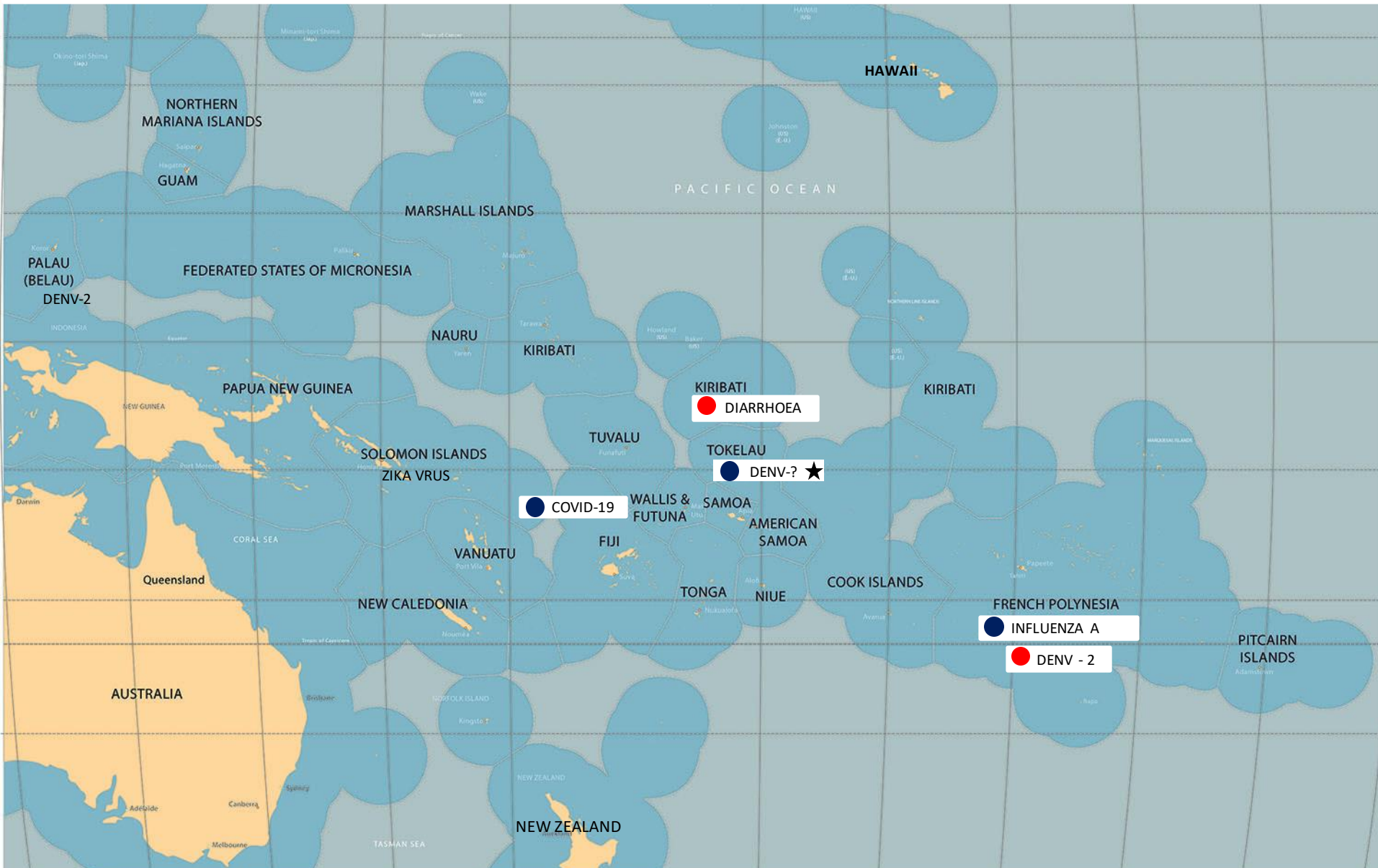


# Epidemic and emerging disease alerts in the Pacific as of 05 March 2024



- Legend**
- Cases reported are increasing or peaking.
  - Cases reported are decreasing or circulation is ongoing.
  - Awaiting confirmation of aetiology.
  - ★ No update for more than 2 weeks

DENV – Dengue Virus

An interactive version of the map is available online at: [www.spc.int/phd/epidemics/](http://www.spc.int/phd/epidemics/)

## Highlights/updates since the last map was sent on PacNet on 27 February 2024:

### Dengue

- **French Polynesia:** In week 08, there were no new confirmed dengue cases among the 75 samples tested. However, six additional cases have been identified in week 09, which brings the total number of cases to 22 since beginning of 2024. All reported cases were locally acquired, and there have been no new hospitalizations. Among the 22 cases, 12 were in Tahiti, 6 in Moorea, and 4 in Rangiroa. **The red alert is maintained.** Source: Bulletin de surveillance sanitaire de Polynésie française n°08-2024 shared with PPHSN focal point on 03 March 2024.

### Diarrhoea

- **Kiribati:** From January 29th to February 28th, a total of 1,039 diarrhoeal cases were reported. Laboratory testing has been conducted, confirming 46 cases with rotavirus infection, of which 89% of the cases were children under five years old. Thirty of these cases required hospitalization and no deaths have been reported so far. Public health interventions including health promotional messages, vaccination for children and surveillance activities have been implemented to address the outbreak situation. **The red alert is maintained.** Source: Ministry of Health and Medical Services Diarrhoeal Situation Report 3, 29 February 2024.

### Influenza A

- **French Polynesia:** During week 08, eight new cases of influenza were confirmed out of 85 tests conducted, all identified as Influenza A. Two cases required hospitalization, but none were admitted to the intensive care unit. The hospitalization rate increased compared to the previous week, indicating the continuing flu epidemic. Additionally, RSV has been detected. Since Influenza B was last detected in week 02, the **Influenza A & B alert has been changed to Influenza A and the blue alert is maintained.** – Source: Bulletin de surveillance sanitaire de Polynésie française n°08-2024 shared with PPHSN focal point on 203 March 2024.

### Other information:

#### Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

Due to the evolving nature of COVID-19 testing, vaccination and reporting strategies across the Pacific region, the data reported might not reflect the true situation in a number of countries.

- **Northern Marianna Island (CNMI):** In week 08, the number of COVID-19 cases increased from 20 in week 07 to 37 in week 08. There is one hospitalization reported this week. There has been a 35% increase in reported COVID-19 cases during this Epi Week when compared to the preceding three weeks. COVID-19 cases have seen a continual increase in the recent Epi Weeks, but remain under threshold. Genome sequencing has been done and confirms JN.1 as the current variant in circulation. - Source: CNMI Weekly Surveillance Report 2024 – Epi Week 06 shared with PPHSN focal point on 01 March 2024.

### Chickenpox

- **American Samoa:** On February 29, the American Samoa Department of Health issued a chickenpox alert following three cases of chickenpox that were identified at LBJ Hospital the previous Friday. All three cases involved children admitted to the Paediatric Ward. Immediate action was taken for a child enrolled in a local daycare, leading to the temporary closure of the affected daycare centre. The Department of Health is conducting ongoing investigations to identify additional cases and has issued advisories on preventive measures, including vaccination, handwashing and avoiding close contact with symptomatic individuals. Source: [American Samoa Chickenpox Alert - American Samoa Department of Health | Facebook](#) accessed on 05 March 2024.

### Dengue

- **New Zealand:** In week 09, two additional cases of dengue fever were reported. Individuals were visiting Indonesia and Malaysia during the incubation period. This brings the total number of cases to 15 since January 2024, all imported mostly from Asian countries. Source: NZ Arbovirus Notifications by Country (09: 17/02/2024–23/02/2024) report shared with PPHSN focal point by ESR on 04 March 2024.

### Influenza A & B

- **Wallis & Futuna:** Eight confirmed cases of Influenza A, including five reported in week 9, were recorded in Wallis and Futuna. Additionally, a single case of Influenza B was confirmed in Wallis on March 3, 2024, according to the emergency register. Despite the rise in influenza-like illnesses surpassing the epidemic threshold in week 8, there have been no hospital admissions. Consultations have sharply increased since week 8 and week 9, with a 20% surge compared to the multi-year average. Source: Point de situation epidemiology a Wallis et Futuna du 05/03/2024 - Circulation Grippe A/B

### Leptospirosis

- **French Polynesia:** In week 08, a total of 19 leptospirosis cases were confirmed out of 96 samples tested. An additional eight cases were detected in week 09 bringing the total to 27 cases within 15 days. Of these 27 cases, 23 have been confirmed by PCR and four are considered probable cases (positive serology only). There were 20 cases that required hospitalization, representing a hospitalization rate of 76.7%, but all were moderate. Among the cases, 23 were residents of the Windward Islands (21 in Tahiti, 1 in Moorea) and 4 were in the Leeward Islands (1 in Huahine, 1 in Raiatea and 2 in Tahaa). Initial investigations involving 10 cases noted that adverse weather conditions and flooding in mid-February seem to be responsible for the peak. Source : Bulletin de surveillance sanitaire de Polynésie française n°08-2024 shared with PPHSN focal point on 03 March 2024.

### Measles

- **Australia:** From February 28 and March 01, two Australian states issued measles alerts due to confirmed cases among travellers returning from overseas. In Queensland, [Metro South Health](#) has been informed of a measles infection in Brisbane, with potential exposure at specific locations on February 28. New South Wales ([NSW Health](#)) has issued a measles alert in western Sydney after confirming a case in an unvaccinated infant who recently returned from south Asia, where measles outbreaks are ongoing. Source: [Measles Alert for Brisbane | Metro South Health](#) and [Measles alert for western Sydney - News \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) accessed on 05 March 2024

### Meningococcal

- **French Polynesia:** On March 02, the Ministry of Health informed the public that a 9-month-old child in Punaauia has been diagnosed with meningococcal infection, after experiencing fever and meningitis-related symptoms since February 25. The child was promptly hospitalized and is improving. Additionally, 19 close contacts have received preventive treatment to contain the spread of the disease, with no additional reported cases. The Ministry of Health emphasizes the airborne transmission of meningococcal disease, urging immediate medical attention for symptoms, as it can progress to severe meningitis. Source: Personal communication with country focal point on 05 March 2024.