).
- 26 samples (31.7%) were tested positive for influenza.
- Of the samples tested positive for influenza (n=26), 76.9% (n=20) were positive for A(H1N1pdm) and 2 samples each for influenza A(H3) and influenza A (unsubtyped). One sample each for influenza B Victoria and Influenza B (Unsubtyped) was also tested positive.

Figure 12. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Sri Lanka in 2024 (as of week 25 2024)

