



## Viet Nam COVID-19 Situation Report #37

11 April 2021

Report as of 11 April 2021, 18:00

### Situation Summary

#### Highlights of Current Situation Report

- The **latest community outbreaks** have been **brought under control with no locally acquired cases reported in the past 17 days** (the last cases were reported on 25 Mar from Hai Duong).
- Cumulatively, 910 locally acquired cases have been reported from these community outbreaks, affecting 13 cities/ provinces across the country. **Almost 80% (726 cases) of cases were from Hai Duong**. See Figures 1 and 2 for epi curve and case distribution by province.
- **Hai Duong returned to a new normal from 1 April 2021**; however **non-essential services** (i.e. bars, discotheque, massage, gym services, etc.) **remain suspended** at least until 1<sup>st</sup> May. Field hospital No. 3 (last one) was disbanded on 7 Apr.
- **During the past week, 62 new cases were reported, all were imported**. These included four Indian and one Pakistani experts and 57 Vietnamese nationals who were repatriated from Angola (5), Japan (18), the Philippines (3), France (2), the U.K. (2), the U.S. (4), Ukraine (2), Dubai (1), and those returned to Viet Nam via Moc Bai International PoE (5), and Ha Tien International PoE (15).
- **As of 11 Apr**, Viet Nam has reported **2,693 laboratory confirmed cases** from 48/63 provinces including **35 deaths (PFC 1.3%)**; of those **2,458 cases (91.3%) have recovered**, **235 cases** under treatment. (<http://cdc.kcb.vn/covid>)
- Majority of the cases were either **asymptomatic (81.3%)** or with **mild symptoms (17.2%)**, there remain **2 severe cases** and **1 critical case**.
- Viet Nam launched COVID-19 vaccination campaign on 8 Mar 2021 focusing on the first priority groups: healthcare workers at healthcare facilities, front-line workers working on outbreak prevention and response in 19 provinces.
  - ✓ From 8 Mar to 11 April, **58,418 people have received their first shot**: Hai Duong (19,182), Ha Noi (8,668), Hung Yen (2,786), Bac Ninh (3,481), Bac Giang (3,605), Hai Phong (3,241), HCMC (7,507), Gia Lai (1,906), Long An (244), Da Nang (117), Hoa Binh (1,855), Khanh Hoa (105), Dien Bien (1,964), Vung Tau (238), Ha Giang (2,206), Binh Duong (1,913), Tay Ninh (453), Quang Ninh (107) and Dong Thap (286).
  - ✓ **Eight cities and provinces** including Tay Ninh, Long An, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Khanh Hoa, Da Nang, Gia Lai, Hoa Binh, and Ha Giang have **completed the first phase of COVID-19 vaccination** with AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccine.
  - ✓ The AEFI surveillance system recorded about 33% of the people who received AZ vaccine having common side effects, mostly with onsite soreness, other side effects included fatigue, headache, muscle aches, chills, joint pain, and possibly some fever. These figures are similar to those provided by the manufacturer. To date Viet Nam has not recorded any cases of blood clotting following COVID-19 vaccination.
- **Issue of Immunity passport:**
  - 7 Apr - the Viet Nam MoH suggested that the country **may** first accept three groups of people with proof of vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 virus. These include 1) Vietnamese nationals left stranded overseas; 2) Foreign citizens/ experts/ highly skilled workers entering Viet Nam on business; and 3) Foreign travellers.
  - The protocol will only be applicable to certain vaccine types and certificates-issuing countries. The matter is being discussed and further studied and MOH will release a more detailed plan alongside with a guidance on quarantine and health monitoring for 'vaccine passport' holders in due course.
  - The Civil Aviation Administration of Viet Nam (CAAV) **plans** to implement vaccine passport programme. Those who hold vaccine passports confirming they have received COVID-19 vaccinations and tested negative for the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 using the Real-time PCR technique will be allowed to enter Viet Nam with a minimum centralized quarantine period required.

- The Viet Nam's National Regulatory Authority (NRA) has been certified by WHO as a Maturity level 3 for vaccines. The ranking was based on the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT), which uses different functions and criteria to ensure the quality, safety and effectiveness of vaccines on the market.
- **Vaccine supply and regulatory:**
  - o 7 Apr - MoH on issued a decision on the allocation of 811,200 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine by COVAX to all 63 cities and provinces and other agencies. Specifically, the Northern region will be allocated 317,550 doses, the Central-coastal region with 68,700 doses, the Central-Highland Region with 49,000 doses, the Southern region with 245,350 doses.
    - ✓ Ha Noi and HCMC will receive the highest numbers, with 53,350 doses and 56,250 doses, respectively.
    - ✓ The public security and military forces will receive 30,000 and 80,000 respectively. The EPI and the National Institute for Control of Vaccine and Biologicals (NICVB) will get 20,000 doses and 600 doses, respectively.
    - ✓ The inoculation must be completed before 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021, and the vaccination outcomes will then be reported to the ministry and relevant institutes.
    - ✓ Domestic vaccines R&D: Completing second shots of Nano COVAX in second stage human trials as 554 volunteers joining the second-stage human trials of home-grown Nano COVAX COVID-19 vaccine got the second shots over the past 14 days which is expected to be available by the fourth quarter of this year and put into use in 2022.

### Sub-national transmission assessment<sup>1</sup>:

- **Hai Duong province remains in Stage 2** – Localized community transmission: no locally acquired cases were reported in past 17 days. There were however previously reported cases with unknown epi links.
- **Eighteen (18) provinces are in Stage 1** – Imported transmission: of those, 5 provinces are from the latest community outbreaks including Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Binh Duong and HCMC as even though there were no locally acquired cases reported during past at least one month, there were imported cases reported from international flights during past weeks. Thirteen (13) other provinces also received imported cases from international/ charter flights including Khanh Hoa, Long An, Dong Nai, Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Tien Giang, Ninh Thuan, Tay Ninh, Bac Ninh, Bac Giang, Ben Tre, Da Nang and Ca Mau during past weeks. (Ba Ria – Vung Tau moved to Stage 0 last week after 4 weeks without imported cases).
- **The remaining 44 provinces are in Stage 0** – No transmission: no additional cases reported for at least 28 days and no clear signals of community transmission.

### Other ongoing response includes:

- o Right after receiving a **notification from Japan on 25 Jan of the case from Viet Nam** –detected upon arrival in Osaka – with the **same variant found in the UK**, the Government has been taking **vigorous actions**. **All public health** measures being implemented this time are one-level higher (i.e. taking no-risk approach).
- o Fast and vigorous- whole system activated on 27 Jan night: NSC met, VC meetings with 2 provinces
- o Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), Chairman of NSC, ordered Hai Duong Province to stay focused to stamp out the outbreak within ten days, emphasizing that **every minute counts**.
- o Rapid case investigation with fast, thorough contact tracing (up to F3 & F4 of two index cases)
- o Sent national expert teams to Hai Duong, Quang Ninh, Dien Bien, Gia Lai to support local response.
- o A series of Government directions released, such as MOH telegrams, Prime Minister's Directive No.05; also at subnational levels.
- o Targeted community lockdown based on outbreak situation and risk assessment.
- o Reactivated technical teams at central level (contact tracing, information & rapid response, communication) to coordinate and support local response.
- o Reactivated/ strengthened **community COVID teams** at all levels.

<sup>1</sup> Transmission stage assessment continues to be adjusted based on evolving outbreak situation at subnational level.

- Enhancing surveillance and testing, even up to F3 contacts in hotspots, test all presented with fever and cough
  - ✓ Mass testing approach applied using different strategies including targeted testing of higher risk groups as well as random testing of households and inpatients. Wide testing aimed at active and early identification of possible cases. There are currently 152 laboratories capable of detecting SARS-CoV-2 by Realtime RT-PCR technique with 98 designated as confirmatory laboratories. Testing capacity can be increased with guidance issued on pooling of lower risk specimens, up to 10 specimens may be pooled.
  - ✓ Full genome sequencing of the initial cases was conducted. NIHE reported the result of samples of Hai Duong COVID-19 cases, as SARS-CoV-2 B.1.17 variants. Hospital of Tropical Diseases (HTD) in HCMC also reported the result of a case whole travelled from Hai Duong to HCMC as SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 variants.
  - ✓ Full genome sequencing of the Tan Son Nhat (TSN) airport HCMC determined as PANGO lineage A.23.1. The virus associated with this cluster does not have the E484K mutation reported in a sub-set of A.23.1 detected in the UK.
  - ✓ Full genome sequencing of the Japanese deceased case in Ha Noi revealed variant B.1.429 (otherwise known as CAL.20C) which has been circulating primarily in the US since late 2020 but has been detected globally in early 2021. So far there is no clear evidence of an increased or decreased transmissibility, virulence or severity of infection associated with the B.1.429. It is the first time in Viet Nam, to date.
- Enhancing surveillance and testing – more than 1,286,000 samples have been collected for testing in the 13 affected provinces. An onsite laboratory in Hai Duong has been established with initial capacity of testing of about 5,000 tests per day and can be increased as needed. Three changes have been introduced during first week of Feb in the outbreak response strategy which included: i) Pool sampling; ii) Quarantine guidelines for under 5 years old children; and iii) Maintaining the flow of goods in the COVID-19 context.
- After two weeks applied a 21-day quarantine and community lockdown, MOH has amended the quarantine period, back to a 14-day duration as before, given the latest scientific evidence on the new variants.
- Field hospitals were established: 3 in Hai Duong, 1 each in Quang Ninh, Dien Bien and Gia Lai, ready to cater for increased number of cases. By 7 Apr, all the field hospitals have been disbanded.
- The Ministry of Health issued the Resolution No 1215/ QLD-KD dated 17 Feb 2021 to approve importation of first 200,000 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use.
- **In order to improve laboratory response to future clusters MOH is working on drafting a guideline on the use of antigen RDTs.** Guideline proposes two uses of antigen RDTs; firstly, to routinely test healthcare workers, quarantine staff and other frontline workers who come into contact with COVID-19 cases and their contacts and secondly, to be used in outbreak settings to test suspect cases and their close contacts when RT-PCR is not available, the laboratories are overwhelmed and/or the turn-around-time of RT-PCR is too slow to support a rapid response.

### COVID-19 VACCINE

- The Government issued the Resolution No. 21/NQ-CP dated 26 Feb 2021 on COVID-19 vaccine procurement and deployment, signed by the Prime Minister. The resolution highlights the priority groups and provinces for vaccination; specifies budget source and mechanism; and guides implementation.
- The Prime Minister has approved VND1.237 trillion (\$53.6 million) from the state budget to be spent on Covid-19 vaccines as the country speeds up mass inoculation.
- 23 Mar - GDPM received an announcement from UNICEF that vaccines delivery will be delayed due to production delays of the COVID-19 vaccine distributed through COVAX, the projected deliveries to all countries have had to be delayed, and the amount to be sent have been reviewed and adjusted. This means that Viet Nam will receive the first batch of vaccine under COVAX with 811,200 doses of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine by the middle of April.
  - ✓ The MoH has tried to access different sources of COVID-19 vaccine supplies. On 26 Mar, The Drug Administration of Viet Nam asked drug importers to urgently search for new supplies of COVID-19 vaccines (AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, JSC Generium (Sputnik V), Moderna, Sinovac...) to increase supply and access to many safe and effective sources of vaccines.

- ✓ More provinces plan to secure vaccines to provide its citizens for free, i.e. Bac Ninh People's Committee stated that Province would spend VND 185 billion (\$8 million) to vaccinate around 300,000 prioritized citizens; Khanh Hoa People's Committee plans to leverage VND140 billion (\$6.1 million) for this purpose
- ✓ MOH organized remote training to ALL 713 districts on COVID-19 vaccination.
- Sputnik V (manufactured by Gamaleya institute) becomes the second COVID-19 vaccine got conditional approval in Viet Nam (as per Decision #1654/QĐ-BYT signed 23 Mar). The 2,000 doses of Sputnik V were given by Russian Govt as a 'gift' being stored at National EPI storage and are not yet included into the national allocation plan. POLYVAC is under discussion on collaboration with Gamaleya for its production.
- Vietnam Airlines is communicating with the MoH and relevant entities to buy Covid-19 vaccines for all its employees and their families as soon as possible. The vaccines would be provided for free to employees of Vietnam Airlines Group, which includes Vietnam Airlines, Pacific Airlines and Vasco.
- Viet Nam is also stepping up domestic vaccine R&D, with two manufacturers (Nano Covax and IVAC started their phase 2 CT in Feb – Mar). On 15 Mar, Viet Nam began first phase of human trials of COVIVAC - the second homegrown COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine was developed by the Nha Trang-based Institute of Vaccines and Medical Biologicals (IVAC) and the Ha Noi Medical University since last May, using primary chicken embryo cell culture. Earlier, pre-clinical studies in India, the U.S. and Viet Nam showed that COVIVAC is safe and effective.
- Viet Nam may produce own COVID-19 vaccines by the end of the third quarter. Currently, four Vietnamese vaccines are in development, produced by Nanogen Pharmaceutical Biotechnology JSC, the Institute of Vaccines and Medical Biologicals (IVAC), Vaccine and Biological Production Company No. 1 (Vabiotech) and the Center for Research and Production of Vaccines and Biologicals (Polyvac).
- Viet Nam will receive additional 4.1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses in May as the country is stepping up efforts to secure enough vaccines for national vaccination program, said Minister of Health Nguyen Thanh Long.
- COVID-19 vaccination of 117,600 AZ doses have been implementing in the provinces without big safety concern (detailed number will follow).

#### Update from past 7 days:

- **From 5 April – 11 April 2021, 62 new laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported (increase 55% compared to last week); all of cases were imported**, and without any additional deaths. Number of RT-PCR conducted from 25 Jan was approximately **1.273.928 tests**. Almost in Hai Duong, Quang Ninh, HCMC, Ha Noi and Gia Lai.
- **As of 11 Apr 2021**, Viet Nam has reported a total of **2,693 laboratory confirmed cases** of COVID-19, including 40 health care workers (HCWs), from **48 out of 63 cities/ provinces** in country, including **35 deaths** (PFC  $\approx$  1.3%) (see *Figure 4*). All the 35 death cases were related to the community outbreak in Da Nang (31 from Da Nang, 3 from Quang Nam and 1 from Quang Tri); most of them had long-term chronic diseases and comorbidities.
  - Of the 2,693 cases, 1,125 cases (41.7%) are imported. About 93% are Vietnamese (see *Figure 3*).
  - The ages of cases range from 2 months to 100 years old. About 59% of all cases are in the 30-69 years old group, 3% above 70 years old, and the remaining 38% under 30 years old. The proportion of male vs female is around 49.7% vs 50.3%. (See *Table 1*).
  - Approx. 182 clusters have been recorded including from households, schools, workplaces, bus/train stations and one cluster in Hai Duong that has not passed 28 days without new cases reported.
- **Other Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs)**
  - Community lockdown and social distancing: From 1 Apr, Hai Duong went back to a new normal, however continued suspension of non-essential services including bars, discotheque, massage, gym, etc., at least until 1st May.
  - *Details before 5 Apr: refer to previous reports*
  - Travel restriction:
    - ✓ PCR testing and centralized quarantine (in Thua Thien Hue province) or home quarantine (in Bac Giang province) continue to be applied for people coming from lockdown areas in Hai Phong, Binh Duong and HCMC due to the latest illegal immigration of COVID-19 cases from Cambodia reported on 26 Mar.

- **Incoming and exit travellers:** from 5 – 10 Apr
  - Through ground crossing:
    - Viet Nam -China: 13,026 (12,763 legal, 263 illegal), emigrants: 12,505
    - Viet Nam- Laos: Immigrants: Immigrants: 8,362 (8,348 legal, 14 illegal), emigrants: 9,255
    - Viet Nam -Cambodia: Immigrants: 287 (149 legal, 138 illegal), emigrants: 385
  - Through airlines:
    - Foreigners: Immigrants: 1,229, emigrants: 1,058
    - Vietnamese: Immigrants: 3,567, emigrants: 2,296
    - Number of immigrants and emigrants from selected countries
      - ROK: immigrants: 322, emigrants: 356
      - Japan: immigrants: 195, emigrants: 117
      - USA: immigrants: 40, emigrants: 97
      - Schengen countries: immigrants: 61, emigrants: 57
- **Case management:**
  - **2,458 cases (91.2%) have recovered.** Case #1823 is still in critical condition at NHTD#2.
  - Majority of the current 203 cases in treatment are either **asymptomatic (81.3%)** or with **mild symptoms (17.2%)**, remaining **2 severe cases** with non-invasive ventilation and **1 critical case** with mechanical ventilation.
  - All field hospitals in Hai Duong stopped receiving COVID-19 patient and returned to normal operations. COVID-19 patients in Hai Duong now stay at Hai Duong Hospital of Tropical Disease.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> April, Ha Noi started testing SARS-CoV-2 for more than 26,000 HCWs working in public health facilities.
  - MoH has provided training on clinical management of SARI cases in the COVID-19 context for ICUs, ERs, ID doctors in targeted hospitals; and training on IPC for nursing force in selected provinces.
- **Numbers of quarantine:**
  - **A total of approximately 35.228 people are currently placed under quarantine.** Of those **267** were quarantined in HCFs; **19.574** were centralized quarantined; and **15.387** were under self-/home quarantine.
  - **Cumulatively:** from beginning of the outbreak to date, more than **15 million** people have been placed under quarantine.
- **WHO supported activities & collaborative activities under vaccination:**
  - Coordinate with WPRO on WHO tech advice for Ph3 CT design and its evaluation: ASTT will discuss with VM on 30 or 31 March.
  - Support GDPM to conduct training for AEFI causality assessment committee at provincial level
  - Support GDPM in developing tech info sheet on vaccine and immunization safety. Health Minister Long stated it during the meeting today: <https://ncov.moh.gov.vn/web/guest/-/6847426-2189>
  - Support GDPM in developing the allocation plan for COVAX 811,200 doses
- **Risk communication**
  - A video documentary highlighting Viet Nam's success story in responding to the pandemic was launched. The film entitled **"150 days after: tales from Viet Nam's COVID-19 response"**, was co-produced by MOH and WHO and is now available in the following social media platforms. The film features the efforts of the Government and the people of Viet Nam, with support from WHO and other partners, in achieving initial victory against the COVI-19 pandemic
    - YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1yVL9cF5yl&t=3s>
    - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WHOinVietnam/posts/5395622467147106>
  - Trainings for health workers, communication officers and media on vaccine safety communication are planned for April and May, to be jointly launched by MOH Department of Communications and WHO. Communication on prevention messages continues on multiple platforms, including social media ads.



## Recent and upcoming Events and Priorities

- WHO continues supporting MOH in various technical areas, providing technical advice and scientific updates especially with relates to the mutated variants; supporting ongoing efforts on COVID-19 vaccine development and vaccine deployment and distribution plans, effective communication (e.g. reinforcement of preventive measures communications through social media such as reactivation of Facebook ads, produced social media cards on laboratory testing) - *See previous report*
- The MOH has requested support for approximately 200,000 primers and probes and 300,000 further specimen collection kits. WHO CO have been working with WPRO and HQ to gain the greenlight for request. Greenlight was received from MOH on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. HQ is now in the process of arranging flights, with the materials expected to arrive in the coming week.
- WHO working with MOH on draft guidelines on use of antigen RDTs, meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- WHO working with counterparts at regional institutes and other international partners to provide refresher training for laboratory staff on testing for SARS-CoV-2, with a focus on ensuring quality of testing and providing updates on variants of concern. Training to be held for provinces in the Central and Southern regions in April and May.

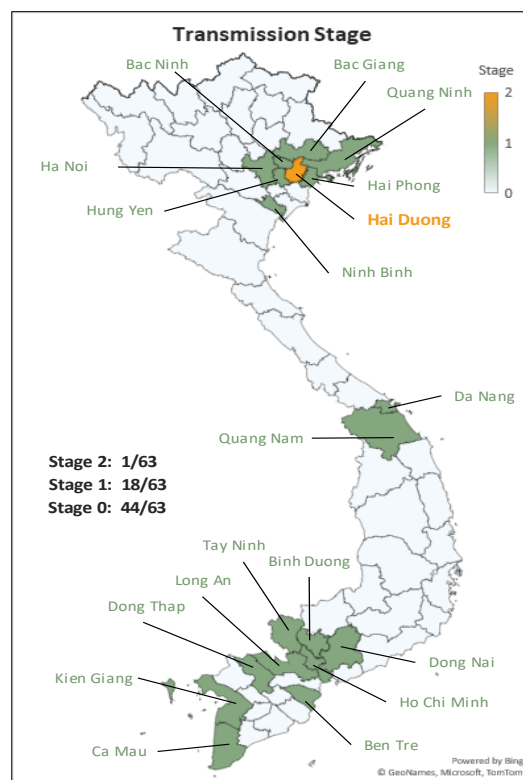
## Transmission Stage Assessment

**Overall assessment** – the country has passed 17 days from the last locally acquired cases reported in in Hai Duong province on 25 March.

### Sub-national level

- Hai Duong remains the only province under Stage 2.** There are **no observed signals of a large-scale community transmission**. All the 12 remaining provinces had no new cases reported in at least past 48 days.
- 18 provinces are in Stage 1** including Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Binh Duong, HCMC, Khanh Hoa, Long An, Dong Nai, Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Tien Giang, Ninh Thuan, Tay Ninh, Bac Ninh, Bac Giang, Ben Tre, Da Nang and Ca Mau which reported imported cases from international flights within the past 28 days.
- The remaining 44 provinces are in Stage 0.**

As Viet Nam started resuming selected international flights, it is expected that there is increased number of imported cases in coming weeks. Besides, cases among the incoming travelers from Cambodia are also expected (during past week, 20 COVID-19 cases were detected among 239 incoming travelers of those 113 were illegal travelers). The risk of community transmission is also possible especially if cases among the illegal incoming travelers went undetected.



### \*WHO/WPR Transmission Assessment criteria

- Stage 0 – No transmission:** No clear signals of transmission for at least 28 days.
- Stage 1 – Imported transmission:** Recent transmission is imported from another sub-national or international area or is linked to such importation within 3 generations, no clear signals of locally acquired transmission.
- Stage 2 – Localized community transmission:** recent locally acquired and localized to place(s), and there are no clear signals of large-scale community transmission.
- Stage 3 – Large-scale community transmission:** recent transmission is locally acquired and not specific to place(s) or population sub-group(s). The risk of infection for most people in this area is high

Assessment done by WHO Viet Nam with concurrence from the Ministry of Health of Viet Nam.

## Epidemiology

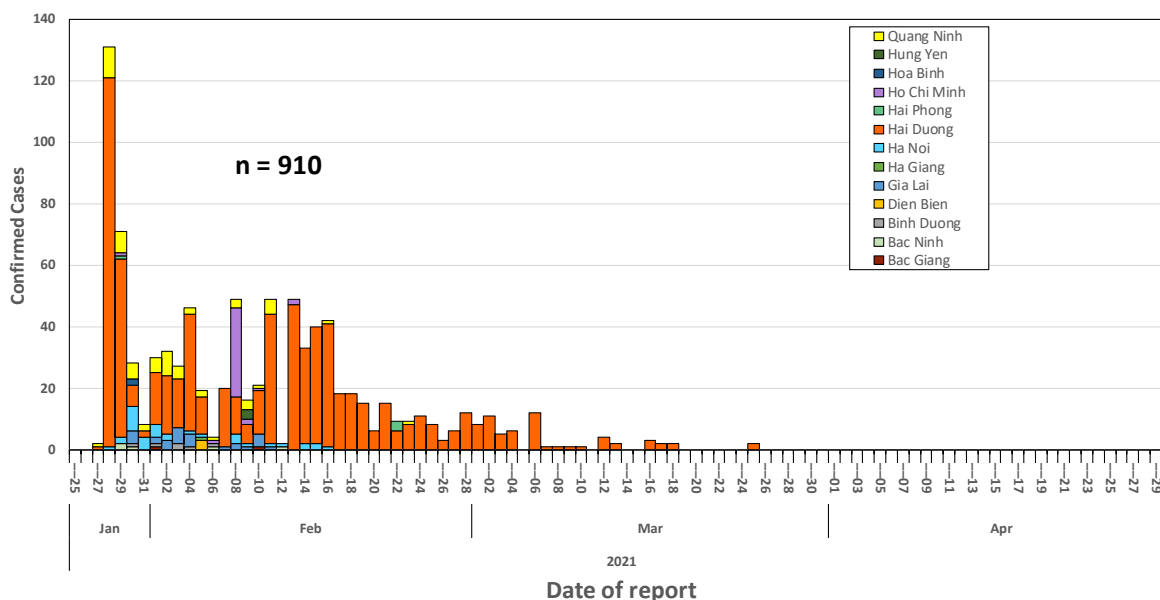
### Epi Update COVID-19

Tests	Cases	Deaths	ICU Admissions
<b>38,515</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
NAT Tests past 7 days (+0.07% 7-day)	New cases past 7 days (+55% 7-day)	Deaths past 7 days (-% 7-day)	ICU Admissions past 7 days (+0 cases 7-day)
<b>2,847,776</b>	<b>2,693</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>60</b> (TBC)
Cumulative NAT Tests	Cumulative Cases	Cumulative Deaths	Cumulative ICU Admissions

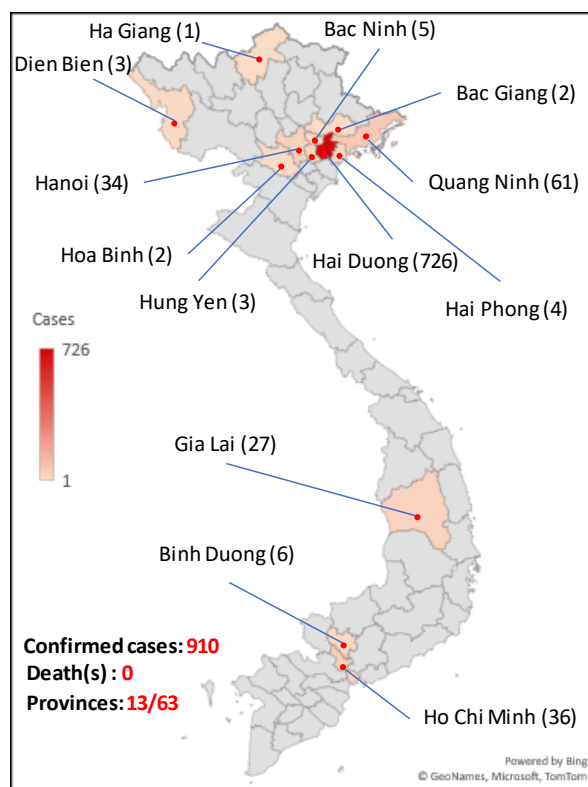
<b>94%</b> Imported Cases in past 28 days (133)	<b>TBU</b> Cases in past 28 days with no link (0)	<b>1</b> (in Hai Duong, not yet passed 28 days) Active Clusters	<b>0</b> Active clusters with >3 generations
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### Health Service Provision COVID-19

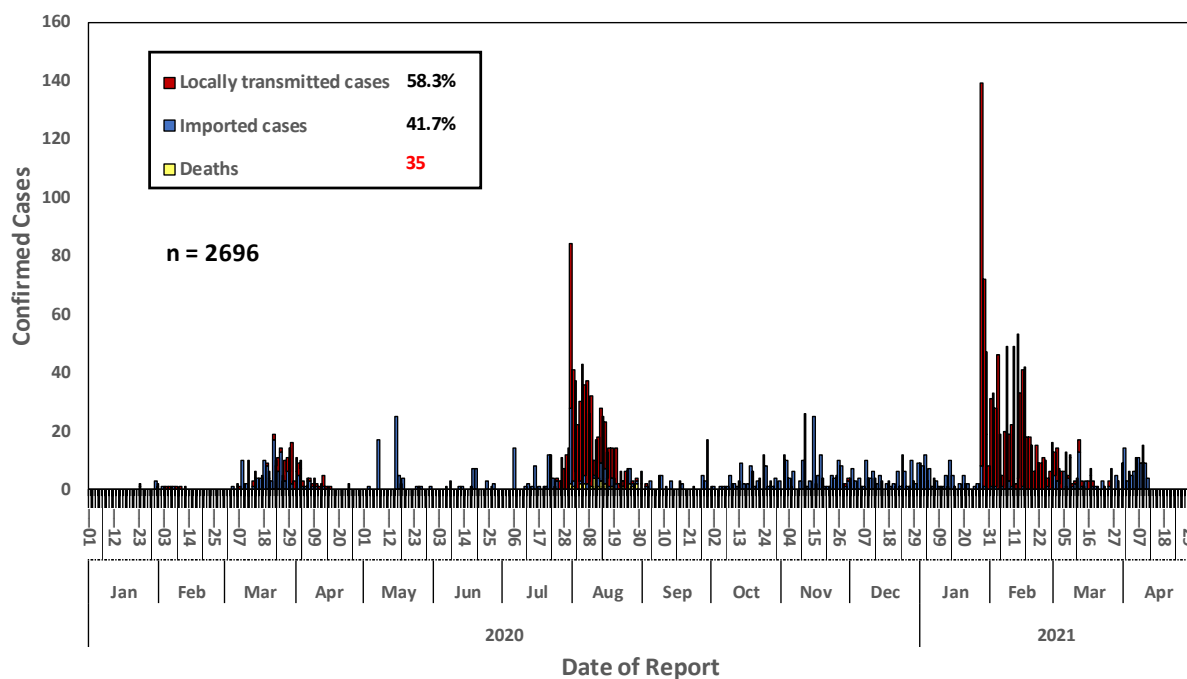
<b>Most of national hospital staff</b> Health care workers trained in COVID19 Case Management	<b>0</b> Healthcare worker cases reported past week	<b>62</b> Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients past week	<b>371</b> ICU beds for COVID-19 patients (estimated in 6 currently affected provinces) (out of approx. 3,500 beds nationwide)	<b>0</b> (TBD) Non-ICU Hospital beds for COVID-19 patients (As of 7 Apr - All field hospitals disbanded)
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**Figure 1. Epidemic curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases by date of reporting, current outbreak, Viet Nam, as of 11 April 2021**



**Figure 2. Distribution of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases by place of detection, current outbreak, Viet Nam, as of 11 April 2021**



**Figure 3. Epidemic curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases, Viet Nam, by date of reporting**



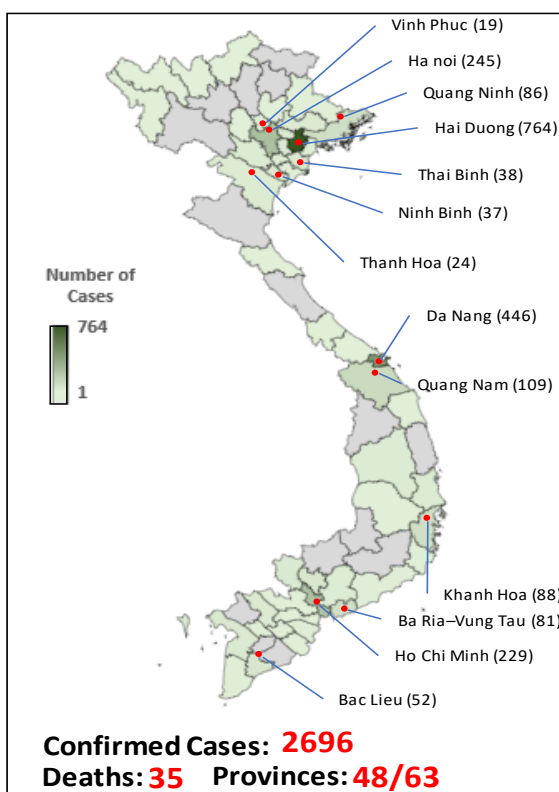


Figure 4. Distribution of cumulative COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases by place of detection, Viet Nam

Age Group	Female		Male	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
0-9	66 (1)	0 (0)	58 (0)	0 (0)
10-19	79 (2)	0 (0)	76 (2)	0 (0)
20-29	350 (9)	2 (0)	396 (25)	0 (0)
30-39	391 (6)	1 (0)	366 (10)	1 (0)
40-49	170 (0)	1 (0)	179 (5)	0 (0)
50-59	156 (2)	5 (0)	148 (2)	3 (0)
60-69	99 (1)	6 (0)	80 (0)	6 (0)
70-79	30 (0)	2 (0)	23 (0)	1 (0)
80-89	13 (0)	5 (0)	9 (0)	1 (0)
90+	2 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0)	1 (0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1356 (21)</b>	<b>22 (0)</b>	<b>1340 (44)</b>	<b>13 (0)</b>

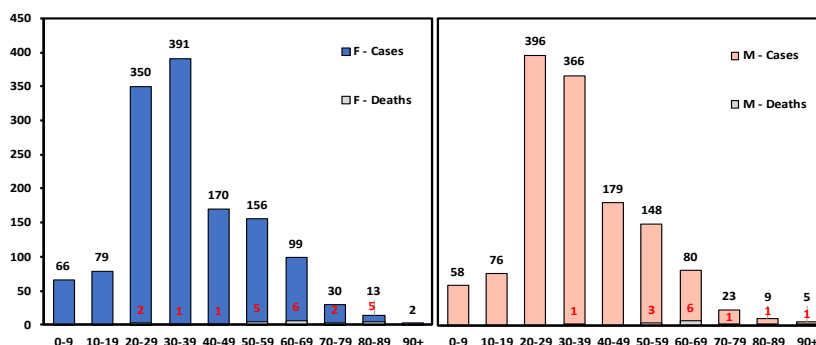


Table 1. Cumulative and new (past 7 days) cases and deaths by age and sex



## Strategic Approach –

### National and Provincial Public Health Response – no updates

In January 2020, the Government of Viet Nam rapidly issued the first National Response Plan and assembled the National Steering Committee (NSC) to implement this plan. The NSC is central to the command and control governance of the COVID-19 response. The Committee is chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam with high-level representation from 14 Ministries and sectors, the National Assembly, media, and information technology companies, and oversees four sub-committees in technical and logistic areas. The plan outlines clear roles and responsibilities of each sector and levels of authority – central, provincial, district, and commune. The rapid mobilization of financial and human resources allowed the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister to lead a whole-of-society approach, based on the Prime Minister's Directive No. 05/CT-TTg, toward combating COVID-19, with the principle of “protecting people's health first.” The Government's commitment had remained the same, even one-level higher given the recent important events including Vietnamese New Year, the 13<sup>th</sup> National Party Congress, ongoing national efforts to achieve dual objectives of disease control and economic development, in the response to the current community outbreaks initiated from Hai Duong and Quang Ninh provinces. This has resulted in a quick containment of the outbreak across the 13 affected cities/ provinces after just more than one month (from end of Jan to early Mar). The country is now moving actively with COVID-19 procurement and deployment plan with a careful consultation and planning with support from WHO, UNICEF and other relevant partners. The biggest ever COVID-19 vaccination campaign which commenced on 8 March 2021 continued as planned.

### Strategic Approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection and Control

Viet Nam has successfully and rapidly implemented necessary COVID-19 prevention, detection, and control activities under the strong leadership of the Government and effective multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration. There have been persistent and strict applications of key outbreak response measures: early detection – testing and treatment – contact tracing – isolation/quarantine, along with strategic risk communications. This was evident during the first phase of the outbreak response and once again reconfirmed in the response to the latest resurgence of cases in the community related to Da Nang and HCMC events, and for the latest community outbreaks that affected 13 cities/ provinces (as of 11 April 2021) – which has been brought under control. To support Government efforts with early detection and control further community transmission, WHO continues to provide additional laboratory test kits and reagents for mass and targeted testing, especially in the affected provinces. WHO Country Office has also been working with UNICEF to support the vaccine deployment plan including development of guidance, training, logistics and vaccine safety (AEFI) surveillance. For years, WHO has been supporting Viet Nam in building and strengthening the capacities for managing disease outbreaks and public health emergencies, as required by the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005). Guided by the APSED III, Viet Nam has made significant progress in enhancing capacity in the required technical areas and all the years of investment are reflected in the country's ongoing response to COVID-19.

## Best Practice/Lessons Learned - unchanged

### The Response Enabling Factors and Adjustments to the Response

- Strong government leadership with effective multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination and successful mobilization of national resources using a whole-of-society approach.
- Early activation of a strong response system, including surveillance and risk assessment, laboratory, clinical management and IPC, and risk communication, which enabled Viet Nam's successful control of COVID-19.
- WHO supports long-term country investment to strengthen the health emergency response after previous epidemics, and is providing technical support in necessary areas, including the continuation of essential public health services.



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## Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

### Narrative Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions

Viet Nam instituted a gradual roll-out of comprehensive NPIs based on the evolving context/evidence, thus they did not come as a “shock” to the public. Such interventions were implemented along with strong economic relief efforts, thereby minimizing the economic impact to businesses and households, especially vulnerable populations, during these uncertain times. As the global situation of COVID-19 has continued to evolve with complexity, the country borders have basically remained close except for specific circumstances. This whole-of-society approach is being one more time well reflected in the ongoing response to community outbreaks across the country under a strong leadership and guidance of GoV, NSC and MOH. (**Latest updates** – see also Key updates section on pages 1 to 4).