



## Viet Nam COVID-19 Situation Report #7

3 September 2020

Report as of 3 September 2020, 18:00

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### Situation Summary

#### Highlights of Current Situation Report

##### - **National situation:**

- As of 3 Sep 2020, a total of 1,046 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported from 41 out of 63 cities/provinces, including 35 deaths (see *Figure 1*). Of the 1,046 reported cases, 385 cases (36.8%) are imported. The male to female ratio is almost equal. Approximately 92% are Vietnamese (see *Figure 2*).
- The ages of cases range from 2 months to 100 years old. About 63.7% of all cases are in the 30-69 years old group, 5.4% above 70 years old, and the remaining 30.9% under 30 years old. (See *Table 1*).
- Starting from 25 Jul, a resurgence of cases was reported from the community after 99 consecutive days from the last community case (16 Apr). An index case was detected from the SVP surveillance in a central coastal tourist city of Da Nang.
- Thirty-seven (37) health care workers (HCWs) have been infected, including four from the previous wave. No deaths have been reported so far. To date, at least 36 clusters have been recorded. No new cases among HCWs were detected during past week.
- From the last report (27 Aug), from 28 Aug to 3 Sep, 10 new laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including 5 deaths. Of the cases reported, 7 were imported and 3 were locally transmitted cases.
- A cluster of cases in the Northern province of Hai Duong: starting from the first case (#751) who was detected in a hospital in Ha Noi on 6 Aug. Since then, 14 cases have been identified among his close contacts, including his co-workers from the same restaurant and its customers in Hai Duong city. To date, no cases have been detected among almost 800 other contacts related to the hospitals and train station in Hai Duong after 20 days. However, after 8 days without additional cases reported in Hai Duong, on 2 Sep, a new COVID-19 case was reported from Gia Loc district of Hai Duong province (a 72-year-old male retiree, case #1045) with no clear epidemiological links identified so far, even though the patient had been reported to have commuted once in a while between his home district and Hai Duong city from early July to date. The patient is currently being treated at the National Hospital of Tropical Disease, facility No.2 (NHTD #2) in Ha Noi. More than 120 contacts (including 24 F1 and 99 F2) have been identified and are under monitoring; samples were collected and all tested negative so far. The patient's residential commune (about 36 households of more than 130 people) has been put under lockdown from 2 Sep.

##### - **Da Nang-related community outbreak**

- From 25 Jul to 3 Sep, 551 locally transmitted cases were reported from 15 cities/provinces across the country, with Da Nang and Quang Nam provinces being the most heavily affected (see *Figure 3*). Approximately 98% of cases were either related to major hospitals in Da Nang city or have a history of visiting Da Nang.
- Da Nang general hospital is the epicentre of the ongoing outbreak with at least 246 cases reported among inpatients, care givers and HCWs, mainly from Internal Nephrology dept, ICU, Internal Neurology dept., and others. Cases have also been reported in the community among close contacts of hospital-related cases, including those who had visited Da Nang in July. At least 28 family-related clusters have been reported to have two to six household members per cluster.

- 35 deaths (3.3%) have been reported. 767 (73%) have recovered, and the remaining cases are under treatment in 20 health care facilities (HCFs) across the country. Among the 244 cases under treatment, 10 cases (4%) are either severe or critical in ICUs (3 cases requiring ECMO, 4 cases requiring invasive ventilation and 3 cases requiring oxygen support); 11 cases (4.5%) are with severe prognosis and 223 cases (91.5%) are mild or asymptomatic.
- Of the 35 deaths, 31 were from Da Nang, 3 from Quang Nam and 1 from Quang Tri province. Their ages range from 28 to 93 years old. The majority of them had long-term chronic diseases and comorbidities, such as end-stage renal failure, heart failure, hypertension, DM2, malignancy, etc.
- A total of 61,968 people are under monitoring; 998 of whom are being quarantined in health care facilities; 15,619 are in centralized quarantine facilities; and 45,351 are under self-/home-quarantine.
- MOH and partners to making continued efforts to enable capacity for widespread testing. As of the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, there were 122 laboratories capable of testing for COVID-19 by RT-PCR. The maximum daily capacity in the country was 34,000 tests. In addition, official guidelines for pool testing have been issued by the Ministry of Health to further increase throughput. However, shortages in laboratory testing reagents are being reported by laboratories. The Ministry of Health is currently still revising the national laboratory testing strategy in light of the current situation and guidance for laboratory preparation and use of VTM is being drafted. In Ha Noi, 4 major laboratories have been mobilized to support RT-PCR testing (Bach Mai hospital, National Paediatric hospital, NIHE and National Hospital of Tropical Diseases).
- As of 19 Aug, more than 500,000 people nationwide who reported having history of travel to/from Da Nang from 1-28 July have been under monitoring. Of those, 333,173 people have been tested and almost 280,000 (83%) were negative.
- From 27 Jul to 3 Sep, almost 573,000 samples (56.7%) have been tested out of the total of more than one million rRT-PCR tests conducted in country from the beginning of the outbreak. Da Nang alone had conducted 127,340 tests.
- The source of infection is yet to be concluded; investigations continue with aggressive contact tracing, quarantine, hospital lockdowns, social distancing measures being applied in areas where cases are reported. Lockdowns have been lifted for various hospitals and communities. In particular, Da Nang general hospital's lockdown was lifted on 25 Aug. See *NPI Table* and *Annex 1* for more details on key public health interventions along the outbreak timeline.
- The outbreaks in Da Nang and its neighbouring province of Quang Nam have been under control. It has been 6 days since the last community case reported in Da Nang, and 14 days for Quang Nam.
- Communications to the public have focused on providing updates on outbreak situation and government actions, including stories on the ground, promoting protective measures and countering rumours and misinformation. Communication channels are also being utilized to support contact tracing.

## Recent/ Upcoming Events and Priorities

- WHO continues dialogues with the Government of Viet Nam and provides support for making balanced decisions in view of the ongoing community transmission and socioeconomic impact by COVID-19. It is also important to pay due attention to other routine and priority activities, including responses to the current botulism event (due to consumption of vegan paté) and other ongoing and potential outbreaks, such as diphtheria, dengue, etc.
- 14 Aug 2020 - WHO team was invited to the Expert Consultation meeting organized by the Viet Nam Association of Preventive Medicine (VAPM) and the Office of the Government to provide updated information on COVID-19 and to discuss pandemic trends, phylogenetics, drug and vaccine development. Attendants were national and international partners including MoH, NIHE, VAPM, WHO, US CDC, Japan Tropical Medicine Institute, OUCRU.
- 6 Aug: Laboratory technical working group was held by VAMS to draft guidelines for pooled laboratory testing for COVID-19.



- WHO continues to work closely with MOH to provide TA in strengthening COVID-19 preparedness and response capacity. This includes strengthening surveillance system via incorporating multisource surveillance; training and implementing Go.Data to support outbreak investigation and contact tracing; conducting after-action reviews; strengthening case management and IPC in HCFs; updating national technical guidelines; procuring necessary equipment and reagents; working with other development partners to ensure better capacity and strategy for laboratory testing; supporting ongoing discussion on COVID-19 vaccine development, effective communication in response to the current situation and in preparation for a possible wider community transmission.

## National Transmission Assessment

### 2-Localized community transmission

The current community outbreak has reported a total of 551 locally transmitted cases in 15 cities/ provinces between 25 Jul and 3 Sep. Da Nang General Hospital is the epicentre of this outbreak where cases have been reported among patients, caregivers, visitors and HCWs. Thirty-seven (37) HCWs have been infected in this outbreak, no additional cases reported in the past 7 days. While most of the cases were linked with Da Nang, at least 19 cases had unknown epi links and resulted in additional cases and clusters among their families and close contacts, including the newly case reported from another district in Hai Duong province whose has unknown epi links identified so far. In addition, there have been recently a couple of cases among Vietnamese citizens who were detected in Japan and ROK and without clear epi links. These indicate on-going community transmission, albeit limited, and the risk of community transmission is still possible. It is therefore expected that additional sporadic cases from community might be reported in in coming days as surveillance is being heightened. Additional deaths should also be anticipated in the coming days given the remaining number of critical patients in ICUs.

## Epidemiology

### Epi Update COVID-19

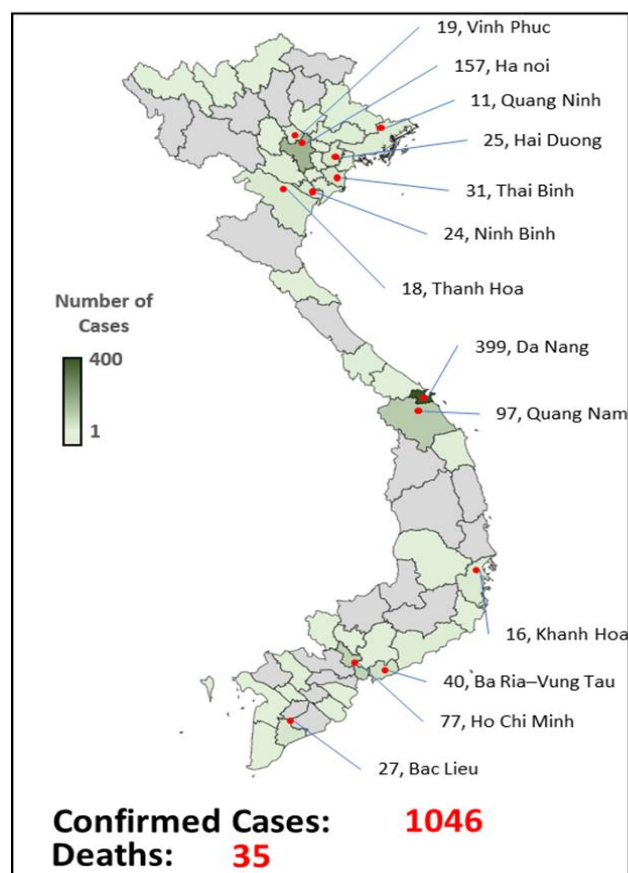
Tests	Cases	Deaths	ICU Admissions
<b>59,371</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b> (TBC)
NAT Tests past 7days (-48% 7-day)	New cases past 7days (-65.5% 7-day)	Deaths past 7days (-0% 7-day)	ICU Admissions past 7days (-43% 7-day)
<b>993,751</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>57</b> (TBC)
Cumulative NAT Tests	Cumulative Cases	Cumulative Deaths	Cumulative ICU Admissions

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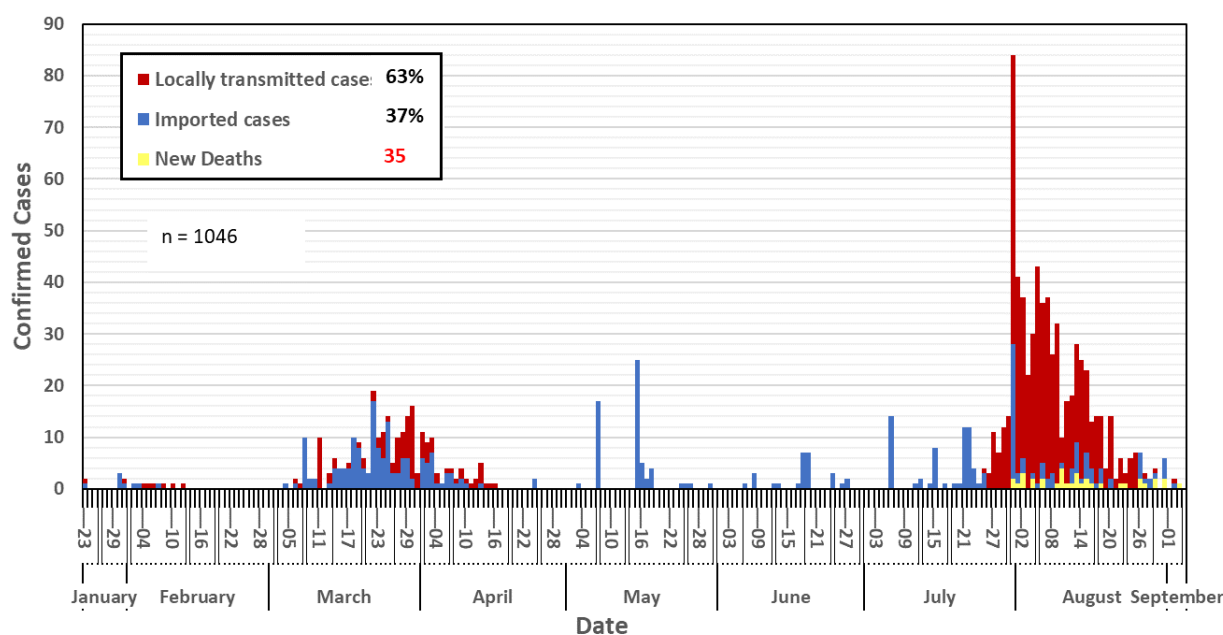
<b>14%</b>	<b>19 (at least)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>
Imported Cases in past 28 days (78)	Cases in past 28 days with no link (19)	Active Clusters	Active clusters with >3 generations

### Health Service Provision COVID-19

<b>Most of national hospital staff</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>900</b>
Health care workers trained in COVID19 Case Management	Healthcare worker cases reported past week	Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients past week	ICU beds for COVID-19 patients (out of approx. 3,500 beds nationwide)	Non-ICU Hospital beds for COVID-19 patients (estimated from 2 field hospitals: Hoa Vang 200; Da Nang: 500)

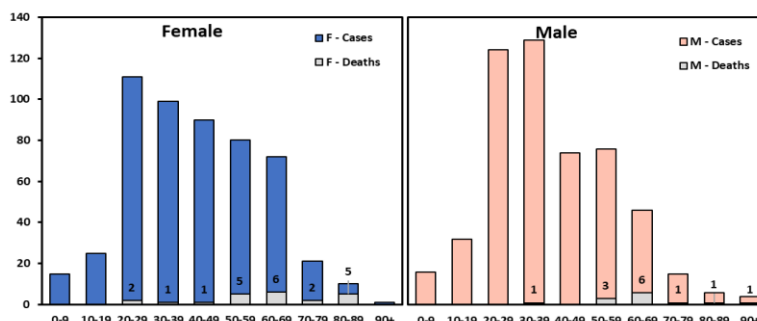


**Figure 1.** Distribution of cumulative COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases by place of detection, Viet Nam

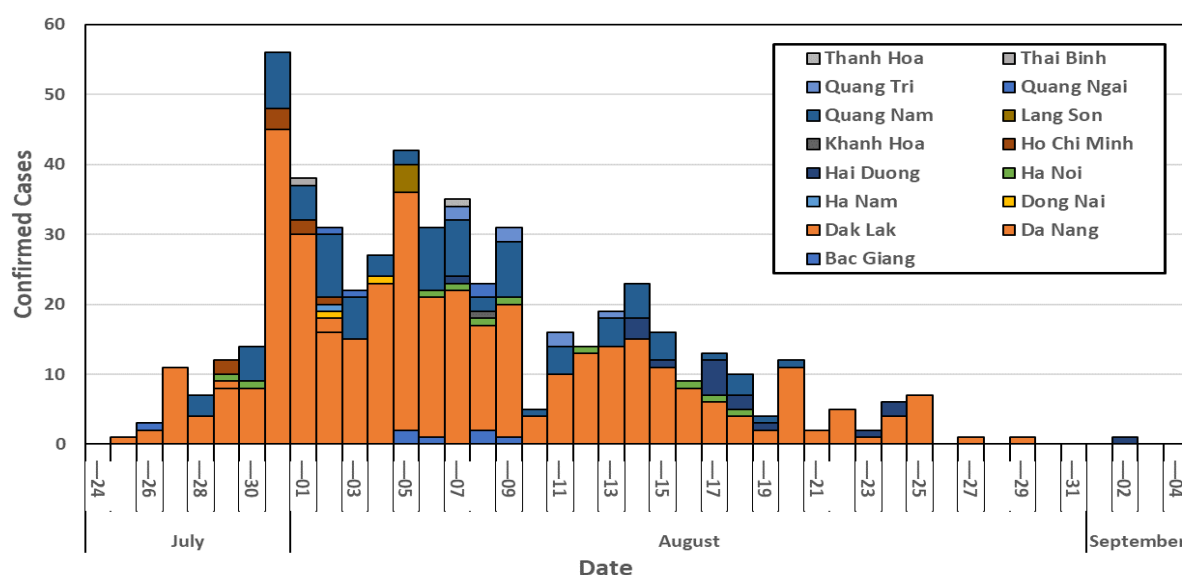


**Figure 2.** Epidemic curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases, Viet Nam, by date of reporting

Age Group	Female		Male	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
0-9	15 (0)	0 (0)	16 (0)	0 (0)
10-19	25 (0)	0 (0)	32 (0)	0 (0)
20-29	111 (2)	2 (1)	124 (2)	0 (0)
30-39	99 (0)	1 (0)	129 (3)	1 (0)
40-49	90 (0)	1 (0)	74 (0)	0 (0)
50-59	80 (0)	5 (0)	76 (1)	3 (1)
60-69	72 (0)	6 (1)	46 (1)	6 (1)
70-79	21 (0)	2 (0)	15 (1)	1 (0)
80-89	10 (0)	5 (1)	6 (0)	1 (0)
90+	1 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)	1 (0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>524 (2)</b>	<b>22 (3)</b>	<b>522 (8)</b>	<b>13 (2)</b>



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



**Figure 3. Distribution of locally transmitted COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases in Viet Nam, by province, 25 July – 3 September**

## Strategic Approach

### National and Provincial Public Health Response

In January 2020, the Government of Viet Nam rapidly issued the first national response plan and assembled the National Steering Committee to implement this plan. The National Steering Committee 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 has remained the same in the response to the ongoing outbreak, taking into account a more complex nature of community transmission this time. Active mobilization of human resources from central and regional levels (leaders, professional experts), supply and equipment (testing machines, lab testing reagents and consumables, ventilators, masks, disinfectants, etc.) and logistic support to Da Nang.

## 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 continues to be demonstrated in the ongoing response to the resurgence of cases in the community. 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 response to COVID-19.

## Best Practice/Lessons Learned

### 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.

## Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

### Narrative Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions

Viet Nam instituted a gradual roll-out of comprehensive non-pharmaceutical public health interventions 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 remained close except for specific circumstances. The 14-day centralized quarantine policy continues to be applied to both incoming Vietnamese and foreign travellers who will stay in the country for 14 days or more.

On 31 August 2020, MOH issued official letter #4674 on guidance for prevention of COVID-19 for foreigners coming to Viet Nam to work for less than 14 days. The letter states that centralized quarantine for those entering Viet Nam to work for less than 14 days is no longer required. However, they need to comply with measures, such as having SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR negative test results from a recognized laboratory 3-5 days prior to entry to Viet Nam, staying in designated hotels/residences, having samples taken for testing upon arrival in designated hotel/residences, and ensuring that their health insurance will cover treatment costs in case they need treatment in Viet Nam.



As of 3 Sep, no further locally transmitted cases have been reported at least in the last 14 days in 10 provinces. Thus, 10 community lockdowns have been lifted in those provinces, including Dak Lak, Dong Nai, Thai Binh, Quang Ngai, Lang Son, Bac Giang, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Ha Nam and Thanh Hoa.

Comprehensive communication activities being implemented nationwide with messages focusing on practicing preventive measures, including hand hygiene, mask wearing, limiting going to crowds and nonessential outdoor activities, etc.

NPI	Monitoring status					
	Date first implemented	Date last modified	Implementation		Partial lift	Lifted
			Geographical (national or sub-national)	Recommended or Required	Lifted for some area	Lifted for all areas
Wearing Face Masks, Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette	31 Jan		National	Recommended Required: 16 Mar-7 May	No	No
School Closure	22 Jan		-	-	4 May	11 May
	28 Jul		Sub- national: Da Nang	Required		
Workplace Closure	1 Apr	1 June	Sub-national	Required	15 Apr	23 Apr
	28 Jul		Sub national: Da Nang	Required		
Mass Gatherings	31 Jan	None	National	Required		7 May
	27 Jul	4 Aug	Sub-national: Da Nang, Hue, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Ha Noi, Dong Nai, Thai Binh, Ha Nam, Lam Dong, Hai Duong, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh	Required		
Stay at Home	1 Apr	None	National	Required	15 Apr	21 Apr
	28 Jul	28 Aug	Sub-national: Da Nang, Hai Duong City of Hai Duong province	Required	15 Aug: Que Son Dist., Quang Nam province 17 Aug: Bien Hoa & Ban Me Thuot cities. 28 Aug: 4 remaining districts in Quang Nam	
Restrictions on Internal Movement (within country)	1 Apr	None	National	Required	15 Apr	23 Apr
	28 Jul	28 Aug	Sub-national: Da Nang, Hai Duong City. Health declaration applied in HCMC for visitors from 6 community outbreak cities/provinces	Required	15 Aug: Que Son Dist., Quang Nam province 17 Aug: Bien Hoa & Ban Me Thuot cities. 28 Aug: 4 remaining districts in Quang Nam	
Restrictions on International Travel	China: 25 Jan; all countries: 22 Mar	22 March	National	Required	No	No



Communities/ hospital lock down	28 Jul	2 Sep	Da Nang, HCMC, Ha Noi, Ha Nam, Khanh Hoa, and Hai Duong	Required	17 Aug: Dak Lak and Dong Nai 20 Aug: Thai Binh province 21 Aug: Hoan My Hospital in Da Nang 25 Aug: Da Nang General Hospital; and Quang Ngai province 26 Aug: Lang Son province and Phu Ly Dist., Ha Nam province. 29 Aug: Bac Giang and Quang Tri provinces 1 Sep: Quang Nam province 2 Sep: Thanh Hoa province.	No
Others; specify in narrative: Centralized Quarantine entry people	Hubei China: 7 Feb. All countries: 21 Mar	None	-	Required	No	No

## Annexes

### Annex 1 – Key public health interventions on COVID-19, January – 3 September 2020

