

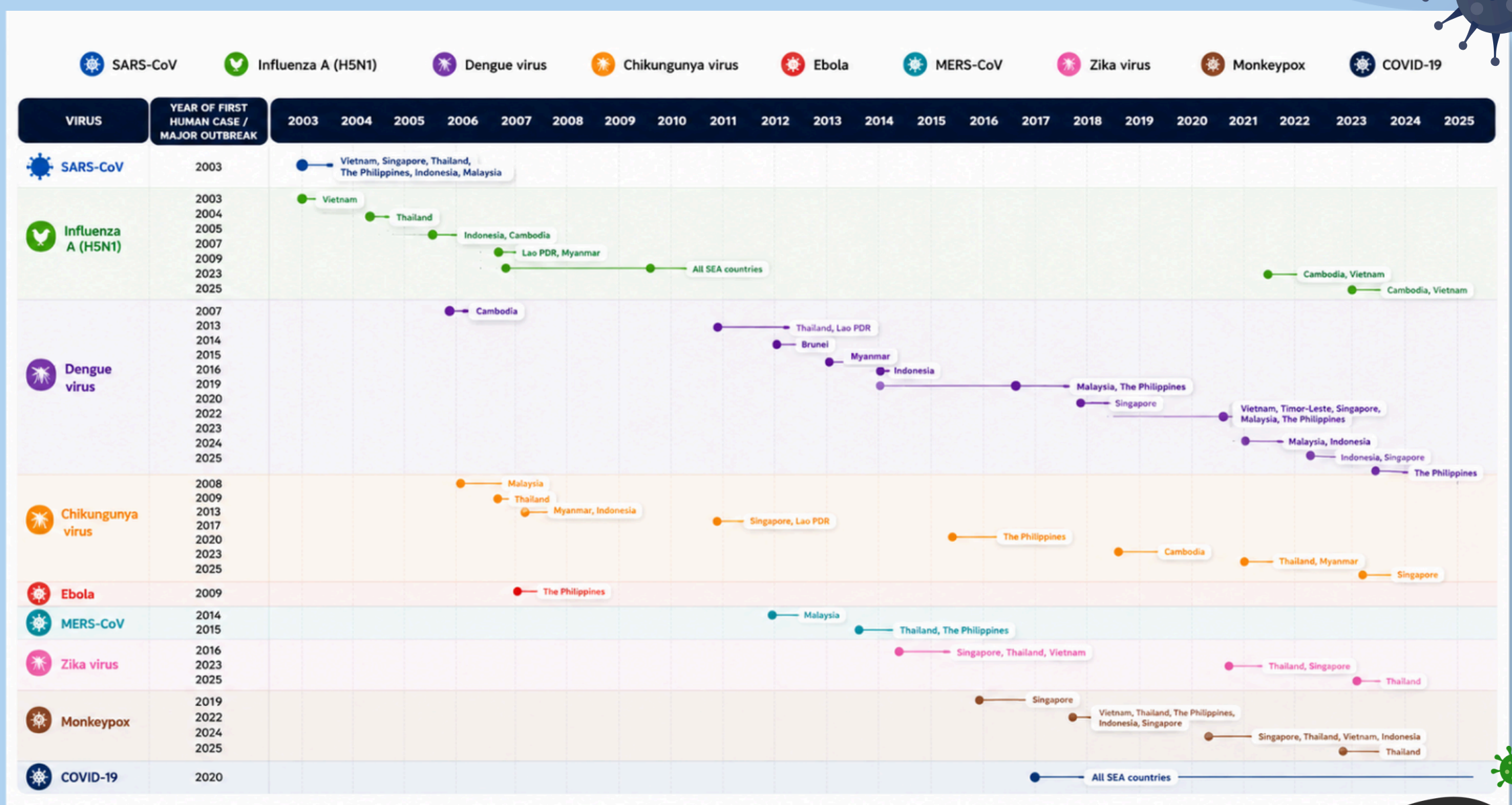
THE PANDEMIC AGREEMENT AND ASEAN

Compiled by Danielle Lynn Goh

The World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Agreement was adopted on 20 May 2025, with 124 states voting in favour. As a legally binding international instrument for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, the agreement aims to address vaccine nationalism, global divisions and geopolitics that impeded international responses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During discussions on the agreement, there was a lack of consensus particularly on pathogen access and benefit sharing (PABS). As part of the PABS, states would be able to exchange the materials and sequence of pathogens with pandemic potential and equitably share the benefits from the information. Following the adoption of the treaty, a process was initiated to draft and negotiate a PABS system for tabling at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18–23 May 2026.

EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE COVID-19



Source: Compiled from Saba Villarreal, Paola Mariela, Nuttamonpat Gumpangseth, Thanaphon Songhong, Sakda Yainoy, Arnaud Monteil, Pornsawan Leungwutiwong, Dorothée Missé, and Sineewanlaya Wichit. (2023). "Emerging and Re-emerging Zoonotic Viral Diseases in Southeast Asia: One Health Challenge." *Frontiers in Public Health* 11 (2023): 1141483. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1141483>

ASEAN PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Coordinating prevention and mitigation strategies through the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED).

Framework agreement on the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System (APHECS) to coordinate regional response mechanisms.

The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) work programme from 2021 to 2025 conducted studies to anticipate future disaster scenarios including pandemics.

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