

# WHO South-East Asia Region Epidemiological Bulletin

WHO Health Emergencies Programme

WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia

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HEALTH  
**EMERGENCIES**  
programme



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
South-East Asia



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](mailto:seoutbreak@who.int).

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## Key events and updates

### Indonesia: Flood

#### Situation overview as of 26 November 2024 <sup>1</sup>

- On 23 November, flash floods resulting in landslides occurred in North Sumatra, Indonesia.
- As of 26 November 2024, a total of 20 deaths, 2 missing people and 12 injured individuals have been reported across four regencies: Karo (10 deaths), Deli Serdang (4 deaths, 2 missing and 9 injured), South Tapanuli (2 deaths), and Padang Lawas (4 deaths and 3 injuries).
  - In South Tapanuli Regency, 2 deaths were reported. The incident affected two districts, Sayur Matinggi and Batang Angkola.
  - In Deli Serdang Regency, 4 deaths, 2 missing and 9 injuries individuals were reported due to flash floods. Severe damage was reported in five houses.
  - In Padang Lawas Regency, 4 deaths and 3 injuries were reported due to a landslide in Harang Julu Village and Ulu Sosa District.
  - In Karo Regency, 10 deaths were reported due to a landslide.

#### Response

- Authorities are assisting affected communities by providing medical care and actively monitoring the situation to mitigate further risks.
- Search and evacuation efforts are ongoing, with authorities and community members working together to locate and assist affected residents.
- In South Tapanuli Regency, the Emergency Response Team have distributed ready-to-eat food, clean water and essential supplies.
- Governments, residents and communities are advised to remain vigilant due to the high potential for continued rainfall and the risk of subsequent disasters.

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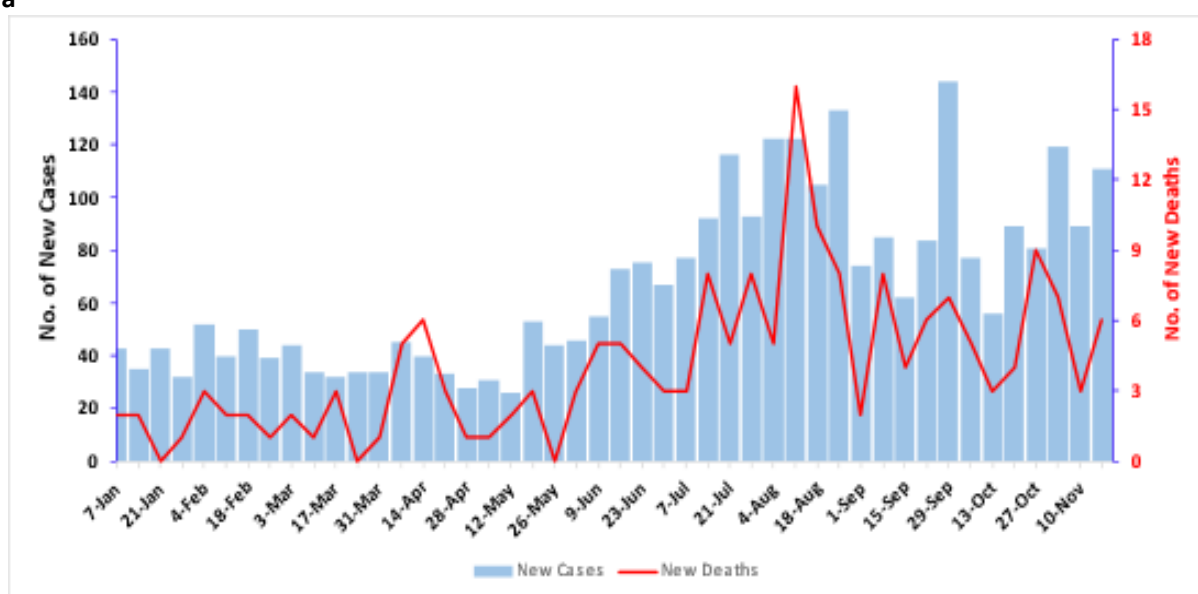
<sup>1</sup> [BNPB: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5](#)

## India: Leptospirosis

### Situation as of 15 November 2024 <sup>2</sup>

- An increase in leptospirosis cases and deaths has been observed in the state of Kerala in India.
- According to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) of Kerala, as of 15 November 2024, there have been 2,996 confirmed cases and 184 confirmed deaths of leptospirosis, the highest number of cases and deaths in the last five years.
- The case-fatality rate in 2024 (6.1%) is also the highest in the last five years.
- Leptospirosis typically peaks between July and October in Kerala following rainfall and flooding, with August being the peak month. However, an unexpected increase in cases has been observed beyond the usual seasonality, with no decline in cases or deaths through October and November, suggesting an extended period for high incidence.

**Figure 1. Number of new cases and deaths from leptospirosis from 01 January to 17 November 2024, Kerala, India**



<sup>2</sup> [IDSP Kerala, India](#) – 15 November 2024

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

### Situation overview as of 17 November 2024 <sup>3</sup>

- From 23 June to 17 November 2024, 336 cholera cases were reported, including 294 culture-confirmed cholera cases and 40 rapid diagnostic test (RDT)-positive AWD cases.
  - No confirmed cholera fatalities have been reported since the upsurge began on 23 June.
  - At present, 91% of culture-confirmed cholera cases were reported are from Rohingya refugee camps.
  - Confirmed cases among refugees were reported from 27 out of 33 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf. Most cases are sporadically distributed across the 27 affected camps, highlighting widespread exposure by the refugee population.
- Out of 294 culture-confirmed cholera cases (reported by 17 November 2024), 54% of cases were males, and 65% were in the 0-9 year age group.
- Three years have passed since the last oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign and the population-wide immunity is likely waning. A new cohort of newborns and recent movement of migrants from Myanmar are also increasing vulnerability of the people.

### Response

- WHO has secured 1.5 million oral cholera vaccines (OCV) from the International Coordinating Group (ICG) for reactive vaccination campaign for refugee camps.
- The OCV campaign will target 1,098,311 eligible individuals in Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char Island and 407,997 eligible host population members in Cox's Bazar.
- WHO Sub Office in Cox's Bazar continues supporting the response.

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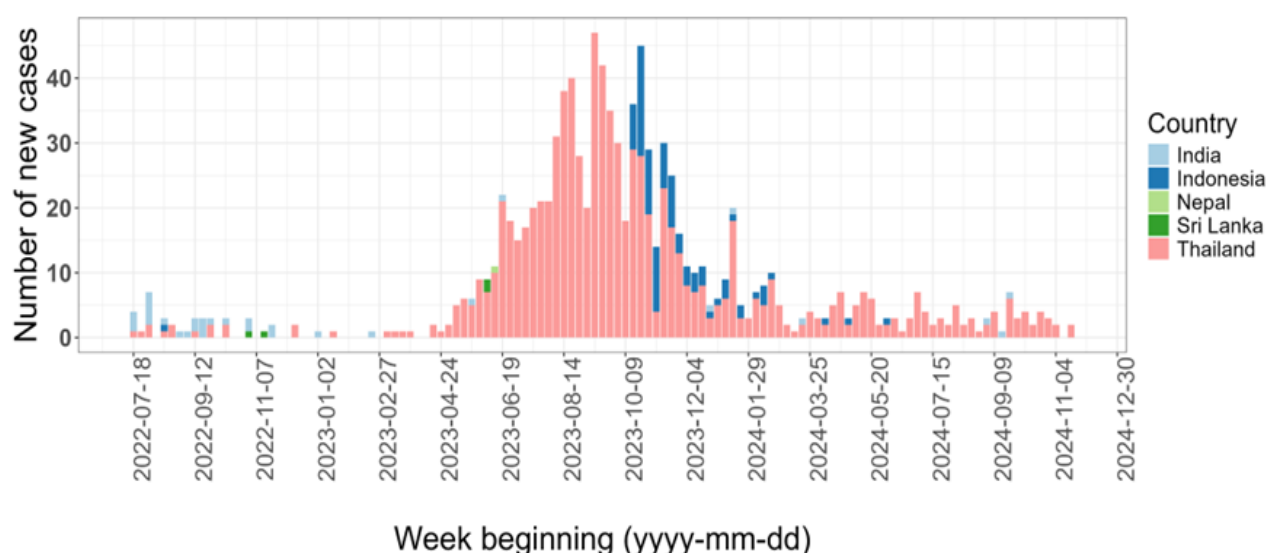
<sup>3</sup> WHO Cox's Bazar suboffice, WCO Bangladesh

## Mpox

### Situation overview in WHO South-East Asia Region as of 24 November 2024

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 991 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 11 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 2).
- In 2024, a total of 198 mpox cases have been reported - 178 from Thailand, 15 from Indonesia and five from India. One death was also reported from Thailand.
- In epidemiological weeks 46 and 47 (11 to 24 November), two new mpox cases were reported from Thailand<sup>4</sup>.
- So far, two mpox cases with Clade Ib infection have been reported in the Region, one case in Thailand and another case in India. Both cases had recent international travel history and were symptomatic during the air travel. Both countries implemented robust public health measures, including contact tracing, and no subsequent transmission has been detected. Both cases were notified to WHO through the respective National International Health Regulations (IHR) Focal Point.
- For information on global epidemiological situation of mpox, please see:
  - [WHO mpox surveillance dashboard](#)

**Figure 2. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification\* (14 July 2022 – 24 November 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.

<sup>4</sup> [Thailand Mpox](#)

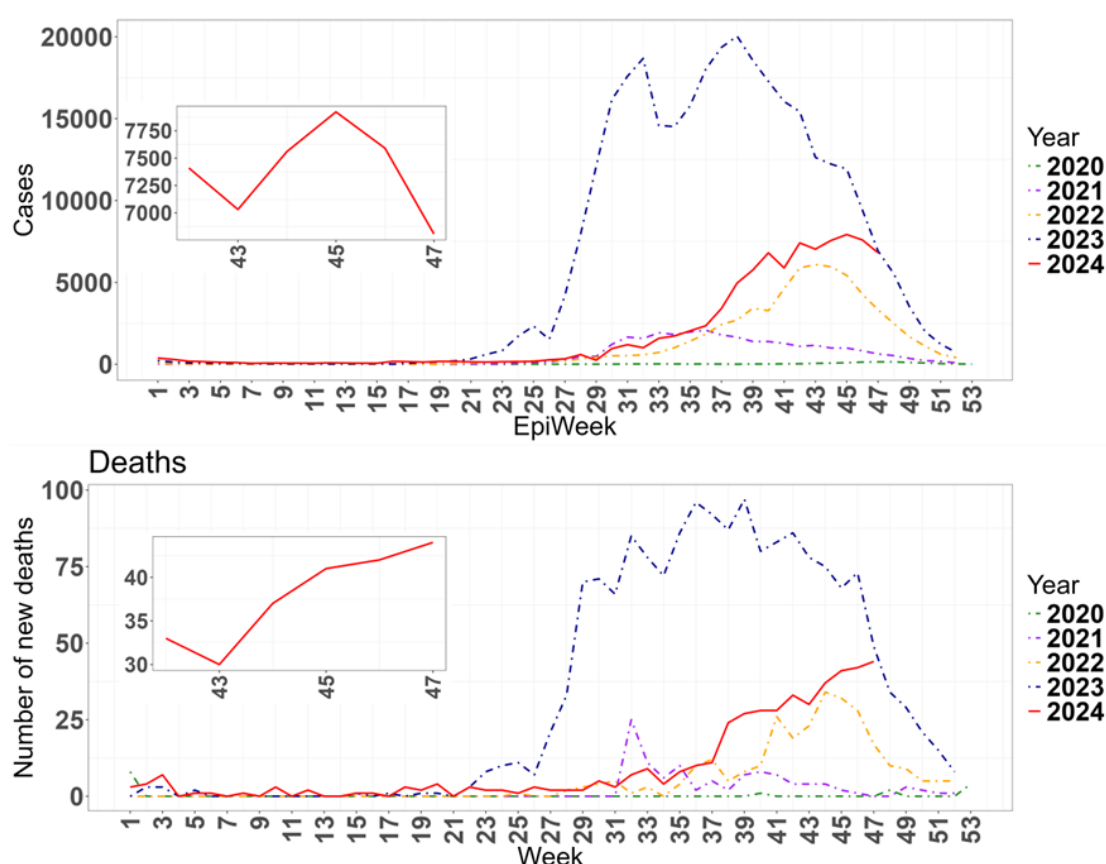


## Dengue

### Bangladesh<sup>1,2</sup>

- During week 47 (18 to 24 November 2024), a total of 6807 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 10.3% decrease compared to 7591 cases reported during week 46 (11 to 17 November 2024).
- During week 47, a total of 44 new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, a 4.8% increase compared to 42 deaths reported in week 46.
- In 2024, as of week 47, a total of 86 791 dengue cases and 441 dengue related deaths have been reported. This is 28% of the number of cases (n= 308 126) and 28% of the number of deaths (n=1 598) reported at the same time (week 47) in 2023.

**Figure 3. Number of new cases and deaths from dengue by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 47 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>

<sup>1</sup> [Bangladesh Dengue press releases](#)

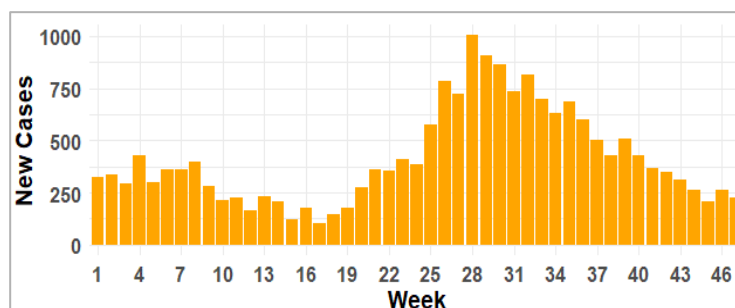
<sup>2</sup> [Bangladesh daily Dengue press release 24 November 2024](#)

## India

### Kerala<sup>3</sup>

- During week 47 (18 to 24 November 2024), a total of 227 new dengue cases were reported in Kerala, a 14.3% decrease compared to 265 cases reported during week 46 (11 to 17 November 2024).
- From the week one to week 47 in 2024, a total of 19 507 cases were reported.
- A total of 17 426 dengue cases were reported in the entirety of 2023.

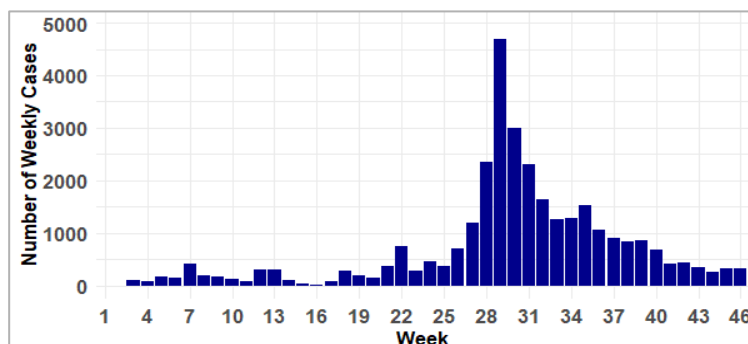
**Figure 4. Number of new dengue cases by week in Kerala from week 1 to week 47 of 2024.**



### Karnataka<sup>4</sup>

- During week 46 of 2024 (11 to 17 November 2024), a total of 324 new dengue cases were reported in Karnataka, a 2.7% decrease compared to 333 cases reported during week 45 (04 to 10 November 2024).
- From the week one to week 46 in 2024, a total of 31 721 cases were reported.
- A total of 19 300 dengue cases were reported in the entirety of 2023.

**Figure 5. Number of new dengue cases by week in Karnataka from week 1 to week 46 of 2024.**



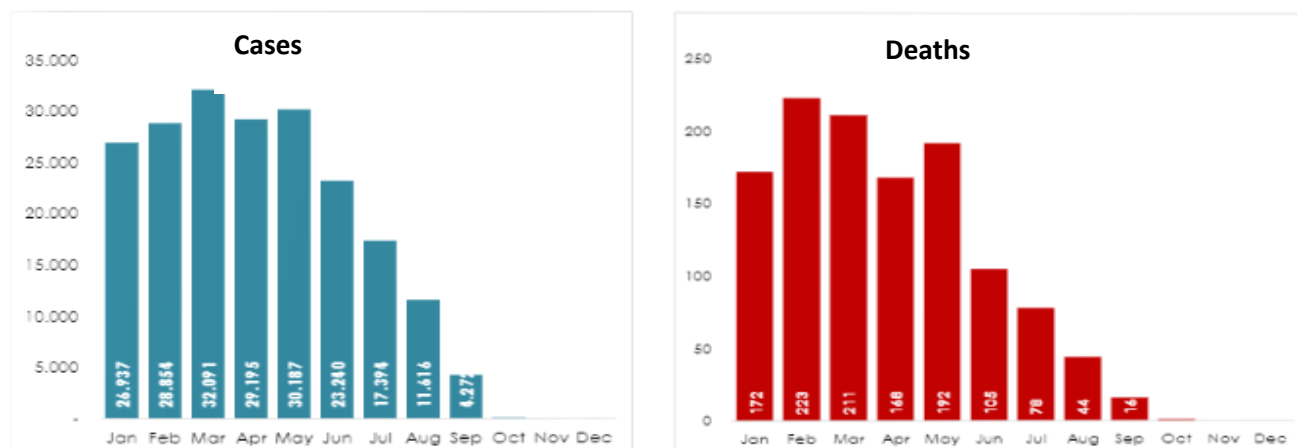
<sup>3</sup> [Kerala](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Karnataka](#)

## Indonesia<sup>5 6</sup>

- No update is available after week 41. As of week 41 (07 to 13 October 2024), 604 388 suspected cases were reported including 203 921 confirmed cases and 1 210 deaths.

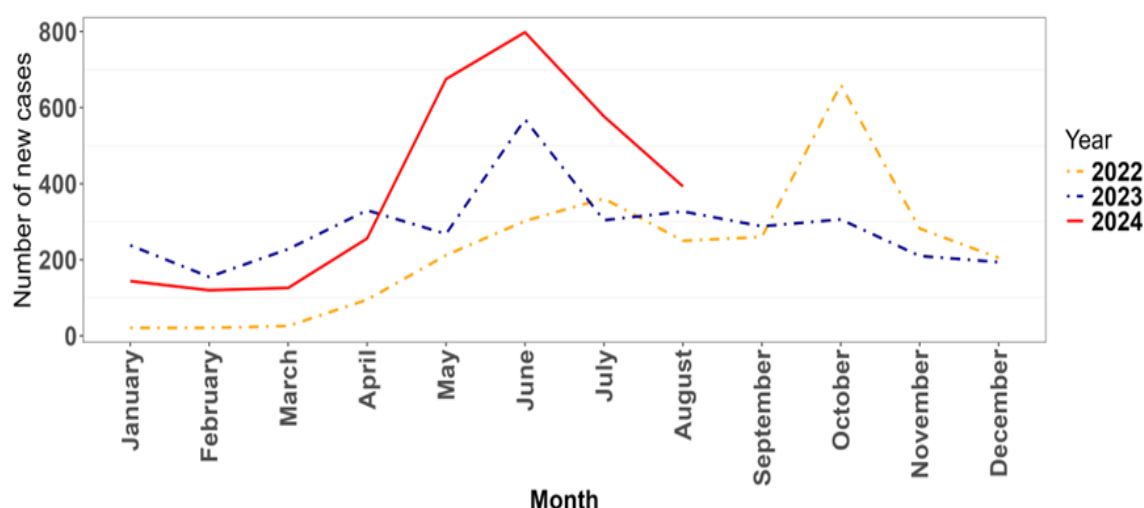
**Figure 6. Number of new confirmed cases and deaths of dengue by month as of 13 October 2024**



## Maldives<sup>7</sup>

- No update is available after August 2024. During August 2024, a total of 393 cases of dengue were reported in Maldives.
- During 2024, a total of 3 089 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 2 419 cases during the same period in 2023. A total of 3 417 cases were reported in the entirety of 2023.

**Figure 7. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to August 2024.**



<sup>5</sup> [WHO Global Dengue Surveillance](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Dengue Data Update – Directorate General of P2P \(kemkes.go.id\)](#)

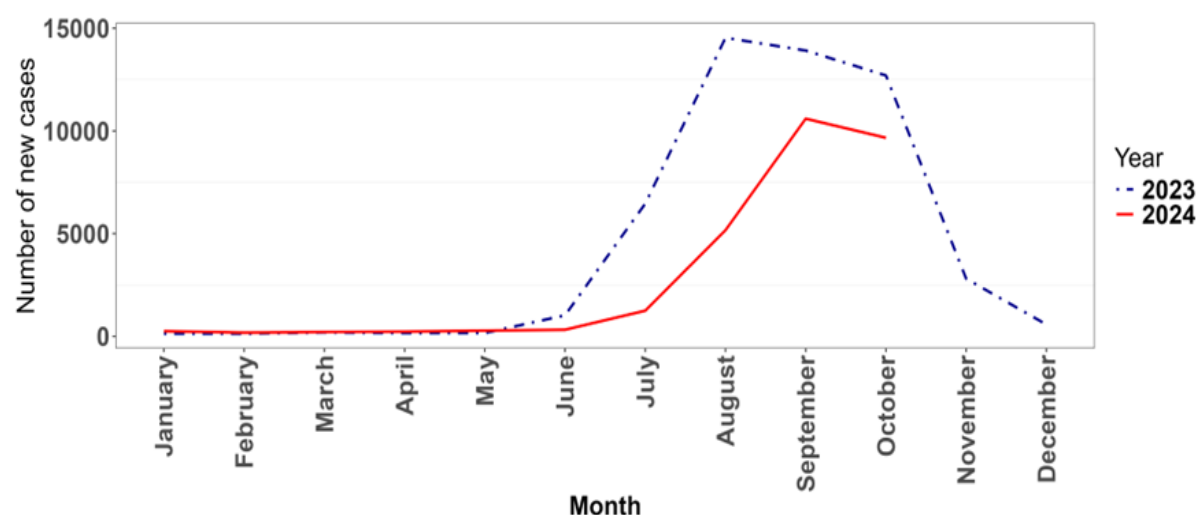
<sup>7</sup> [Maldives Monthly Communicable Diseases Report \(August 2024\)](#)



## Nepal<sup>8</sup>

- No update is available after 28 October. In 2024, as of 28 October, a total of 9 666 dengue cases have been reported in October. In 2024, a total of 28 212 cases and 12 deaths have been reported, affecting 76 districts.
- As of 28 October, Gandaki province (13 898 cases, 49.3%) reported the highest number of cases, followed by Bagmati province (9 132 cases, 32.4%).

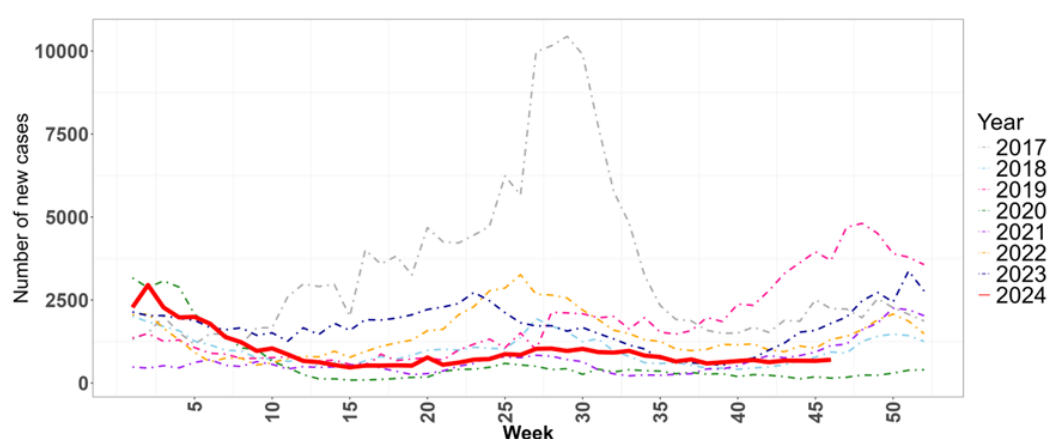
**Figure 8. Number of new cases of dengue by month reported by the EWARS in Nepal from January 2023 to October 2024.**



## Sri Lanka<sup>9</sup>

- During week 46 (11 to 17 November 2024), a total of 701 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 5.1% increase compared to 667 cases reported during week 45 (04 to 10 November 2024).
- From the week one to the week 46 in 2024, a total of 44 003 cases were reported compared to 72 889 and 65 916 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 46 of 2024.**



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

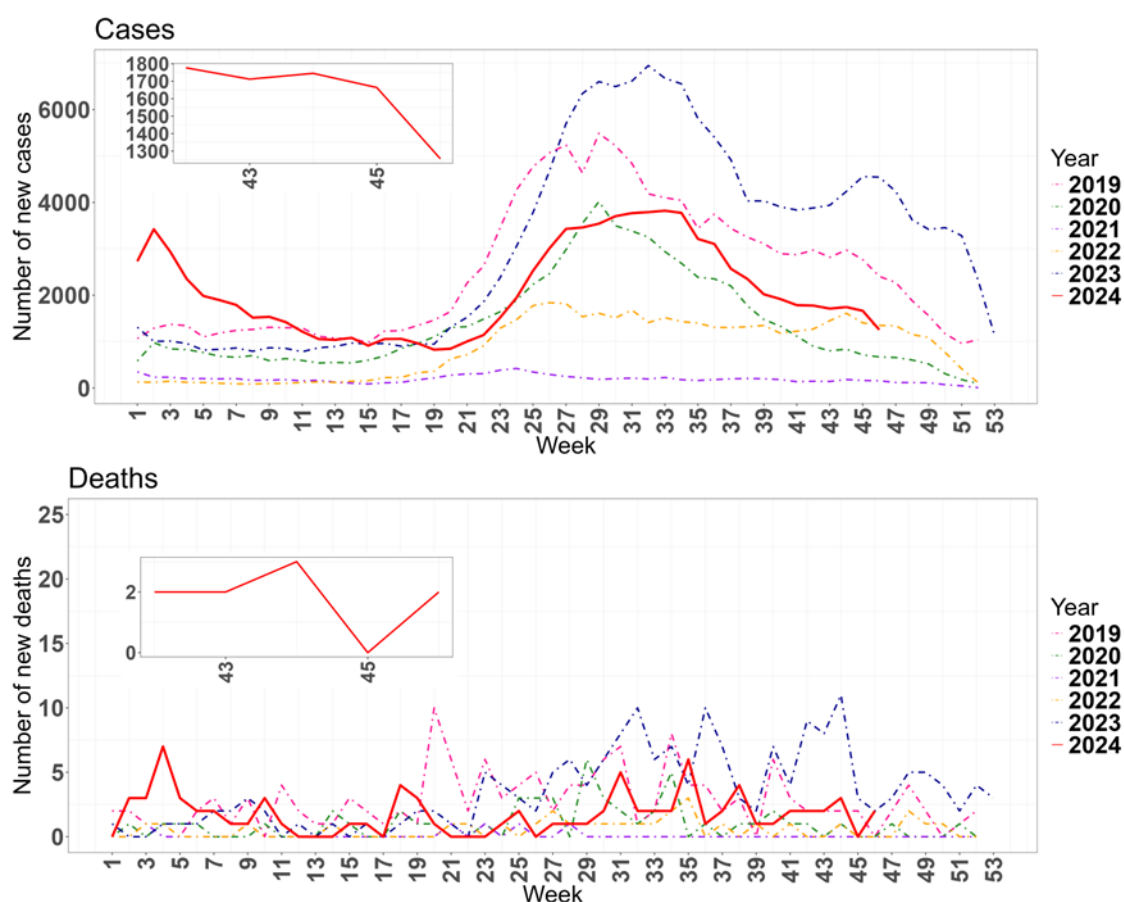
<sup>8</sup> <https://edcd.gov.np/uploads/news/pdf/672048ba6c9be.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Sri Lanka National Dengue Control Unit

## Thailand<sup>10 11 12</sup>

- During week 46 (11 November 2024 to 17 November 2024), a total of 1 256 new dengue cases were reported in Thailand, a 24.5% decrease compared to 1 664 cases reported during week 45 (04 November 2024 to 10 November 2024).
- During week 46, two new dengue deaths were reported in Thailand. In week 45, no new dengue related deaths were reported.
- In 2024, as of week 46, a total of 97 203 cases including 81 deaths (CFR=0.08%) have been reported. This compares to 141 183 cases reported between week one and week 46 of 2023 including 158 deaths (CFR=0.11%).

**Figure 10. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Thailand from 2019 to week 46 of 2024**



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

<sup>10</sup> [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

<sup>11</sup> [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

<sup>12</sup> [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](https://www.moph.go.th/)

## COVID-19

### Situation overview as of 24 November 2024

- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, from 11 to 24 November 2024, 1 222 new COVID-19 cases, an increase of 12.3% and 3 deaths, which is similar value, compared to the previous 14 days (Table 1).
- The Region has recorded a cumulative total of 61 323 904 COVID-19 cases, including 808 858 deaths (Table 1).
- During week 46 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 0.92% (Bangladesh) to 18.0% (Indonesia) (Figure 4).
- Please refer to the [WHO SEARO COVID-19 dashboard](#) for further information of COVID-19 in WHO South-East Asia Region.
- Globally, 776 841 264 COVID-19 cases, including 7 075 468 deaths have been cumulatively reported, as of 10 November<sup>13</sup>. 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 11 to 24 November 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		4,805,764	1,014	-9.3	14.1	34,736	1	0.0	0.0
India		45,044,456	110	-26.7	0.1	533,657	2	0.0	0.0
Bangladesh		2,051,504	18	-21.7	0.1	29,499	0	0.0	0.0
Myanmar		643,234	3	-81.3	0.1	19,494	0	0.0	0.0
Indonesia		6,829,836	77	-18.9	0.3	162,059	0	0.0	0.0
Sri Lanka		672,809	NA	NA	NA	16,907	NA	NA	NA
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		61,323,904	1,222	-12.3	NA	808,858	3	0.0	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.

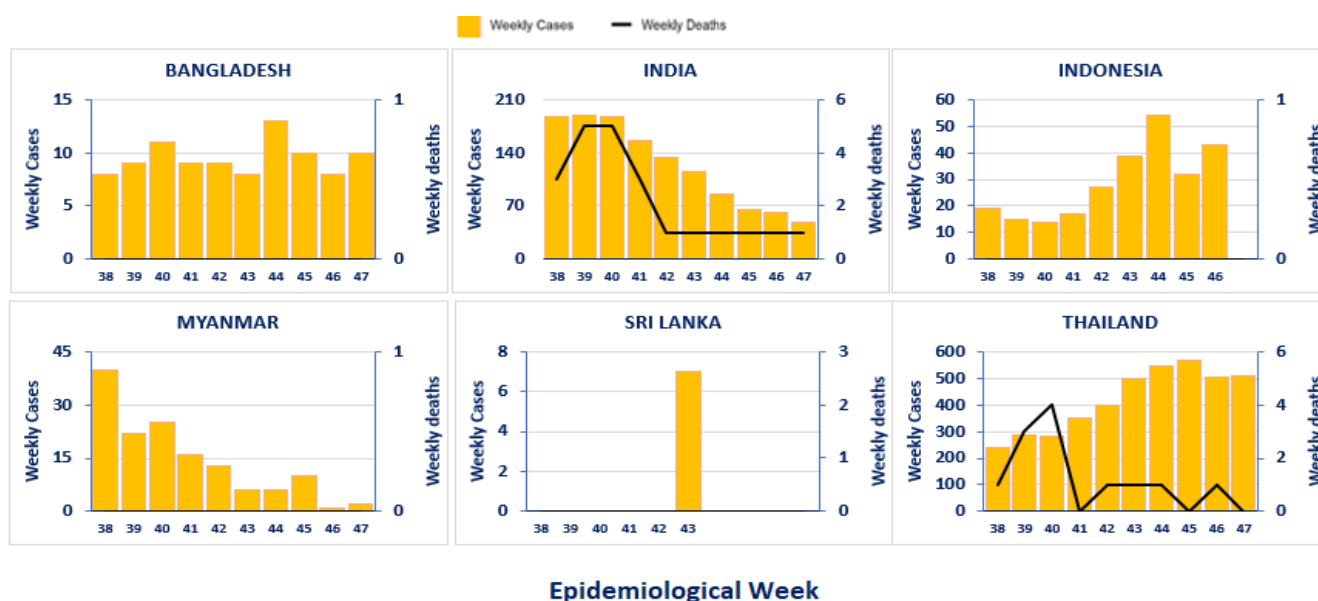
DPR Korea has not reported confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Indonesia data were for the period from 3 to 16 November 2024. Thailand data were for the period from 10 to 23 November 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 and Sri Lanka data as of 27 October 2024.

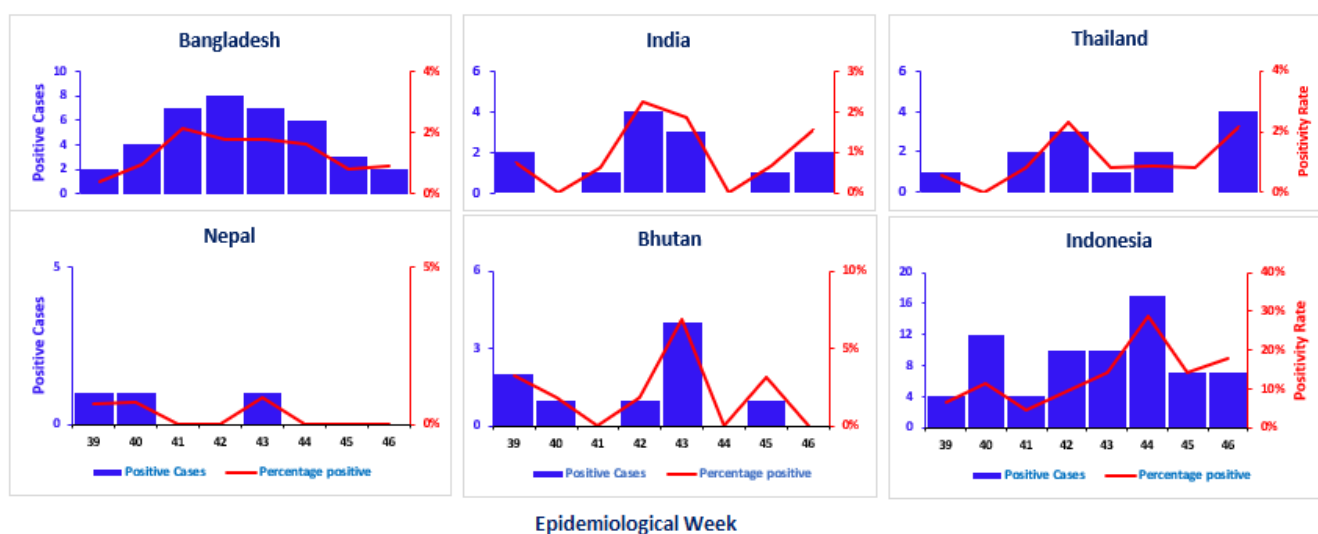
<sup>13</sup> [Global Dashboard](#). Data as 10 November 2024

**Figure 11. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases reported during the previous ten weeks (as of 24 November 2024) in the WHO South-East Asia Region\*.**



\* Data for Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, and Timor-Leste are not available. Sri Lanka data were as of 27 October and Indonesia data were as of 16 November 2024.

**Figure 12. 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 24 November 2024).**



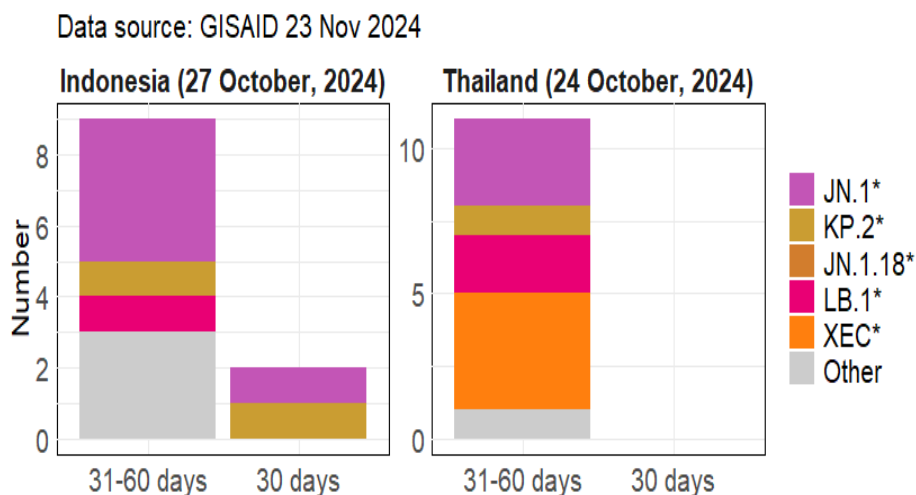
\* Countries routinely conducting SARS-CoV-2 testing of the samples collected through influenza sentinel surveillance sites (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand).

### Global circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants

- WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants and their sub-lineages including <sup>14</sup>:
  - Two variants of interest (VOIs): BA.2.86 and JN.1
  - Seven variants under monitoring (VUMs): JN.1.7; KP.2; KP.3; KP.3.1.1; JN.1.18, LB.1 and XEC
- 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

- The genomic sequence data submitted to GISAID <sup>15</sup> by countries in the South-East Asia region in the past 60 days by date of collection are shown in Figure 3 (as of 23 November 2024). 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 KP.2\* (18.2%, n=2). One genomic sequence with LB.1\* were also submitted.
  - In **Thailand**, 11 genomic sequences were submitted with XEC\* accounting for 36.4% (n=4) followed by LB.1\* (18.2%, n=2). One genomic sequence with KP.2\* were also submitted.
  - Other countries have not submitted genomic sequences recently to GISAID.



<sup>14</sup> <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/covid-19-epidemiological-update-edition-173>

<sup>15</sup> <https://gisaid.org/>



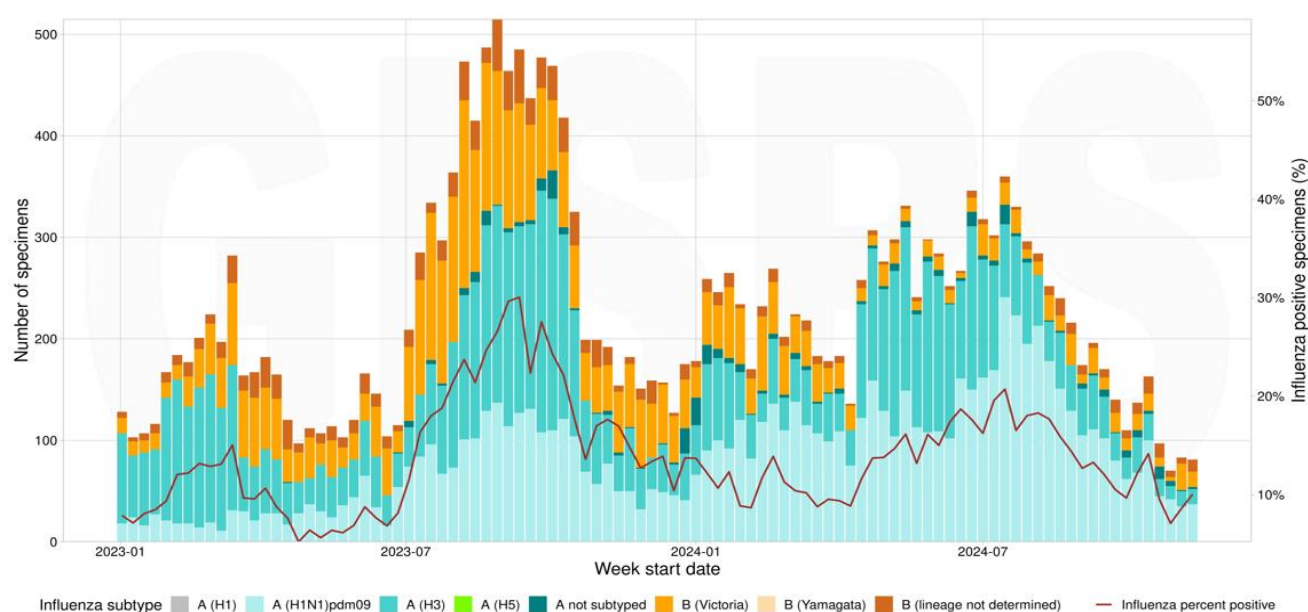
# Influenza

## WHO South-East Asia Region

### Situation as of 24 November 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 46 (11 to 17 November 2024), the weekly test positivity was at 4.7% and the most frequently reported strains were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza B (Victoria) (Figure 13).
- Data and information on influenza and SARS-CoV-2 using integrated influenza like illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) sentinel surveillance systems, are available at [WHO Global FluNet Dashboard](https://www.who.int/dashboards/global-flu-net).

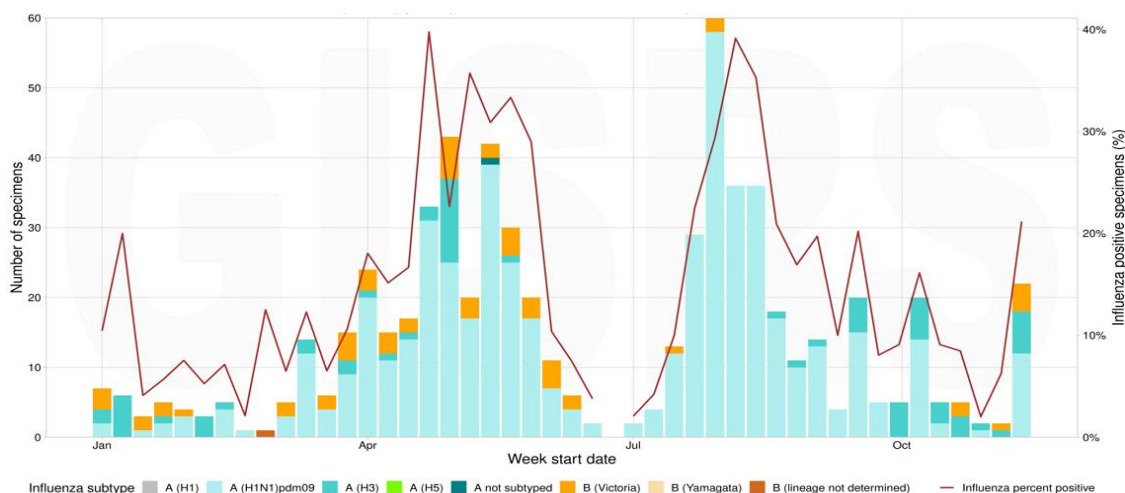
**Figure 13. Detection of Influenza viruses by subtypes reported to the FluNet and the test positivity of specimens for influenza in WHO South-East Asia Region from 2 January 2023 to 17 November 2024**



## Bhutan

- As of 17 November 2024, 104 samples were tested for SARS-CoV-2 & influenza leveraging the integrated ILI and SARI sentinel surveillance platform in week 46 (11 November to 17 November 2024).
- 22 samples (21.2%) were tested positive for influenza. Of the samples tested positive for influenza (n=22), 54.5% (n=12) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 followed by influenza A(H3) (27.3%, n=6) and influenza B(Victoria) (18.2%, n=4).

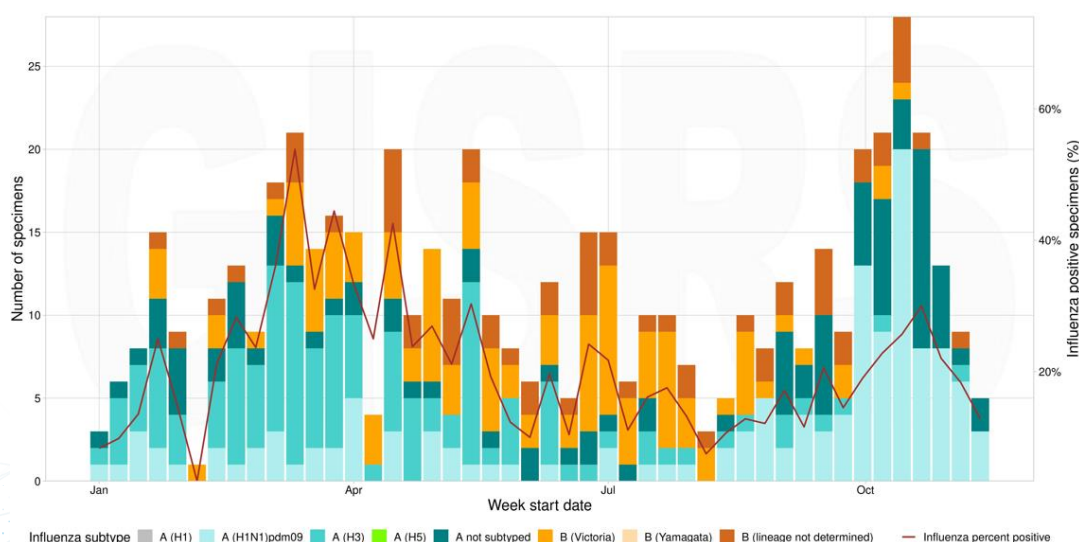
**Figure 14. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Bhutan in 2024 (as of week 46, 2024).**



## Indonesia

- As of 17 November 2024, 39 samples were tested for SARS-CoV-2 & influenza leveraging the integrated ILI and SARI sentinel surveillance platform in week 46 (11 to 17 November 2024).
- 5 samples (21.2%) were tested positive for influenza. Of the samples tested positive for influenza (n=3), 60% (n=3) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 followed by influenza A not subtyped (40%, n=2).

**Figure 15. Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtypes and the influenza test positivity in Indonesia in 2024 (as of week 46 of 2024).**



## Annex

### WHO resources on mpox

All current WHO interim technical guidance can be accessed on [this page](#) of the WHO website. WHO evidence-based guidance has been and will continue to be updated in line with the evolving situation and updated scientific evidence. The selected publications are listed below for easy reference, together with other relevant resources.

- **IHR Emergency Committee, Temporary Recommendations and Standing Recommendations**
  - [First meeting of the International Health Regulations \(2005\) Emergency Committee regarding the upsurge of mpox 2024](#)
  - [Standing recommendations for mpox issued by the Director-General of the World Health Organization \(WHO\) in accordance with the International Health Regulations \(2005\) \(IHR\)](#)
- **Strategic planning**
  - [Mpox global strategic preparedness and response plan](#) (26 August 2024, updated on 6 September 2024)
  - [Strategic framework for enhancing prevention and control of mpox \(2024-2027\)](#) (May 2024)
- **General information on mpox**
  - [Mpox fact sheet](#)
  - [Monkeypox outbreak page \(2022\)](#)
  - [Mpox \(monkeypox\) health topic page](#)
  - [Mpox \(monkeypox\) Q&A](#)
- **Epidemiological situation**
  - Dashboard: [https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx\\_global/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/)
  - [Multi-country outbreak of mpox, External situation report #42](#) - (9 November 2024)
  - [Genomic epidemiology of monkeypox virus](#) (Nextstrain)
- **Technical documents**
  - [Technical Brief \(interim\) and Priority Actions: Enhancing Readiness for mpox in WHO South-East Asia Region](#) (13 September 2024)
  - [Diagnostic testing for the monkeypox virus \(MPXV\): interim guidance](#) (10 May 2024)
  - [Risk communication and community engagement readiness and response toolkit: mpox](#) (23 April 2024)
  - [Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for mpox \(monkeypox\): Interim guidance](#) (20 March 2024)
  - [Clinical characterization of mpox including monitoring the use of therapeutic interventions: statistical analysis plan](#) (13 October 2023)
  - [Smallpox and mpox \(orthopoxviruses\): WHO position paper](#) (August 2024)
  - [SAGE on mpox vaccines](#) (page 16)
  - [Vaccines and immunization for monkeypox: Interim guidance](#), 16 November 2022
  - [Annexes to the Vaccines and immunization for monkeypox interim guidance](#)
  - [Background document for the SAGE October 2022 session on monkeypox vaccines](#)
- **Data collection tools**
  - Case report form: [Word](#)
  - Case investigation form: [PDF](#)
- **Mass gathering**
  - [Public health advice for gatherings during the current monkeypox outbreak](#)
  - [Interim advice for public health authorities on summer events during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022](#)
  - [Holding mass and large gathering events during the multi-country mpox outbreak in the WHO European Region: Lessons identified for future mass gathering preparedness](#) (22 February 2023)
  - [Catalogue of resources on mpox mass and large gathering event preparedness](#)