

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

India: Nipah virus infection

Situation overview (as of 21 July 2024)^{1 2 3 4}

- On 21 July, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) of India and Kerala State authority issued press releases regarding a Nipah virus case in Kerala state.
- A 14-year-old boy from Mallapuram exhibited Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) symptoms and was admitted to a healthcare facility. However, the patient later succumbed to the disease. The samples were sent to the National Institute for Virology (NIV) in Pune, where Nipah virus infection was confirmed.
- The MoHFW had advised the following immediate public health measures to be taken by the State government:
 - Active case search in the family of the confirmed case, the neighborhood, and areas with similar topography.
 - Active contact tracing (for any contacts) for the previous 12 days.
 - Strict quarantine of the contacts of the case and isolation of any suspects.
 - Collection and transportation of samples for laboratory testing.
- State health authorities highlighted that Kerala has taken timely measures to address Nipah virus infections.
- As of 23 July, 17 individuals were tested negative for Nipah, which included six friends who had direct contact with the 14-year-old Nipah case, and a 68-year-old symptomatic person who had no direct contact.
 - The NIV's mobile laboratory had arrived in Kozhikode and started functioning for Nipah testing.
- As of 23 July, 460 people are in the contact list. Of these, 142 are health workers, and 101 are considered high-risk, and 19 individuals on the contact list are admitted to hospitals for treatment.
 - No symptoms have been reported among the close contacts of the case (family members).
 - Psychological support has been provided for those in the contact list, with 329 people supported through the call center.
- More than 18 000 houses in Pandikkad and Anakayath were visited to identify cases with fever.
- Online classes are being held in schools in Nipah-affected areas.

WHO resources on Nipah Virus Infection

- Nipah virus infection https://www.who.int/health-topics/nipah-virus-infection#tab=tab_1
- WHO South-East Asia Regional Strategy for the prevention and control of Nipah virus infection 2023–2030 <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290210849>
- Technical Brief: Enhancing readiness for a Nipah virus event in countries not reporting a Nipah virus event <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290211273>

¹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2034771>

² <https://www.prd.kerala.gov.in/ml/node/265091>

³ <https://www.prd.kerala.gov.in/ml/node/265092>

⁴ <https://www.prd.kerala.gov.in/ml/node/265293>



India: Chandipura virus

Situation overview

- On 20 July 2024, the MOHFW of India⁵ published a press release reporting Chandipura virus (CHPV) cases and deaths.
 - Since early June 2024, cases of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) have been reported in children under 15 years of age in the state of Gujarat.
 - As of 20 July 2024, a total of 78 AES cases have been reported, with 75 from 21 districts/corporations in Gujarat, 2 from Rajasthan, and 1 from Madhya Pradesh. Of these, 28 cases have resulted in death.
 - Among the 76 samples tested at the NIV in Pune, nine have been confirmed positive for Chandipura Virus (CHPV). All nine CHPV-positive cases and five associated deaths are from Gujarat.
- On 24 July 2024, unverified media⁶ reported a total of 101 AES cases including 38 deaths in Gujarat state.
 - The statewide fumigation and sanitation drive has covered 4,160,000 houses with mud walls. Insecticides have been sprayed in over 62,000 homes.

Myanmar: Acute Watery Diarrhea

Situation overview

- On 7 July, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar reported through its press release outbreak of acute watery diarrhea had started in Yangon region in early June⁷.
 - Since late June, severe diarrhea cases have been admitted to hospitals in some townships in the eastern district of Yangon, including Thaketa Township.
- As of 22 July 2024, a total of 1 141 acute watery diarrhea cases were hospitalized and 139 severe diarrhea patients including one death were reported.⁸
- Efforts are ongoing and being intensified to control the disease in Yangon Region.^{9 10}
- Management of Acute Severe Gastroenteritis (Clinically suspected Cholera) (July 2024) was published by Ministry of Health.¹¹

Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar): Acute Watery Diarrhea/Cholera

Situation overview¹²

- From 23 June to 23 July 2024, 76 rapid diagnostic test-positive acute watery diarrhea (AWD) / suspected cholera cases were detected and reported in Cox's Bazar, of which 65 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.

⁵<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=2034701>

⁶ Media article

⁷ [Press release 1](#); [Press release 2](#) | Ministry of Health, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

⁸ News <https://www.mohs.gov.mm/Main/content/new/list?pagenumber=1&pagesize=9>

⁹ <https://www.mohs.gov.mm/>

¹⁰ https://cdn.myanmarwebdesigner.com/file/client-cdn/gnlm/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/23_July_24_gnlm.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.mohs.gov.mm/page/19776>

¹² Cox's Bazar sub-office, World Health Organization Bangladesh Country Office



Bangladesh: Civil unrest

Situation overview¹³

- During the week starting on 15 July 2024, several protests took place within the capital of Bangladesh resulting in deaths and thousands of injured individuals. Additionally, protests took place nationwide as civil unrest escalated throughout the week.
- According to informal media reports, there have been at least 173 deaths as of 23 July 2024. No protests were reported on Monday 22 July.
- A government curfew took effect at midnight on 20 July and two public holidays were declared due to the situation in the country.

¹³ <https://tinyurl.com/yw2sc5zr>; <https://tinyurl.com/ycxyrywy>; <https://tinyurl.com/yn9z6er7>

COVID-19

Situation overview as of 21 July 2024

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, from 8 to 21 July 2024, 2 889 new COVID-19 cases, a decrease of 47.2% and 10 deaths, a decrease of 65.5%, were reported, compared to the previous 14 days (Table 1).
 - From 8 to 21 July 2024, Bangladesh (218 new cases, +11.2%), Indonesia (93 new cases, +19.2%) and Sri Lanka (6 new cases, +100.0%) reported an increase in the number of new cases while Thailand (2 071 new cases, -55.3%), India (440 new cases, -6.0%) and Myanmar (61 new cases, -35.1%) 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 61 311 446 COVID-19 cases, including 808 799 deaths (Table 1).
- During week 27 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 3.15% (Bangladesh) to 25% (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, 775 673 955 COVID-19 cases, including 7 053 424 deaths have been cumulatively reported, as of 7 July 2024¹⁴. Please visit the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#) for the 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 8 June to 21 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		4,797,692	2,071	-55.3	28.9	34,712	8	-70.4	0.1
India		45,041,192	440	-6.0	0.3	533,623	1	0.0	0.0
Bangladesh		2,051,272	218	11.2	1.3	29,498	0	-100.0	0.0
Myanmar		642,839	61	-35.1	1.1	19,494	0	0.0	0.0
Indonesia		6,829,353	93	19.2	0.3	162,059	1	100.0	0.0
Sri Lanka		672,797	6	100.0	0.3	16,907	0	0.0	0.0
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		61,311,446	2,889	-47.2	NA	808,799	10	-65.5	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.

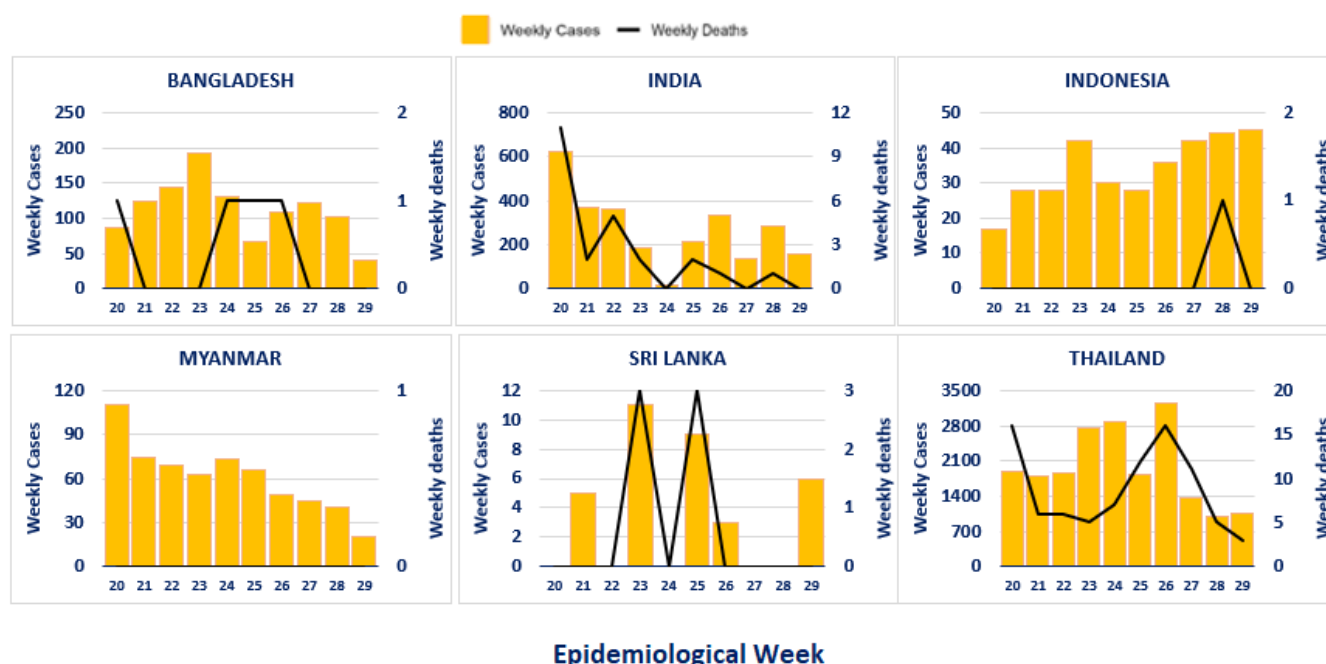
DPR Korea has not reported confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Bangladesh data were for the period from 4 to 17 July, Indonesia & Thailand data were for the period from 7 to 20 July 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.

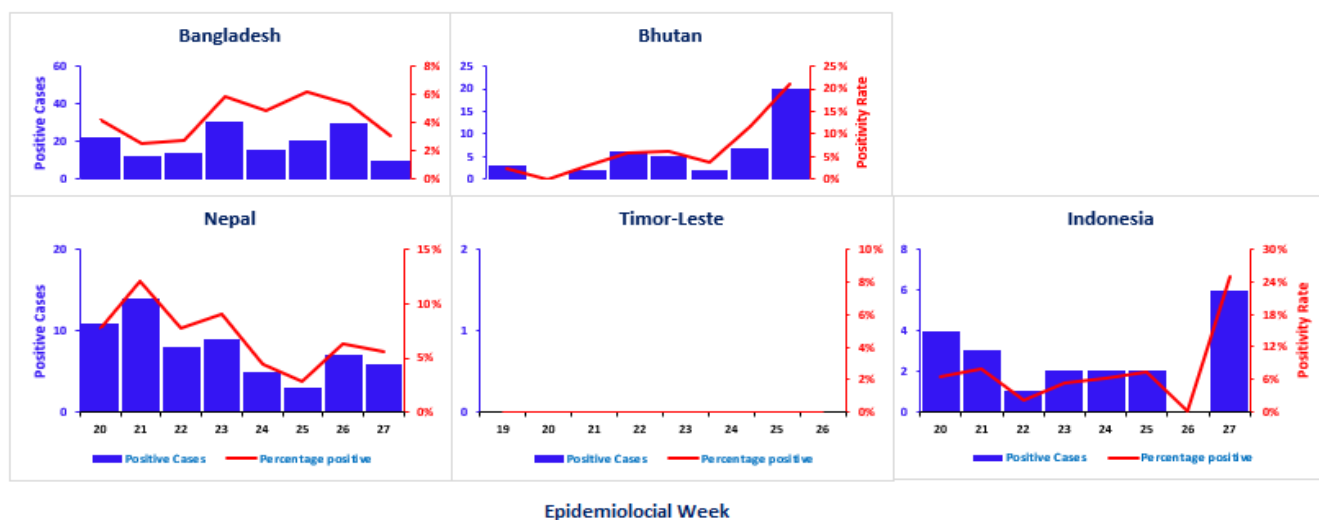
¹⁴ [Global Dashboard](#). Data as 7 July 2024

Figure 1. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases reported during the previous ten weeks (as of 21 July 2024) in the WHO South-East Asia Region*:



* Data for Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, and Timor-Leste are not available. Bangladesh data as of 17 July.

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 eight weeks in selected countries* (as of 21 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). Timor-Leste data is as of 30 June 2024.

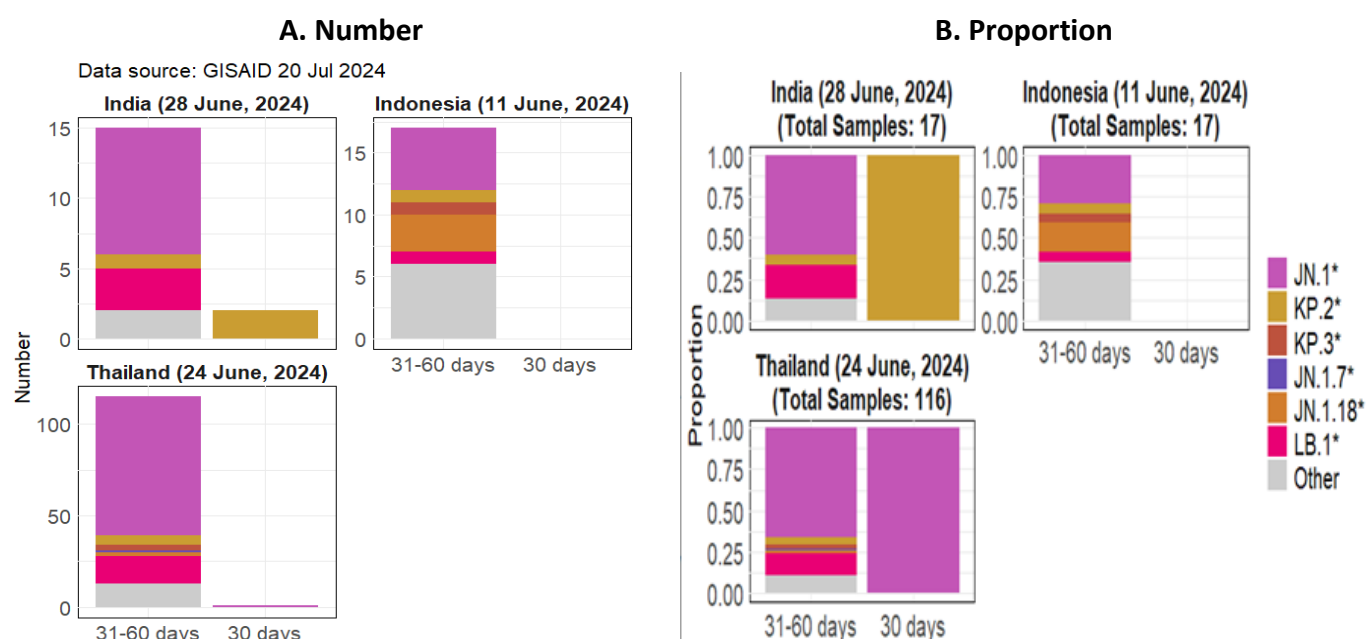
Global circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants

- WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants and their sub-lineages including ¹⁵:
 - 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://www.who.int/covid-19/dashboards).

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

- As of 20 July 2024, the genomic sequence data submitted to GISAID¹⁶ by countries in the South-East Asia region in the past 60 days by date of collection are shown in Figure 3. 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**, 17 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1* accounting for 29.4% (n=5) followed by JN.1.18* (17.6%, n=3). One genomic sequence each with KP.2*, KP.3* and LB.1* were also submitted.
 - In **India**, 17 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1* accounting for 52.9% (n=9) followed by three genomic sequences each with KP.2* and LB.1*.
 - In **Thailand**, 116 genomic sequences were submitted with JN.1* accounting for 66.4% (n=77) followed by LB.1* (12.9%, n=15), KP.2* (4.3%, n=5), KP.3* (2.6%, n=3) and JN.1.18* (1.7%, n=2). One genomic sequence with JN.1.7* were also submitted.
 - Other countries have not submitted genomic sequences recently to GISAID.

Figure 3. 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 20 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 20 July 2024.

¹⁵ <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/covid-19-epidemiological-update-edition-169>

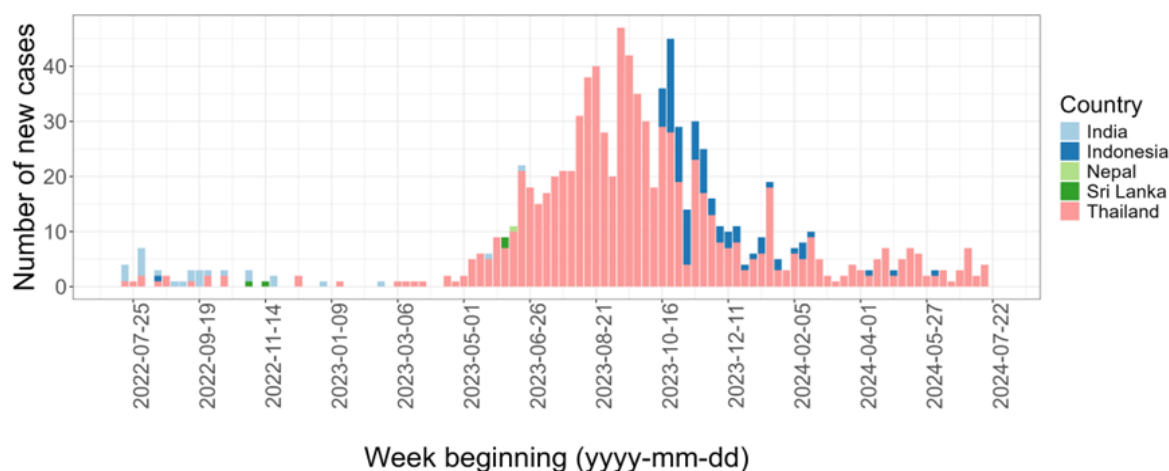
¹⁶ <https://gisaid.org/>

mpox

Situation overview as of 21 July 2024

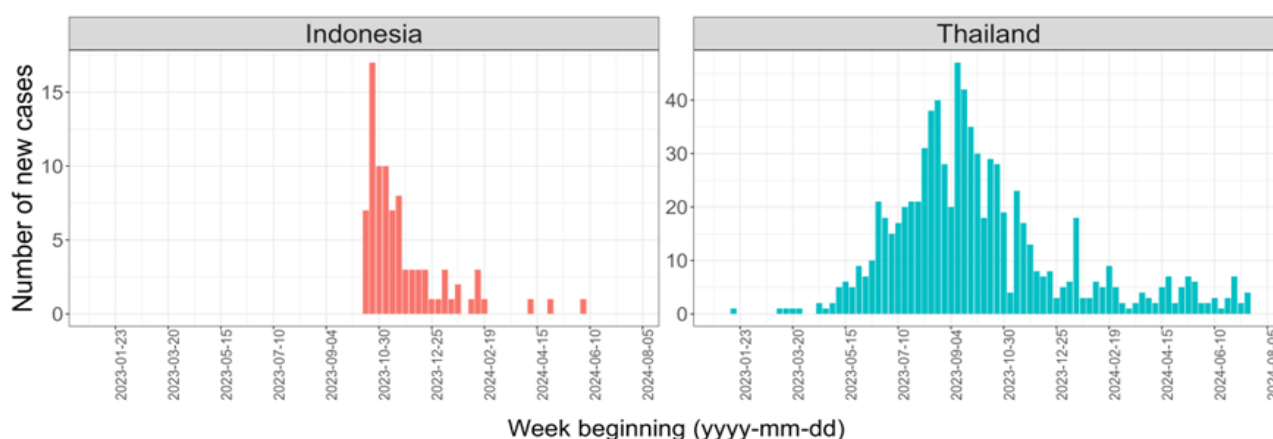
- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 937 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 11 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 4).
- In epidemiological weeks 28 (8 July 2024 to 14 July 2024) and 29 (15 July 2024 to 21 July 2024), 6 new mpox cases were reported from Thailand¹⁷ (Figure 5).
- In epidemiological weeks 28 and 29, no mpox cases were reported from Indonesia¹⁸ (Figure 5).
- For more information on the global situation of mpox outbreak, please visit the [global dashboard](#).

Figure 4. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 21 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 5. Weekly number of mpox cases reported in Indonesia (n=87) and Thailand (n=803) since 1 January 2023 by date of notification* (as of 21 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.

¹⁷ [Thailand Mpox](#)

¹⁸ [Indonesia Mpox](#)

Table 2. Profile of the confirmed mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region in 2024 for which case-based information is available (as of 21 July 2024):

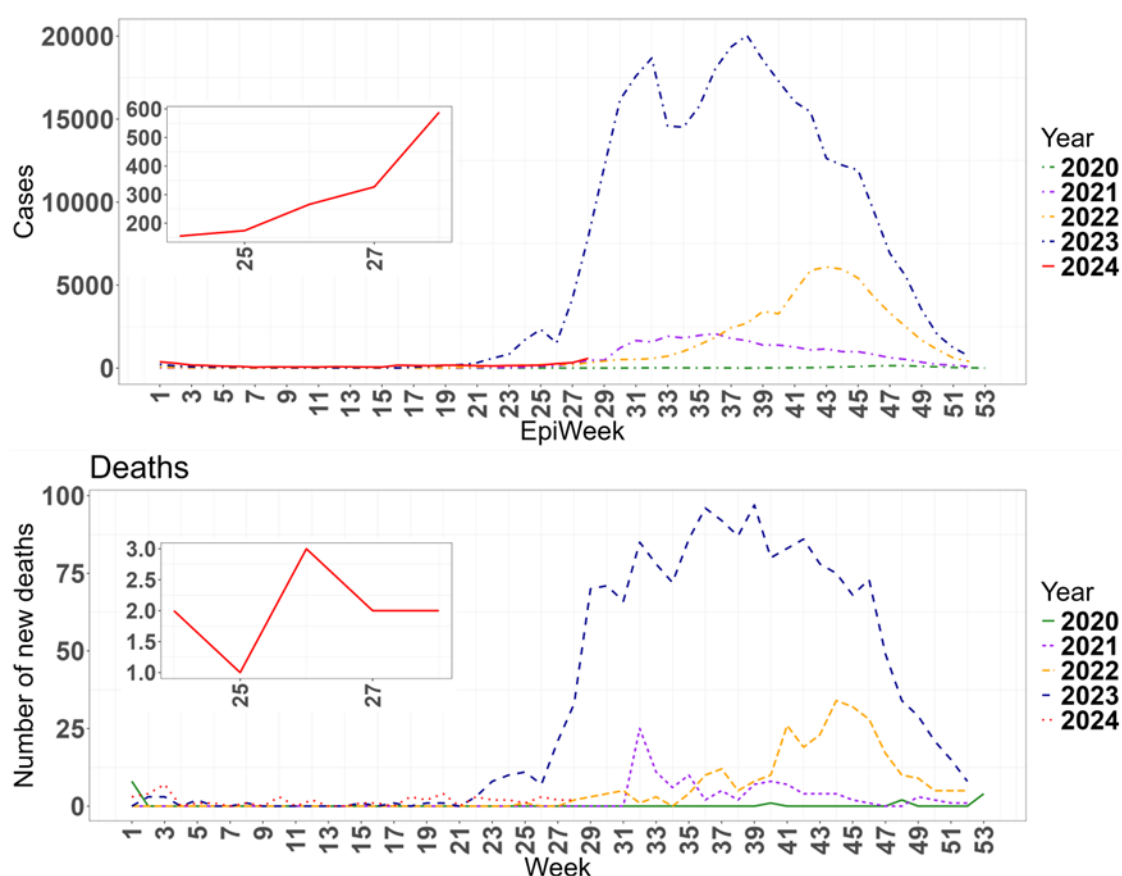
	Total (n = 921)	2024 (n=129)
Country		
India	27 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Indonesia	86 (9.3%)	13 (10.1%)
Nepal	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Sri Lanka	4 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)
Thailand	803 (87.2%)	116 (89.9%)
Gender		
Female	36 (3.9%)	2 (1.6%)
Male	884 (96.0%)	127 (98.4%)
Transgender	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Age group (years)		
Less than 18	4 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)
18-29	313 (34.0%)	46 (35.7%)
30-39	389 (42.2%)	49 (38.0%)
40-49	179 (19.4%)	28 (21.7%)
50 and over	36 (3.9%)	6 (4.7%)
Sexual orientation		
Heterosexual	64 (6.9%)	7 (5.4%)
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	749 (81.3%)	108 (83.7%)
Bisexual	21 (2.3%)	8 (6.2%)
Other	26 (2.8%)	3 (2.3%)
Unknown	61 (6.6%)	3 (2.3%)
Recent travel		
Yes	45 (4.9%)	0 (0.0%)
No	868 (94.2%)	129 (100.0%)
Unknown	8 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)

Dengue

Bangladesh^{1,2}

- During week 28 (8 July 2024 to 14 July 2024), a total of 588 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 79.8% increase compared to 327 cases reported during week 27 (1 July 2024 to 7 July 2024).
- During week 28, a total of 2 new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, which is similar to the number of deaths reported during week 27.
- During 2024 (as of 14 July 2024), a total of 4 577 dengue cases and 48 dengue related deaths have been reported. This is 22% compared to the number of cases (n=20 837) and 45% compared to the number of deaths (n=106) reported during the same period in 2023.

Figure 6. Number of new cases and deaths from dengue by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 28 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>

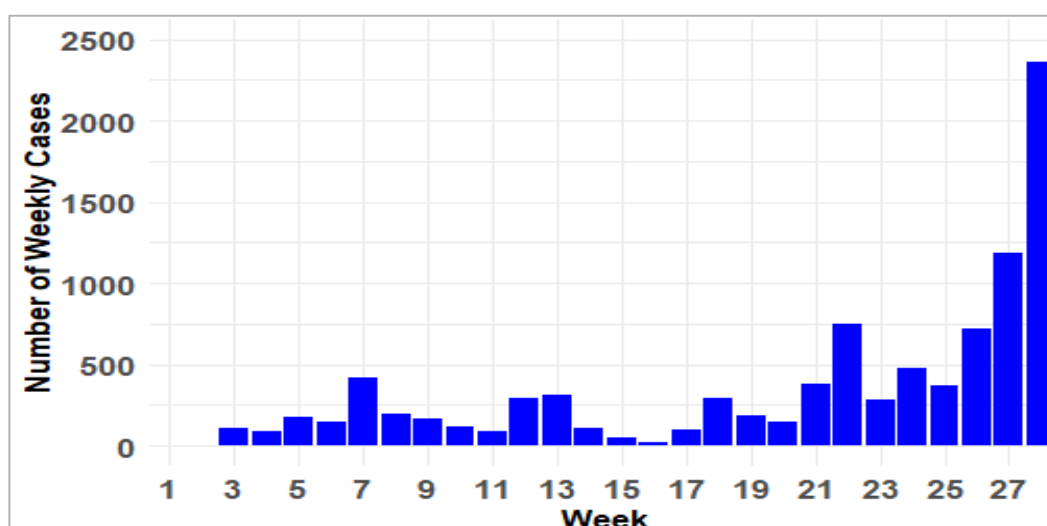
¹ [Bangladesh Dengue press releases](#)

² [Bangladesh daily Dengue press release 14 July 2024](#)

India (Karnataka) ³

- During week 28 (8 to 13 July 2024), a total of 2 362 new dengue cases were reported in Karnataka, nearly double the 1 189 cases reported in week 27 (1 to 7 July 2024).
- From the week one to the week 28 in 2024, a total of 9 527 cases were reported.
- In 2023, a total of 16 539 dengue cases were reported.

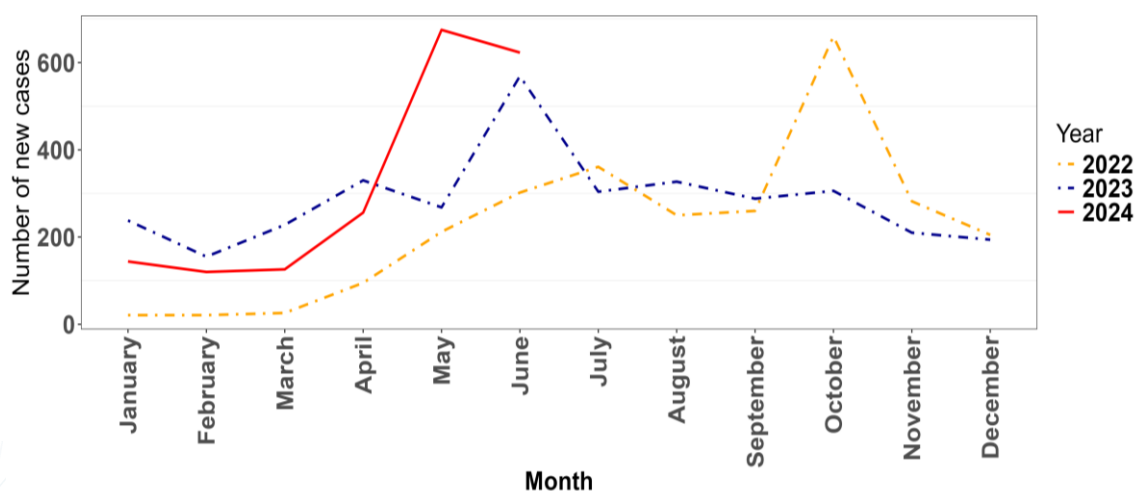
Figure 7. Number of new dengue cases by week in Karnataka from week 1 to week 28 of 2024.



Maldives ⁴

- During June 2024, a total of 623 cases of dengue were reported in Maldives, a 7.7% decrease compared to May 2024 (n=675).
- In the first six months of 2024, a total of 1 944 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 1 788 cases during the same period in 2023. A total of 3 417 cases were reported in the entirety of 2023.

Figure 8. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to June 2024.



³ <https://hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in/info-4/Weekly+Infectious+Disease+Report/en>

⁴ [Maldives Monthly Communicable Diseases Report \(May 2024\)](#)

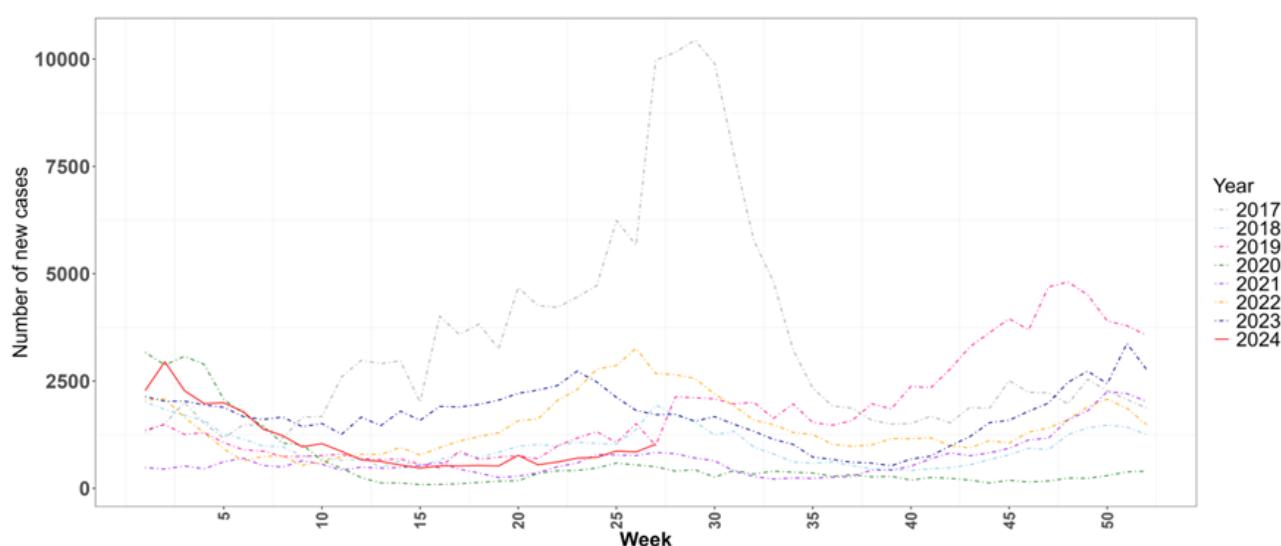
Nepal ⁵

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

Sri Lanka ⁶

- During week 27 (1 July 2024 to 7 July 2024), a total of 1 030 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 21.5% increase compared to 848 cases reported during week 26 (24 June 2024 to 30 June 2024).
- From the week one to the week 27 in 2024, a total of 29 272 cases were reported compared to 51 266 and 39 029 during the same period in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Figure 9. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 27 of 2024.



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

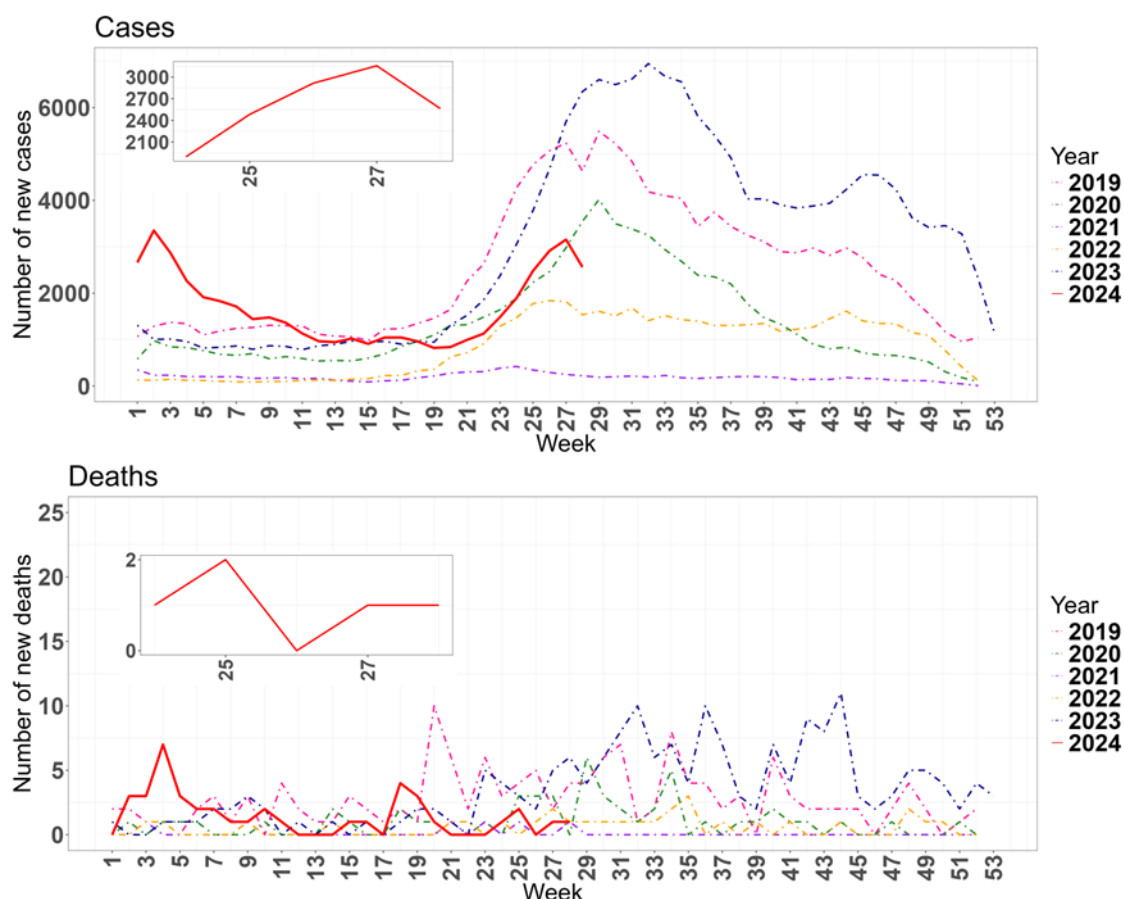
⁵ Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health and Population, Department of Health Services, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division. EWARS Weekly Bulletin

⁶ Sri Lanka National Dengue Control Unit

Thailand^{7 8 9}

- During week 28 (8 to 14 July 2024), a total of 2 563 new dengue cases were reported in Thailand, a 18.8% decrease compared to 3 156 cases reported during week 27 (1 to 7 July 2024).
- During week 28, one new dengue death was reported in Thailand.
- In 2024, (as of week 28) a total of 47 242 cases including 40 deaths (CFR=0.1%) have been reported. This compares to 48 186 cases reported between week 1 and week 28 of 2023 including 47 deaths (CFR=0.1%).

Figure 10. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Thailand from 2019 to week 28 of 2024.



Source: [Ministry of Public Health, Thailand](https://www.moph.go.th/)

⁷ [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

⁸ [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

⁹ [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

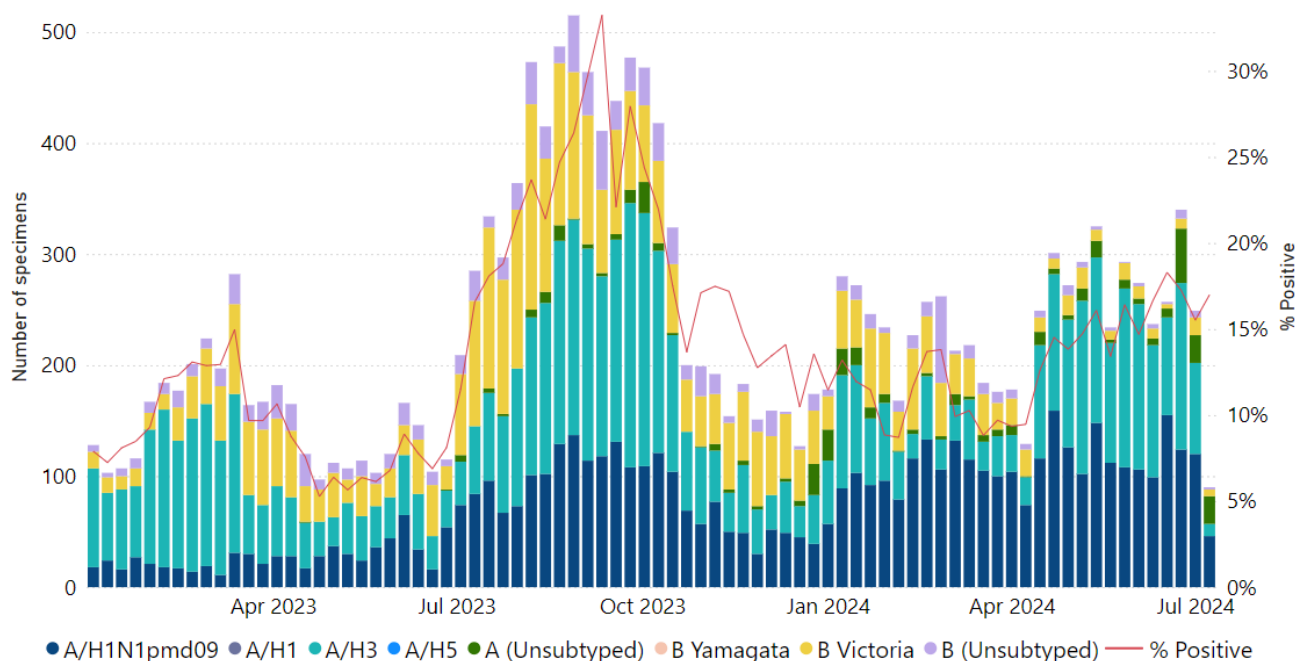
Influenza

WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 21 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 28 in 2024 (8 to 14 July), the weekly test positivity was at 17.0% and the most frequently reported strains were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, influenza A (unsubtyped), influenza A(H3) and influenza B Victoria (Figure 12).
- 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](#).

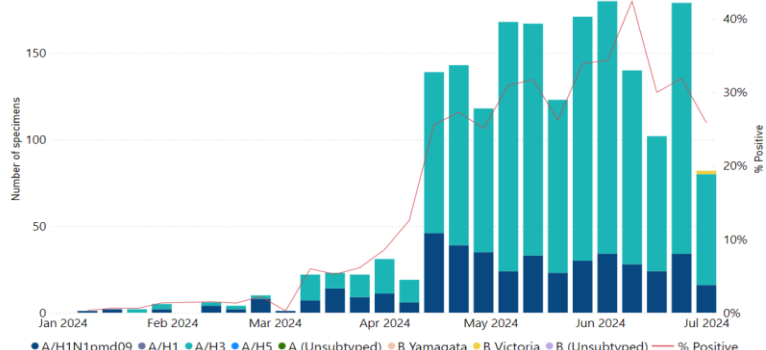
Figure 11. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in WHO South-East Asia Region during 2023 and 2024 (as of week 28 2024).



Bangladesh

- As of 7 July 2024, 317 samples were tested on the integrated SARS-CoV-2 & influenza surveillance platform in week 27 (1 to 7 July 2024).
- 82 samples (25.87%) were tested positive for influenza.
- Of samples tested positive for influenza (n=82), 78% (n=64) were A(H3) and 19.5% (n=16) were A(H1N1)pdm09.

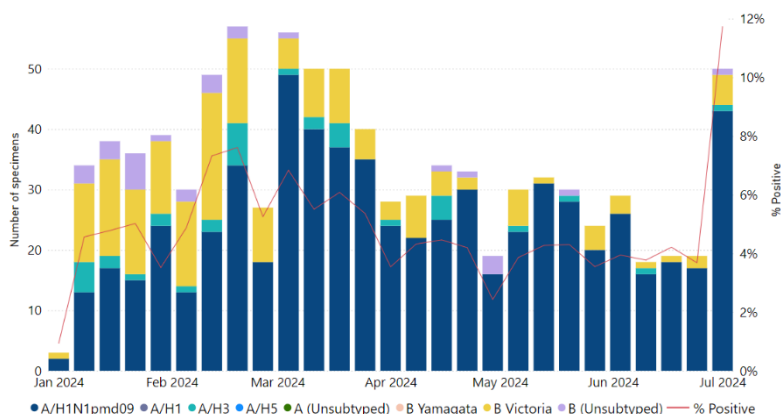
Figure 12. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Bangladesh in 2024 (as of week 27, 2024)



India

- As of 7 July 2024, 426 samples were tested on the integrated SARS-CoV-2 & influenza surveillance platform in week 27 (1 to 7 July 2024).
- 50 samples (11.7%) were tested positive for influenza.
- Of the samples tested positive for influenza (n=50), 86% (n=43) were positive for A(H1N1)pdm09 and 10% (n=5) were influenza B Victoria. One sample each was found to be influenza A(H3) and Influenza B (unsubtyped).

Figure 13. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in India in 2024 (as of week 27, 2024)



Thailand

- As of 14 July 2024, 197 samples were tested on the integrated SARS-CoV-2 & influenza surveillance platform in week 28 (8 to 14 July 2024).
- 39 samples (19.8%) were tested positive for influenza.
- Of the samples tested positive for influenza (n=39), 87.2% (n=34) were positive for A(H1N1)pdm09. Three samples were tested positive for influenza A(H3) and two samples were positive for influenza B Victoria.

Figure 14. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Thailand in 2024 (as of week 28 of 2024).

