

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.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Key events and updates | 2 |
| Bangladesh: Avian influenza A(H5N1) | 2 |
| World Health Assembly adopts historic Pandemic Agreement | 2 |
| Extension of the standing recommendations for COVID-19 | 3 |
| COVID-19 | 4 |
| Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region | 4 |
| SARS-CoV-2 variants in the South-East Asia Region | 5 |
| Mpox | 6 |
| Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region | 6 |
| Influenza | 8 |
| Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region | 8 |
| Dengue | 10 |
| Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region | 10 |
| Bangladesh | 11 |
| India | 12 |
| Maldives | 13 |
| Nepal | 13 |
| Sri Lanka | 14 |
| Thailand | 15 |
| Annex | 16 |
| WHO resources on mpox | 16 |

Key events and updates

Bangladesh: Avian influenza A(H5N1)

Situation overview as of 27 May 2025 ^{1 2}

- An avian influenza A(H5N1) human infection clade 2.3.2.1a was detected in April 2025 in Khulna Division.
- Genetic sequence data (EPI_ISL_19875512) was submitted to GISAID on 18 May 2025.
- Of note, in March 2025, an avian influenza A(H5N1) outbreak was reported in poultry in Jessore, the same district where the case was found.
- A second avian influenza A(H5N1) human infection clade 2.3.2.1a was retrospectively detected from a sample collected in February 2025 in Khulna Division.
- Genetic sequence data (EPI_ISL_19882255) for this case was submitted to GISAID on 26 May 2025.
- Both cases have recovered. These mark the 9th and 10th A(H5N1) cases since the first case was detected in 2008.

World Health Assembly adopts historic Pandemic Agreement ³

- On 20 May 2025, Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) formally adopted by consensus the world's first Pandemic Agreement.
- The landmark decision by the 78th World Health Assembly culminates more than three years of intensive negotiations launched by governments in response to the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and driven by the goal of making the world safer from – and more equitable in response to – future pandemics.
- The WHO Pandemic Agreement sets out the principles, approaches and tools for better international coordination across a range of areas, in order to strengthen the global health architecture for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. This includes through the equitable and timely access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.
- The Agreement respects national sovereignty, while it calls for mechanisms like the Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) system and the Global Supply Chain and Logistics Network (GSCL).
- Negotiations on the PABS annex and the financial and logistics mechanisms are to continue under an Intergovernmental Working Group, with the annex expected to be considered at the next World Health Assembly. It will enter into force once ratified by 60 countries.

¹ GISAID. <https://gisaid.org/>

² WHO. Influenza at the human-animal interface. Summary and risk assessment 23 April to 27 May 2025. <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/influenza/human-animal-interface-risk-assessments/influenza-at-the-human-animal-interface-summary-and-assessment--from-23-april-to-27-may-2025.pdf>

³ World Health Assembly adopts historic Pandemic Agreement to make the world more equitable and safer from future pandemics. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news/item/20-05-2025-world-health-assembly-adopts-historic-pandemic-agreement-to-make-the-world-more-equitable-and-safer-from-future-pandemics>

Extension of the standing recommendations for COVID-19⁴

- The standing recommendations for COVID-19 are issued by the WHO Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) on 9 August 2023 in accordance with provisions of Articles 16 to 18 and 50 to 53 of the International Health Regulations (2005). On 30 April 2025, these standing recommendations were further extended by the Director-General.
- The extension of these standing recommendations is necessary to support States Parties in addressing the risk posed by COVID-19 and to prevent or reduce the international spread of COVID-19, as well as its impact on health.
- These standing recommendations are in effect for all States Parties until 30 April 2026.
- Please find the full scope of the standing recommendations at the following [link](#).

⁴ Extension of the standing recommendations for COVID-19. Available at:
https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA78/A78_INF7-en.pdf



COVID-19

Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region

As of 1 June 2025

- Some countries in the Region, such as Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Thailand, are showing a rapid increase of COVID-19 cases in the recent weeks (Figure 1).
- In week 22, (26 May to 1 June 2025), Bangladesh reported a total of 47 cases⁵, India reported a total of 3 961 cases and 20 deaths⁶, while Myanmar reported a total of 17 cases⁷. Thailand reported a total of 53 614 cases and five deaths as of week 21⁸.
- The Region has recorded a cumulative total of 61 520 020 COVID-19 cases, including 808 945 deaths.
- Globally, 777 825 189 COVID-19 cases, including 7 095 903 deaths have been cumulatively reported, as of 11 May⁹. Please visit the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/) for the global situation of COVID-19.

Figure 1. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported from selected countries since week one of 2025 in the WHO South-East Asia Region (as of week 22)



Note: Thailand data as of week 21.

- Based on data from integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel system, figure 2 summarizes weekly trends of eight countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste—highlighting number of positive COVID-19 cases, the percentage positivity (3-week moving average), and the number of specimens tested.
 - Thailand, Bangladesh and India exhibit a notable increase in both positivity and confirmed cases from around week 17 onward.

⁵ Bangladesh <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/component/content/article?layout=edit&id=5612>

⁶ India <https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/>

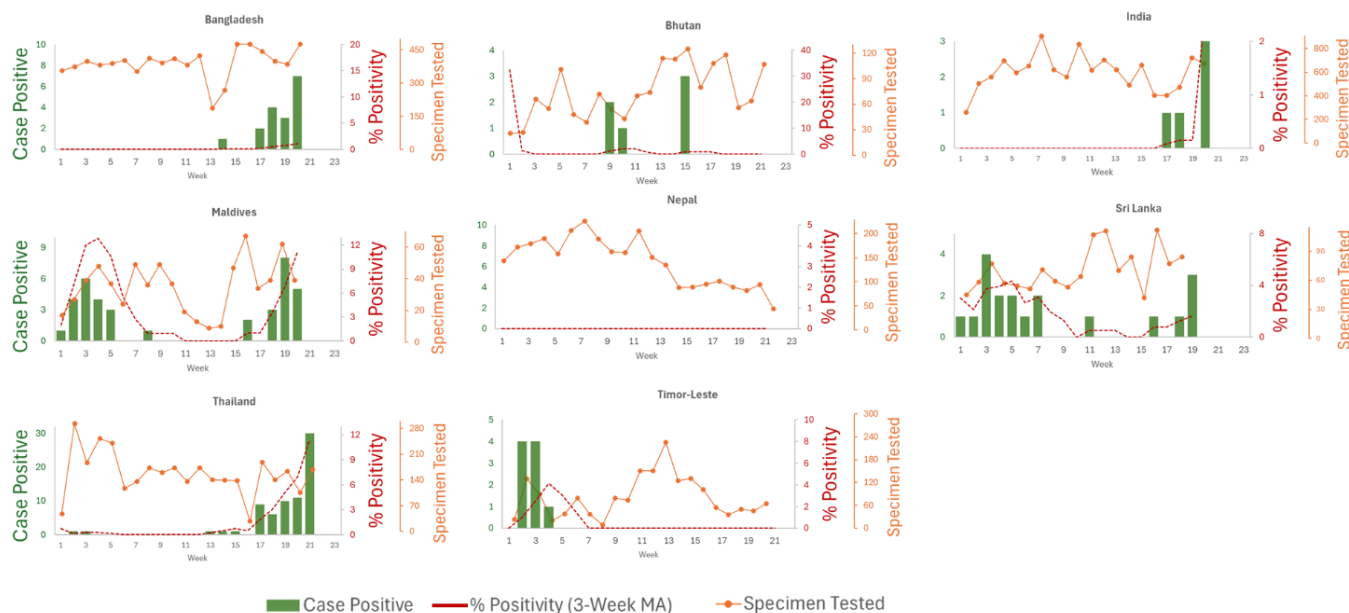
⁷ Myanmar <https://mohs.gov.mm/>

⁸ Thailand https://dvis3.ddc.moph.go.th/t/DDC_CENTER_DOE/views/_v2/sheet26?%3Aembed=y

⁹ [Global Dashboard](https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/) Data as 11 May 2025



Figure 2. COVID-19 update from integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance system

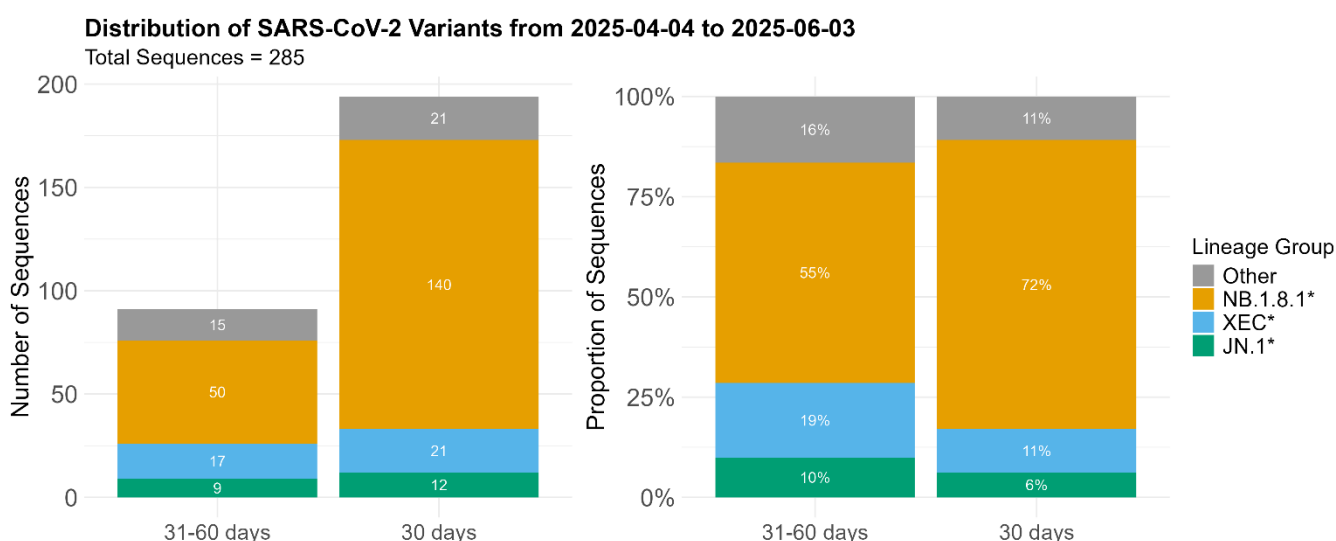


Source : WHO Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses, 2 June 2025

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

- In the last 30 days, Thailand reported 194 genomic sequences into the GISAID with NB.1.8.1* accounting for 72% (n=140), followed by XEC* accounting for 11% (n=21) and JN.1* accounting for 6% (n=12). 11% (n=21) were grouped as “Other” as they were neither VOIs nor VUMs (Figure 3).
- As of 1 June 2025, WHO is tracking following SARS-CoV-2 variants and their sub-lineages:¹⁰
 - One variant of interest (VOIs): JN.1
 - Six variants under monitoring (VUMs): KP.3; KP.3.1.1; LB.1, XEC, LP.8.1 and NB.1.8.1.
- Information on the status of the global SARS-CoV-2 variants can be found from [the WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Figure 3. Number and Proportion of genomic sequences submitted in last 30 days and 31-60 days from Thailand.



Note: GISAID dataset accessed on 3 June 2025. The last submission was on 31st May 2025.

¹⁰ <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/covid-19-epidemiological-update-edition-177>

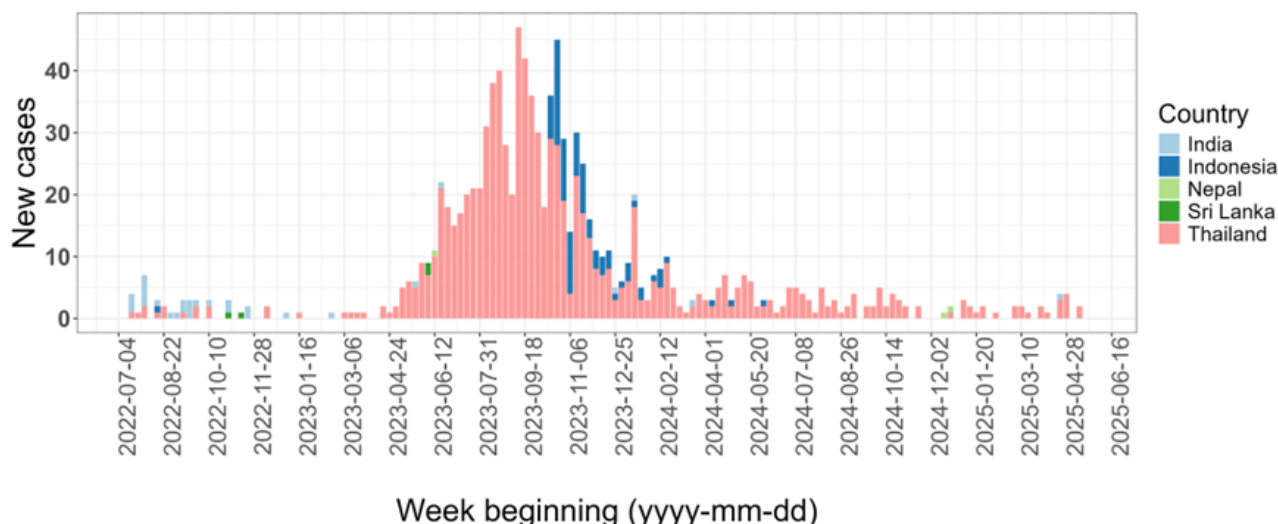
Mpox

Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region

As of 01 June 2025

- From 19 May to 01 June 2025, no new mpox cases were reported in the Region.
- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, a cumulative total of 1 030 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 14 deaths, have been reported between 14 July 2022 and 1 June 2025 (Figure 4).

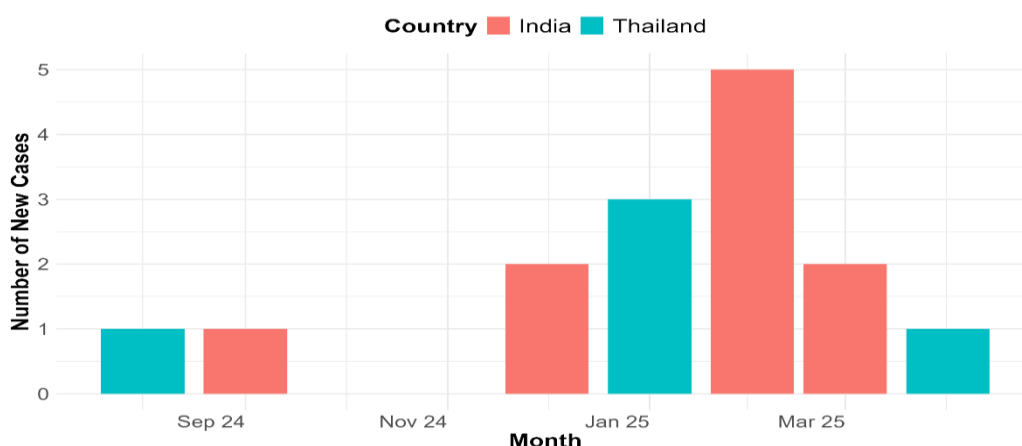
Figure 4. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 01 June 2025)



* 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 16 cases in India of which the date of notification is missing, the date of diagnosis was used. Following the reassignment of Indonesia from the WHO South-East Asia Region to the WHO Western Pacific Region, data received after 27 May 2025 will no longer be reflected in the graph.

- As of 01 June 2025, 15 cases with monkeypox virus (MPXV) clade Ib infection have been reported in the Region. Monthly trend is shown in the Figure 5.
- The profile of MPXV clade Ib are summarized in the Table 1. Of those 15 cases:
 - Ten cases were reported in India and five cases in Thailand.
 - Nine cases were male, and six cases were female, and
 - Fourteen out of 15 cases reported recent international travel history.
 - twelve cases travelled from the United Arab Emirates
 - one case travelled from the Democratic Republic of Congo
 - one case travelled from Oman
- For information on global epidemiological situation of mpox, please see: [WHO mpox surveillance dashboard](#)

Figure 5. Number of MPXV clade 1b cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by month of notification (as of 1 June 2025) *



* Cases are plotted as per the month of notification (based on the date on which the case was notified to the public health authority). For 10 cases in India of which the month of notification is missing, the month of diagnosis was used.

Table 1. Profile of 15 confirmed MPXV clade 1b cases in WHO South-East Asia Region for which case-based information is available since August 2024 (as of 1 June 2025)

| Total (n = 15) | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Country | |
| India | 10 (66.7%) |
| Thailand | 5 (33.3%) |
| Gender | |
| Female | 6 (40.0%) |
| Male | 9 (60.0%) |
| Age group (years) | |
| Less than 18 | 0 (0.0%) |
| 18-29 | 3 (20.0%) |
| 30-39 | 8 (53.3%) |
| 40-49 | 3 (20.0%) |
| 50 and over | 1 (6.7%) |
| Recent international travel | |
| Yes | 14 (93.3%) |
| No | 1 (6.7%) |
| Unknown | 0 (0.0%) |

Influenza

Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 1 June 2025 ¹¹

- The influenza sentinel surveillance data from WHO's FluNet and FluID platforms, extracted on 2 June 2025, illustrate weekly trends in laboratory confirmed influenza cases, test positivity percentage, and the weekly number of specimens testing (WHO recommended number of samples for testing for sentinel surveillance is at least 50 per week at the national level) across countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region (Figure 6).
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka show an upward trend in influenza activity in recent weeks, with rising case counts and test positivity.
- In contrast, India, Nepal, and Timor-Leste have reported declining trends following early-season peaks.
- Thailand displays stable transmission pattern with moderate influenza positivity throughout 2025 to date.

Figure 6: Weekly trends of specimens tested at National Influenza Centers (NIC) and Laboratory confirmed Influenza in WHO South-East Asia Region (2025)



Source : RespiMart/FluNet/FluID

¹¹ <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs>



Regional Influenza Situation Week 20-21 2025¹²

- The table 2 presents influenza virus subtype distribution across ten countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region for epidemiological weeks 20–21 of 2025, based on data extracted from WHO's RespiMart platforms on 2 June 2025.
- A total of 33,377 samples were tested across the region, with varying levels of subtyping.
- Influenza A viruses dominated in most countries, particularly the A(H1N1) pdm09 subtype, which was high in Myanmar (100%), Sri Lanka (89%) and Thailand (42%). A(H3N2) was more prominent in India (77%), Thailand (38%) and Bhutan (26%).
- Influenza B viruses, especially B/Victoria lineage, were significantly reported in Bangladesh (75%), Bhutan (69%) and Thailand (21%).
- Substantial variation was seen in virus types and subtypes, underscoring the co-circulation of both influenza A and B strains across the region.

Table 2: Distribution of Influenza Virus Subtypes in WHO South-East Asia Region (Weeks 20–21, 2025)

| Country | Total Samples Tested | Number of Influenza Positive | A (H1) % | A (H3) % | A (H5) % | A (H1N1)2009 % | A (Unsubtype) % | B (Yamagata) % | B (Victoria) % | B (Lineage not Determined) % |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Bangladesh | 932 | 68 | 0% | 12% | 0% | 13% | 0% | 0% | 75% | 0% |
| Bhutan | 171 | 61 | 0% | 26% | 0% | 5% | 0% | 0% | 69% | 0% |
| DPR Korea | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| India | 675 | 22 | 0% | 77% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 14% | 9% |
| Maldives | 39 | 11 | 0% | 9% | 0% | 27% | 64% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Myanmar | 21 | 1 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Nepal | 138 | 0 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Sri Lanka | 0 | 9 | 0% | 11% | 0% | 89% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Thailand | 273 | 24 | 0% | 38% | 0% | 42% | 0% | 0% | 21% | 0% |
| Timor-Leste | 110 | 0 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

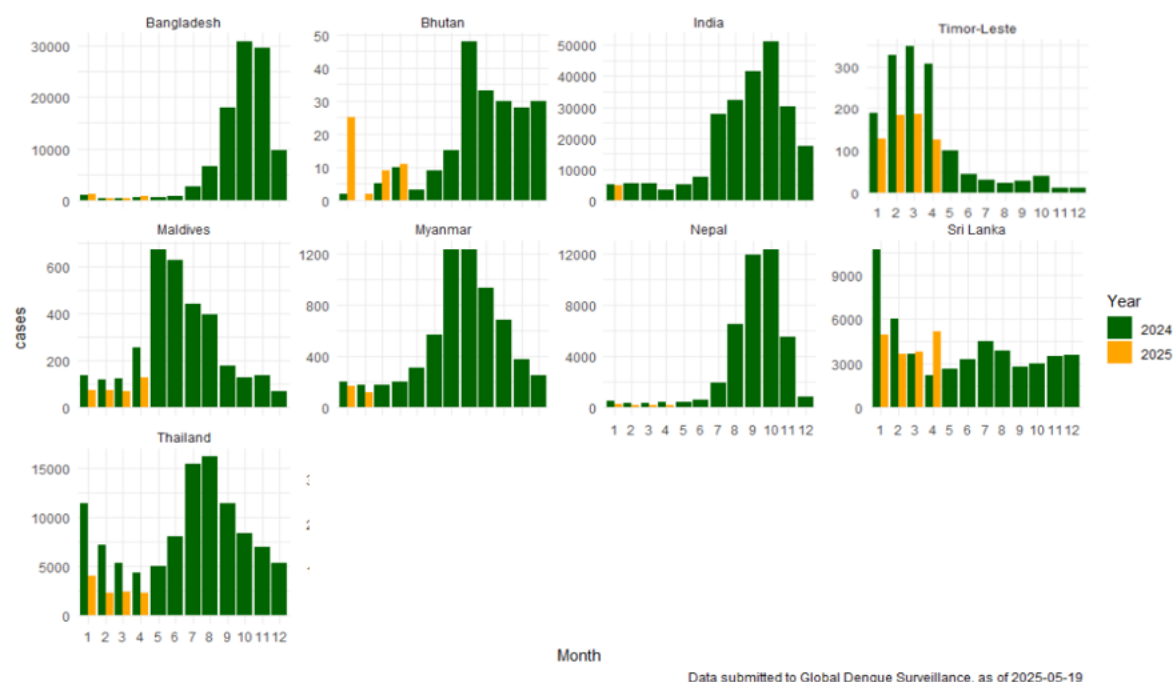
¹² <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs>

Dengue

Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region

- No update has yet been made publicly available for May 2025. In April 2025, Sri Lanka reported 5 171 cases, followed by Thailand with 2 271 cases. Data of April were not available for India and Myanmar. (Figure 7)

Figure 7. Reported dengue cases and deaths by country, January 2024 – April 2025



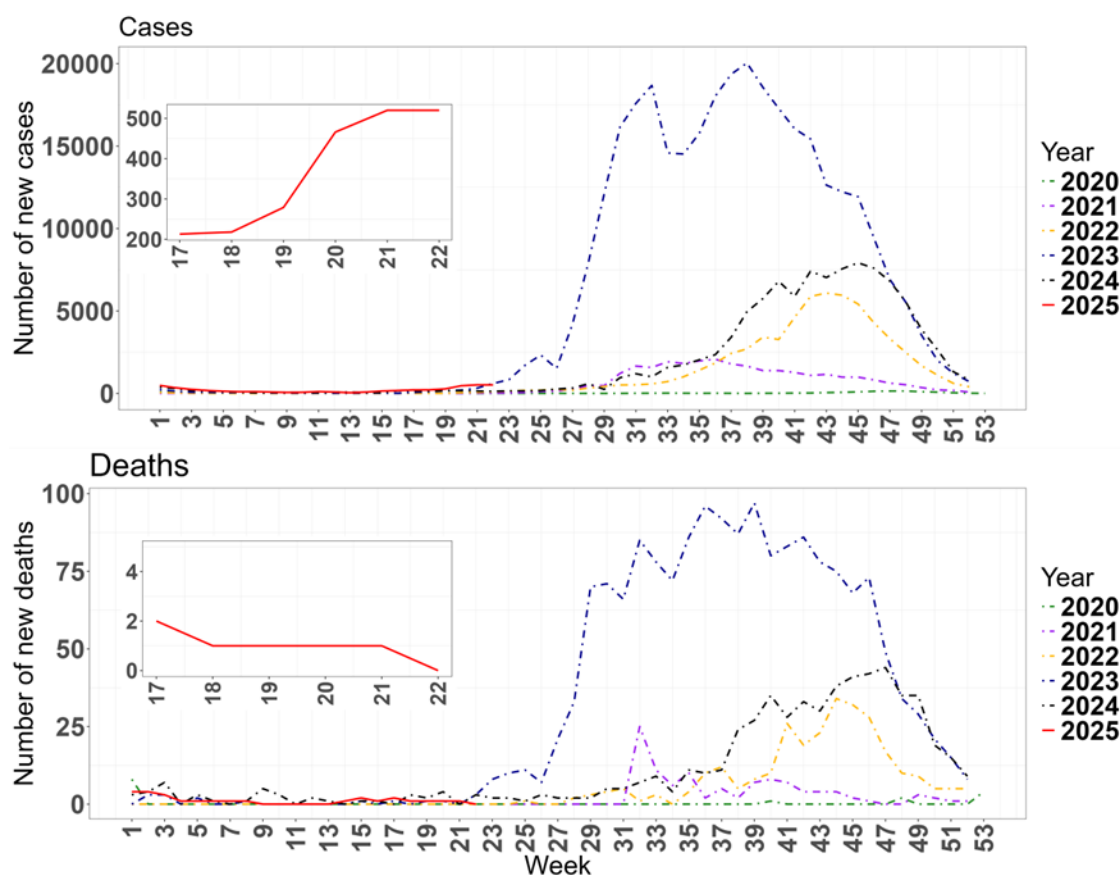
Note:

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand and Timor-Leste show the number of confirmed cases.
- Bangladesh reports only hospitalized cases. The majority of Myanmar cases are hospitalized cases.

Bangladesh^{13 14}

- During week 22 (26 May 2025 to 01 June 2025), a total of 520 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, which compares to 520 cases reported in week 21 (18 to 25 May 2025).
- During week 22, no new dengue death was reported in Bangladesh, which compares to one death reported during week 21 of 2025.
- In 2025, as of week 22, a total of 4 690 dengue cases and 26 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 162% of the number of cases (n= 2 903) and 59% of the number of deaths (n=44) reported at the same time (week 22) in 2024.

Figure 8. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 22 of 2025



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>;
https://dashboard.dghs.gov.bd/pages/heoc_dengue_v1.php

¹³ [Bangladesh Dengue press releases](#)

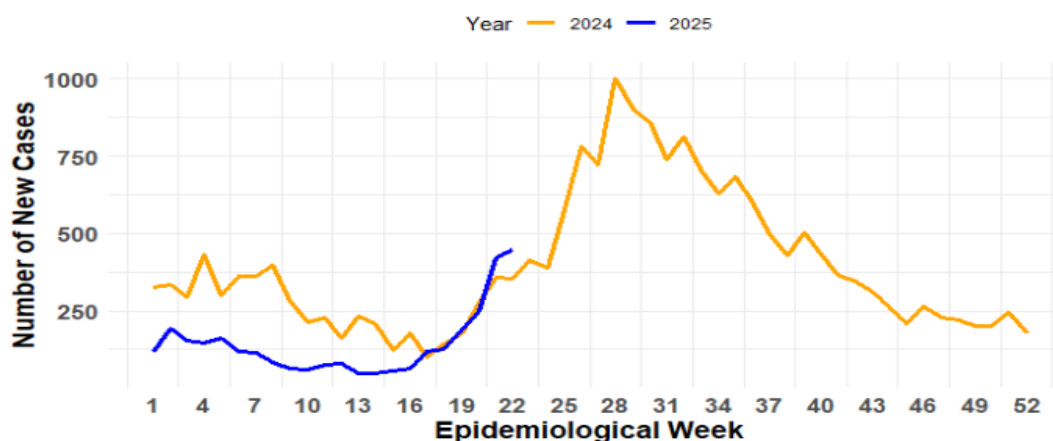
¹⁴ [Bangladesh Dengue Dashboard](#)

India

Kerala¹⁵

- During week 22 (26 May to 01 June 2025), a total of 448 new dengue cases were reported in Kerala, a 6.9% increase compared to 419 cases reported during week 21 (19 to 25 May 2025).
- From week 1 to 22 of 2025, a total of 3 143 dengue cases are reported.
- A total of 20 550 dengue cases were reported in the entirety of 2024.

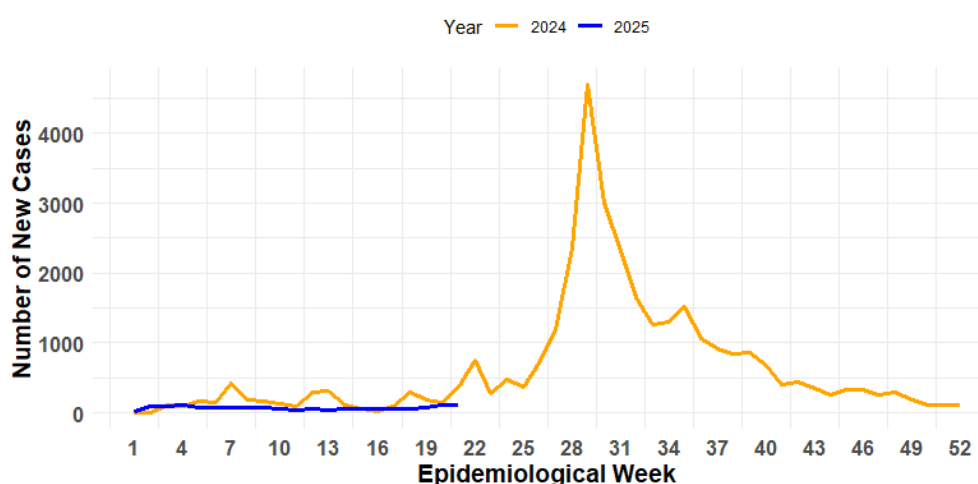
Figure 9. Number of new dengue cases by week in Kerala from week 1 of 2024 to week 22 of 2025.



Karnataka¹⁶

- During week 21 (19 to 25 May 2025), a total of 113 new dengue cases were reported in Karnataka, a 2.7% increase compared to 110 cases reported during week 20 (from 12 to 18 May 2025).
- from week 1 to 21 of 2025, a total of 1 516 dengue cases are reported.
- A total of 32 789 dengue cases were reported in the entirety of 2024.

Figure 10. Number of new dengue cases by week in Karnataka from week 1 of 2024 to week 21 of 2025



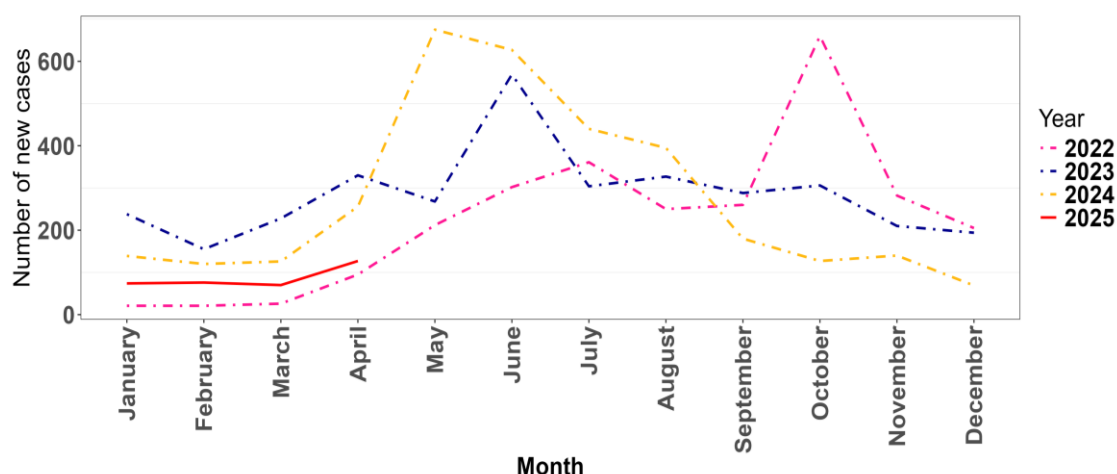
¹⁵ [Kerala](#)

¹⁶ [Karnataka](#)

Maldives¹⁷

- No update has yet been made publicly available for May 2025. During April 2025, a total of 127 cases of dengue were reported in Maldives, an 81.4% increase compared to March 2025 (n=70).
- In 2025, as of 30 April, a total of 347 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 641 cases during the same period in 2024.
- A total of 3 294 cases were reported in the entirety of 2024.

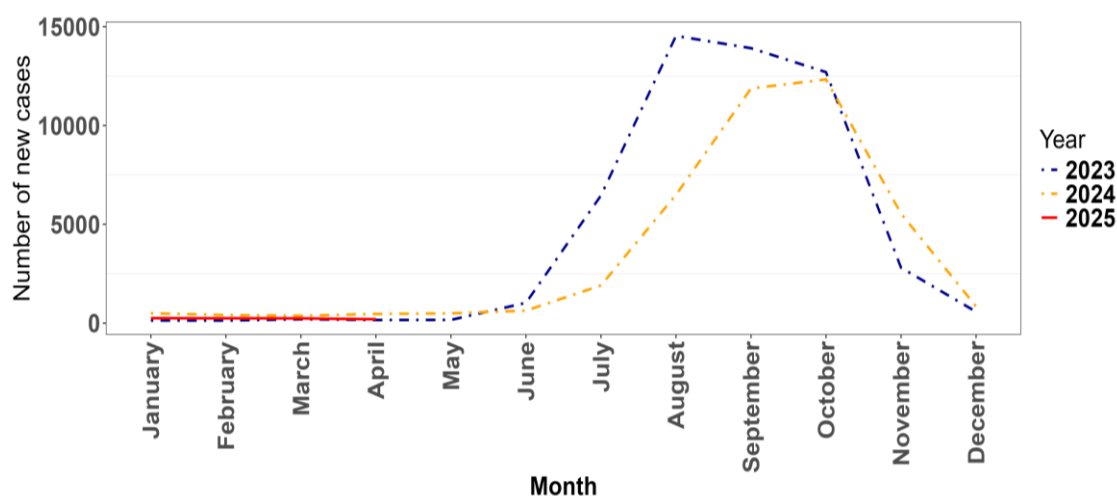
Figure 11. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to April 2025



Nepal¹⁸

- No update has yet been made publicly available for May 2025. During April 2025, a total of 197 dengue cases have been reported in Nepal, a 17.9% decrease compared to March 2025 (n=240).
- In 2025, as of 30 April, a total of 933 cases have been reported compared to 1 744 cases during the same period in 2024.
- A total of 41 865 dengue cases and 15 deaths were reported in the entirety of 2024.

Figure 12. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Nepal from January 2023 to April 2025



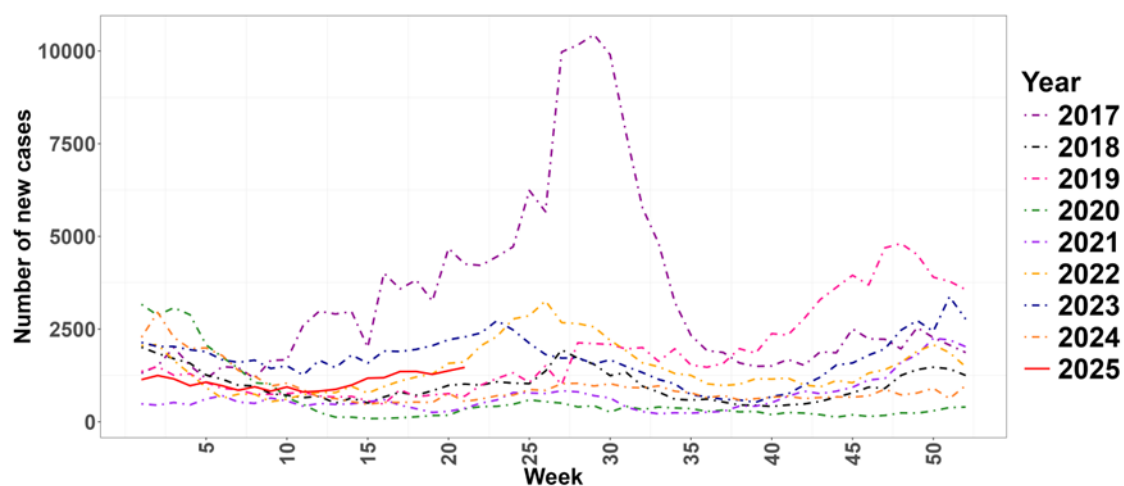
¹⁷ https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/

¹⁸ <https://edcd.gov.np/news/20241203dengue-situation-update> ; Dengue Dashboard; SEARO X-Mart

Sri Lanka¹⁹

- During week 21 (19 to 25 May 2025), a total of 1 468 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 6.6% increase compared to 1 377 cases reported during week 20 (12 to 18 May 2025).
- From week 1 to week 21 in 2025, a total of 22 836 cases were reported compared to 24 481 cases and 38 009 cases during the same period in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Figure 13. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 21 of 2025.



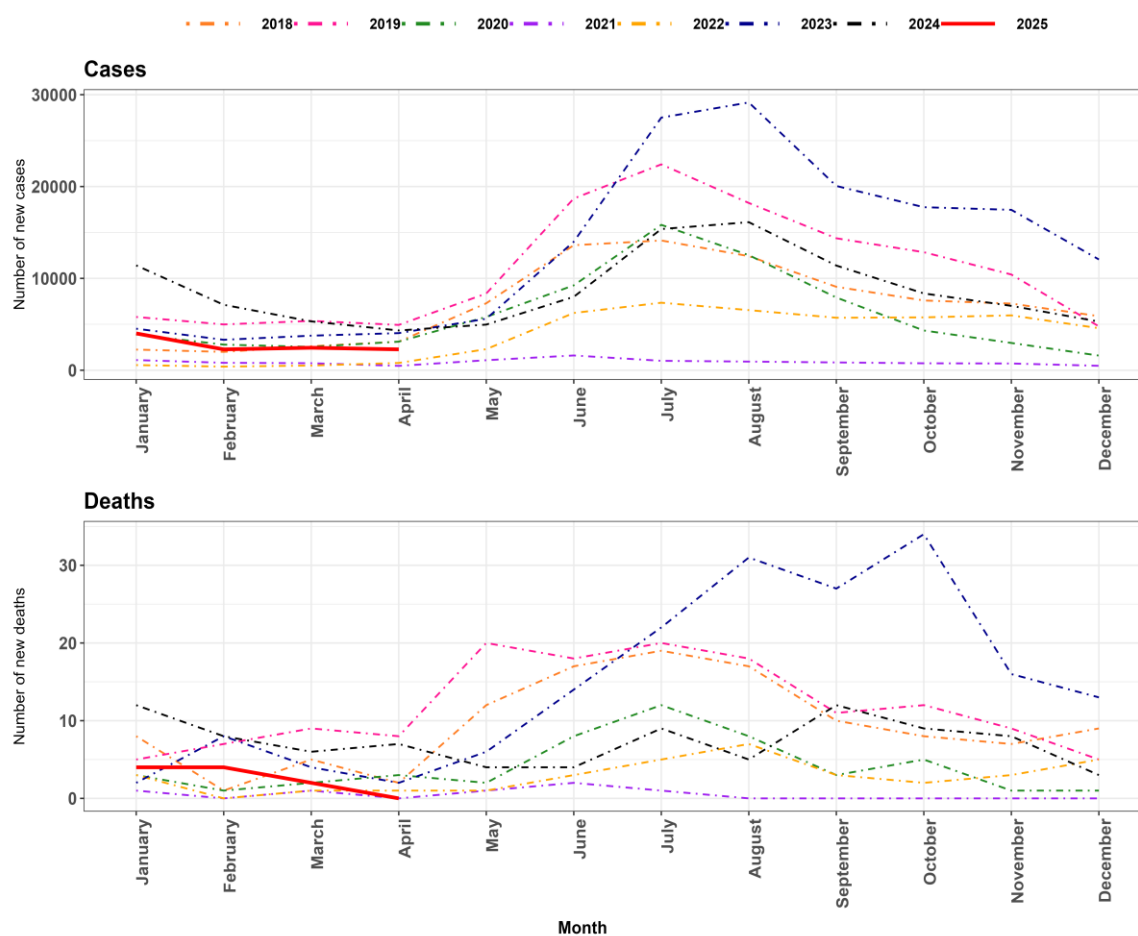
Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - [2017 to 2020](#); [2021 to 2025](#)

¹⁹ [Sri Lanka National Dengue Control Unit](#)

Thailand^{20 21 22}

- No update has yet been made publicly available for May 2025. During April 2025, a total of 2 271 cases of dengue were reported in Thailand, a 7% decrease compared to March 2025 (n=2 447).
- During April 2025, no dengue deaths were reported, which compares to two dengue deaths in March.
- In 2025, as of 30 April, a total of 10 992 dengue cases and ten dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 39% of the number of cases (n= 28 371) and 30% of the number of deaths (n=33) reported at the same time in 2024.

Figure 14. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Thailand from January 2018 to April 2025.



²⁰ [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](#)

²¹ [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](#)

²² [Thailand Ministry of Public Health](#)



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 easier reference, along with other relevant resources.

- **IHR Emergency Committee, Temporary Recommendations and Standing Recommendations**
 - [Second meeting of the International Health Regulations \(2005\) Emergency Committee regarding the upsurge of mpox 2024](#) (28 November 2024)
 - [First meeting of the International Health Regulations \(2005\) Emergency Committee regarding the upsurge of mpox 2024](#) (19 August 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](#) (17 April 2025)
 - [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/mpox_global/
 - [Multi-country outbreak of mpox, External situation report #53](#) – (29 May 2025)
 - [Genomic epidemiology of monkeypox virus](#) (Nextstrain)
- **Technical documents**
 - [Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for mpox: interim guidance](#) (27 November 2024)
 - [Considerations for wastewater and environmental surveillance for monkeypox virus: interim guidance](#) (25 November 2024)
 - [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)
 - [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](#)
 - [Catalogue of resources on mpox mass and large gathering event preparedness](#)