



## Viet Nam COVID-19 Situation Report #32

7 March 2021

Report as of 7 March 2021, 18:00

### Situation Summary

#### Highlights of Current Situation Report

- Since the new community outbreaks emerged in country which initiated from Hai Duong and Quang Ninh provinces on 25 Jan, by 7 March **892 locally transmitted cases** have been reported from thirteen **(13) cities/ provinces** across the country (no additional provinces reported in past 7 days). These include: Hai Duong (708); Quang Ninh (61), HCMC (36), Ha Noi (34), Gia Lai (27), Binh Duong (6), Bac Ninh (5), Hai Phong (4), Dien Bien (3), Hung Yen (3), Hoa Binh (2), Bac Giang (2), and Ha Giang (1). See *Figures 1* and *2* for Epi curve of the current outbreak and case distribution by province.
- **Eleven (11) out of 13 provinces have not reported additional cases in at least past 21 days.**
- **Lockdown, social distancing lifted; schools reopened; nonessential services resumed in various provinces/ areas** including Ha Noi, HCMC, Hai Phong, Hai Duong. Of notes:
  - From 3 March, Hai Duong province lifted lockdown in Chi Linh City and Cam Giang District. However, precautions measures will be continued to apply. The outbreak hotspot in Cam Giang district is under control. additional cases continued to be reported even though with a down trend from 6 district hotspots (Cam Giang district, Chi Linh city, Hai Duong city, Kim Mon, Tu Ky and latest district of Kim Thanh). All the new cases were either among F1 contacts of existing cases or within the lockdown areas during this week.
  - By 2 March, schools (from kindergarten to high school) have reopened in most provinces across the country. By 8 March, schools reopened in Hai Phong; universities, colleges and vocational schools will also be gradually reopened. However strict prevention and control measures to be applied.
  - Starting from 06:01 am of 3 March, lockdown was lifted for Van Don International airport. Viet Nam Airlines re-operated Van Don – Tan Son Nhat flights from 3 March.
- **Majority of the cases either asymptomatic (81.4%) or with mild symptoms (15%),** the remaining 18 cases (3.6%) are severe or with severe prognosis and one case in a critical condition.
- **Sub-national transmission assessment<sup>1</sup>:**
  - ✓ Two provinces are in Stage 2 – Localized community transmission (Hai Duong and Quang Ninh): cases with unknown/ unclear epi links.
  - ✓ Four provinces are in Stage 1 – Imported transmission (Ha Noi, HCMC, Gia Lai and Hai Phong): cases reported in these provinces were imported from either Hai Duong or Quang Ninh, so far, transmission is still within 3 generations, and have not passed at least 28 days without new cases reported. There are no clear signals of locally acquired transmission.
  - ✓ 7 remaining provinces have moved to Stage 0 – No transmission: no additional cases reported for at least 28 days and no clear signals of community transmission.
- As of 7 Mar Feb, **Viet Nam has reported 2,512 laboratory confirmed cases including 35 deaths (PFC 1.4%); 1,933 cases (77%) have recovered.**
- Currently **45,419 people are under quarantine** of which 505 are quarantine at HCFs, 14 669 are in centralized quarantine (including hotels), and 30,245 are under home quarantine.
- The Government is now preparing for a biggest ever COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The Ministry of Health will mobilize all resources to carry out COVID-19 vaccinations to ensure absolute safety for people.
- **COVID-19 vaccine** (recently-imported product of AstraZeneca) will be given starting from 8 March: 3 priority locations include Hai Duong, National Hospital of Tropical Diseases – facility #2 (HTD #2) in Ha Noi and Hospital of Tropical Diseases (HTD) in HCMC.

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

**Other ongoing response includes:**

- 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).
- Fast and vigorous- whole system activated on 27 night: NSC met, VC meetings with 2 provinces
- 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**.
- Rapid case investigation with fast, thorough contact tracing (up to F3 & F4 of two index cases)
- Sent national expert teams to Hai Duong, Quang Ninh, Dien Bien, Gia Lai to support local response.
- A series of Government directions released, such as MOH telegrams, Prime Minister's Directive No.05; also at subnational levels.
- Centralized quarantine and community lockdown require 21 days instead of the previous practice of 14 days
- Targeted community lockdown based on outbreak situation and risk assessment.
- Reactivated technical teams at central level (contact tracing, information & rapid response, communication) to coordinate and support local response.
- Reactivated/ strengthened community COVID teams at all levels.
- Enhancing surveillance and testing, even up to F3 contacts in hotspots, test all presented with fever and cough
  - ✓ Mass testing approach is being followed using different strategies including targeted testing of higher risk groups as well as random testing of households and inpatients. Wide testing is aiming 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.1.17 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 CAL.20C which has been circulating primarily in South Korea, Sri Lanka, India, and Taiwan, so far not reported as a highly contagious variant. This is 5th variant identified and for the first time in Viet Nam, to date.
  - ✓ Full genome sequencing of the Japanese deceased case in Ha Noi revealed variant CAL.20C.
- Enhancing surveillance and testing – more than 992,000 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. On 28 Feb, field hospital #1 in Hai Duong has been disbanded.
- **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.
- Timely and transparent communication and risk communication activities.

### Update from past 7 days:

- **From 1 – 7 Mar 2021, 64 new laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported (decrease 1.5% compared to last week);** of those **67.2% were locally transmitted** cases, and without any additional deaths. There were 21 imported cases during the week of those 17 cases were Vietnamese citizens returning from Cambodia.
- During the week, number of RT-PCR conducted daily was approximately 30,000 tests, bringing **total number of tests conducted to 2,598,753 since the beginning of the outbreak.**
- **As of 7 Mar 2021, Viet Nam has reported a total of 2,512 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  $\approx$  1.4%) (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 2,512 cases, 959 cases (38.2%) are imported. About 93.5% are Vietnamese (see *Figure 3*).
  - The ages of cases range from 2 months to 100 years old. About 59.4% of all cases are in the 30-69 years old group, 3.2% above 70 years old, and the remaining 37.4% under 30 years old. The proportion of male vs female is around 49.3% vs 50.7%. (See *Table 1*).
  - Approx. 182 clusters have been recorded including from households, schools, workplaces, bus/train stations and 25 clusters are currently active which are relate to the ongoing community outbreaks in 13 cities/ provinces.
- MOH moved their special standing unit from HCMC to Hai Duong to support local response.
- 24-25 Feb: IHR/NFPs of Viet Nam and Cambodia have been in communication regarding the 2 cases of Vietnamese female workers who illegally entered Cambodia and now came back to Viet Nam through Moc Bai border gat in Tay Ninh province and tested positive while in quarantine. Case 1413 (reported on 25 Feb) and case 1421 (reported on 26 Feb). Further investigation is ongoing.
- **Other Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs)**
  - *Details before 26 Feb: refer to previous reports*
  - 26 Feb-Hanoi: The Ha Noi SC requests the City DOH to direct random testing for workers at industrial zones, and areas with many foreigners stay and work (no further details yet).
  - 28 Feb: Hanoi lifted lockdown 2 last areas including Somerset hotel, and Do Ha village - Me Linh district.
  - 1 Mar:
    - Community lockdown:
      - Dong Thap: suspension of festivals, entertainment services in 3 districts: Hong Ngu city, Hong Ngu district, and Tan Hong district.
      - HCMC: reopened tourist activities, restaurants, wholesale markets, museums, and sport activities but ensuring 1-meter minimum distance; <30 people allowed in restaurants; re-opened cultural events ensuring 1-meter distance and < 50 people.
      - Hai Phong: reopened restaurants, coffee shops and some entertainment services
    - School closure:
      - Dong Thap: schools in the three above mentioned districts closed from 1-6 Mar
      - HCMC: school reopened
  - 2 Mar: Ha Noi reopened school, restaurants and coffee shops
  - 3 Mar:
    - Social distancing
      - Starting 0:00: Lifted lockdown in Chi Linh City and lifted social distancing in Hai Duong province. However, the resident areas/communes with COVID-19 reported cases that have not passed 14 days since the last case reported are still under lockdown
      - ✓ Four districts in Hai Duong (Hai Duong City, Kinh Mon, Cam Giang and Kim Thanh districts) apply prevention measures as per the PM's Directive No.15 including:
        - Suspension of non-essential services/businesses and mass gatherings,
        - Applying physical distance of 2 meters when contact with others, and
        - Limitation of movements

- ✓ The remaining eight districts apply the prevention measures of the PM's Directive No.19 including:
  - Suspension of festivals, religious, and sports activities with mass gathering,
  - Suspension of entertainment services,
  - Reopen non-essential services shops, restaurant, hotels with ensure prevention measures, and
  - Re-operate public transportation
- Lifted Van Don international airport, Quang Ninh province
- School closure: Hai Phong plans to reopen school on 8 Mar
- Travel restriction: Most of provinces apply health declaration, testing and home or centralized quarantine for people who returned from Hai Duong and outbreak areas. See Annex 5 for more details.
- 8 Mar: Hai Phong: schools reopen. Hanoi proposes universities gradually reopen starting from 15 Mar
- **Incoming and exit travellers: from 6 PM 5 Mar – 6 PM 6 Mar**
  - Through ground crossing:
    - Viet Nam -China: Immigrants: 1,401 (1,347 legal, 54 illegal), emigrants: 1,339
    - Viet Nam- Laos: Immigrants: 1,209 (1,208 legal, 1 illegal), emigrants: 1,353
    - Viet Nam -Cambodia: Immigrants: 42 (18 legal, 24 illegal), emigrants: 25
  - Through airlines:
    - Foreigners: Immigrants: 690, emigrants: 208
    - Vietnamese: Immigrants: 424, emigrants: 419
    - Number of immigrants and emigrants some main countries
      - ✓ ROK: immigrants: 27, emigrants: 79
      - ✓ Japan: immigrants: 1, emigrants: 39
      - ✓ USA: immigrants: 1, emigrants: 3
      - ✓ Schengen countries: immigrants: 110, emigrants: 20
- **Case management:**
  - **1,933 cases (77%) have recovered.** One patient (case #1823) is critical condition (in the current outbreak). Case #1536 (previously reported) has improved and discontinued ECMO.
  - The remaining patients are being treated at: 255 in Hai Duong field hospital #2 (1 oxygen prongs; 11 severe prognose; 243 asymptomatic & mild); 106 in Hai Duong field hospital #3 (all asymptomatic or with mild symptoms); 28 in Quang Ninh field hospital #2; 17 in Gia Lai general hospital; 6 in Cu Chi field hospital; 33 in NHTD #2; other hospitals have one to nine patients. Majority of the patients are asymptomatic (81.4%), about 15% have mild symptoms and 3.6% with severe or severe prognosis.
  - **MoH updated the guideline on health care for COVID-19 patient in HCFs**
  - Other health sector response:
    - ✓ The field hospital #2 Hai Duong has increased beds capacity to 650 beds to meet the demand
    - ✓ 28 Feb: Field hospital #1 in Hai Duong was disbanded
    - ✓ Bach Mai hospital, NHTD and Cho Ray hospital continued to support clinical capacity, IPC, and testing capacity for Hai Duong.
    - ✓ Two more field hospitals established: hospital # 3 in Hai Duong with max 300 beds. Total COVID-19 patient beds in Hai Duong is now 900 beds, with maximum capacity of 1200 beds.
    - ✓ Dien Bien has completed establishment of a field hospital of 300 beds, 30 ICU beds with sufficient medical equipment, including an ECMO system located in Health Center of Dien Bien Phu city with support from Bach Mai hospital.
    - ✓ The field hospital in Gia Lai is being established with support from Cho Ray hospital
    - ✓ MoH has mobilized clinical experts from Bach Mai, Da Nang, and Cho Ray hospitals to support for Gia Lai and Dien Bien
    - ✓ Sub-commitment on treatment of MoH has regularly hold VC to discuss on treatment and clinical management to field hospitals

○ **Numbers of quarantine:**

- **A total of approximately 45,419 people are currently placed under quarantine.** Of those 505 were quarantined in HCFs; 14,669 were centralized quarantined; and 30,245 were under self-/home quarantine.
- **Cumulatively:** from beginning of the outbreak to date, a total of **more than 14 million people have been placed under quarantine.**

**Risk communication**

○ **Government response**

- Infographics on priority groups for vaccination were released before the campaign kicked off on March 8.
- The survey on vaccine perception with UNICEF was conducted.
- DPM asked everyone to remain vigilant even when vaccines are available.

○ **WHO actions**

- Continues social media ads on prevention messages
- Q&A on Astra Zeneca vaccine

○ **Social listening highlights**

- Some people are wondering if it is too early to lift the lockdown of Hai Duong.
- The upcoming vaccine roll out has been met with a great amount of optimism and positivity from the public.

**Other key updates (in past 7 days)**

- **The first batch of 117,600 doses of Oxford/AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine arrived in HCMC's Tan Son Nhat Airport on 24 Feb.** The containers, delivered on a Korean Air flight KE351 (using Boeing cargo plane B77L) from Seoul, South Korea (SK Bioscience is one of the three global producers of the AstraZeneca vaccines), were disinfected then transported to specialised cold chain storage facility run by Vietnam Vaccine Joint Stock Company (VNVC). It has been permitted by the Ministry of Health to receive, preserve and distribute COVID-19 vaccines across the country.
- **24 Feb - MOH has met with WHO and UNICEF Viet Nam to discuss about vaccine rollout plan.**
- **Rollout plan - MOH revealed its vaccine rollout plan, designating 11 priority groups to be given the first jabs:** medical workers; people directly involved anti-pandemic efforts (COVID-19 prevention and control steering committees of all levels, quarantine facility staff, reporters, etc.); diplomats, customs officers and people working entry and exit procedures; military personnel; public security forces; teachers; elders above 65 years old; essential service workers (aviation, transport, tourism staff, utility workers, etc.); people with chronic health issues; people who want to study or work overseas; and people in virus-hit regions.

**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)
- This weekly external report follows the normal pattern of epidemiological week (i.e. from Mon to Sun)
- Internal Sitrep publishing frequency was down to 2 times this week (23 and 25 Feb). Next week will be issued on Thu 4 March.
- Working with VAMS to compile provincial request for PPE
- Through support from WPRO, WHO CO handed over 25,800 specimen collection kits to NIHE, to support ongoing outbreak response.
- The MOH has requested support for approximately 200,000 primers and probes and 300,000 further specimen collection kits. WHO CO working with WPRO and HQ on this request.

## Transmission Stage Assessment

**Overall assessment** – the recent community outbreaks emerged after 57 days since the last locally transmitted case was reported. Between 25 Jan and 3 March, **892 cases have been reported from 13 cities/ provinces**. Even though majority of cases were linked to the two initial outbreak spots in Hai Duong and Quang Ninh, there were cases with unknown or unclear epidemiological links reported especially in Hai Duong, HCMC, Gia Lai and Ha Noi. **Hai Duong remains the only province continues to have cases reported during past weeks** though daily number declined, but **no clear signals of a large-scale community transmission** observed. Eleven out of 12 remaining provinces had no new cases reported in at least past 20 days. Hai Phong reported the last case 13 days ago. By 8 Mar, most lockdown and social distancing measures have been lifted; schools and universities have reopened. An **increasing number has been observed of both legal and illegal border crossers from Cambodia to Viet Nam since last week of February**. As enhanced border patrol, surveillance and testing has been implemented along Cambodia-Viet Nam border in Dong Thap, An Giang, Kien Giang, Tay Ninh, there is an **increased number of imported cases reported from Cambodia** (23 cases between 22 Feb to 7 Mar). For the past 7 days, 17/21 imported cases were from Cambodia, mainly through Tay Ninh and Kien Giang.

Given the continued efforts in enhanced surveillance including border surveillance and testing, contact tracing, additional cases, both from community (especially in Hai Duong) and imported cases (notably through borders with Cambodia) are expected in coming days.

### Sub-national level\*

| City/ province | No. of cases reported, as of 21 Feb 2021 | Transmission Stage Assessment | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hai Duong      | 708                                      | 2                             | Mostly related to POYUN company (79%). Unknown/ unclear epi links cases in other 6 clusters (Chi Linh City, Hai Duong City, Cam Giang, Kim Mon, Ba Sach, Kim Thanh Districts). Source of infection for index case (#1552) remains unknown. During past 7 days, 46 new cases were reported, of those 43 cases were among F1 contacts and 3 cases from lockdown areas of Kim Dinh commune, Kim Thanh Dist. from 2 March. |
| Quang Ninh     | 61                                       | 2                             | Basically, under control. All cases linked with POYUN company or Van Don airport. Source of infection for index case (#1553) remains unknown. No additional cases reported in past 26 days.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| HCMC           | 36                                       | 1                             | Unknown epi links in Tan Son Nhat airport staff case. No additional cases reported in past 29 days. No signals of ongoing locally acquired transmission → move to Stage 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Ha Noi         | 34                                       | 1                             | All three clusters with known epi links. Transmission within 3 generations. Source of transmission for the recent Japanese deceased case is still under investigation. No additional cases reported in past 20 days. Ongoing monitoring while NPIs gradually being lifted.                                                                                                                                             |
| Gia Lai        | 27                                       | 1                             | One case remains with unknown epi links. No additional cases reported in past 31 days (28 Feb - one case turned positive after one week from discharge – still under monitoring).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Binh Duong     | 6                                        | 0                             | All cases linked with Hai Duong. No additional cases reported in past 28 days → move back to Stage 0.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Bac Ninh       | 5                                        | 0                             | All cases with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 30 days → move back to Stage 0.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Dien Bien      | 3                                        | 0                             | All cases with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 37 days → move back to Stage 0.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Hai Phong      | 4                                        | 1                             | Case with clear epi links. Three new cases reported including 2 nurses from Transport hospital in Hai Phong city from previous week, linked with Cam Giang, Hai Duong. No new cases reported in past 13 days. Still under monitoring.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Hoa Binh       | 2                                        | 0                             | All cases with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 42 days → move back to Stage 0.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Hung Yen       | 3                                        | 0                             | All cases with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 33 days → move back to Stage 0.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Bac Giang      | 2                                        | 0                             | All cases with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 39 days → move back to Stage 0.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Ha Giang       | 1                                        | 0                             | Case with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 39 days → move back to Stage 0.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>892</b>                               |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |





**\*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

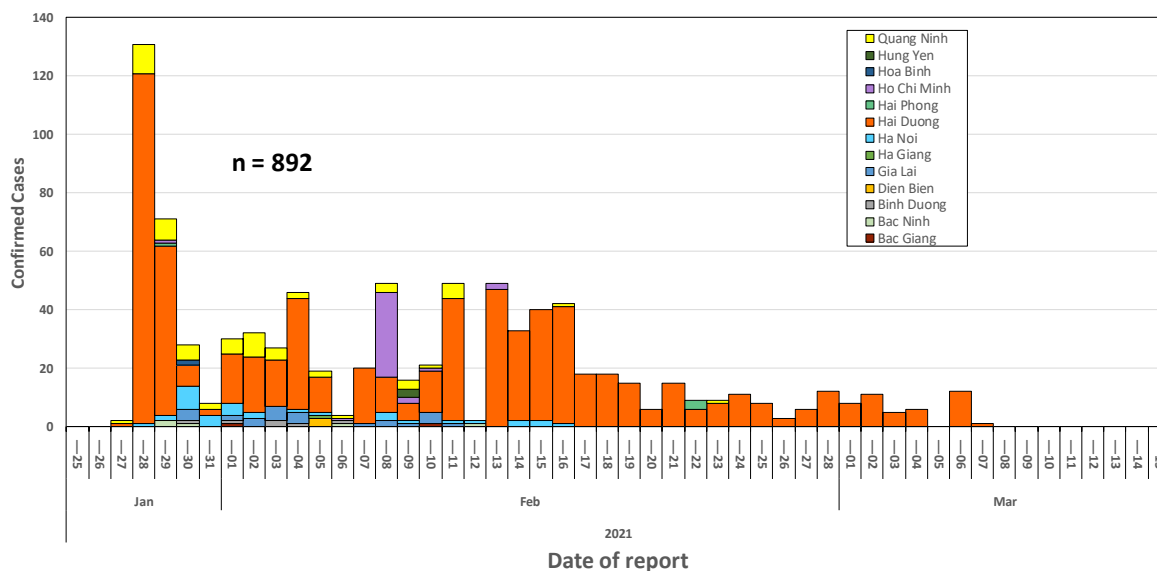
| Tests                                  | Cases                                 | Deaths                          | ICU Admissions                                |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>214,657</b>                         | <b>64</b>                             | <b>0</b>                        | <b>0</b>                                      |
| NAT Tests past 7 days<br>(-1.4% 7-day) | New cases past 7days<br>(-1.5% 7-day) | Deaths past 7days<br>(-% 7-day) | ICU Admissions past 7days<br>(+0 cases 7-day) |
| <b>2,598,753</b>                       | <b>2,512</b>                          | <b>35</b>                       | <b>60</b> (TBC)                               |
| Cumulative NAT Tests                   | Cumulative Cases                      | Cumulative Deaths               | Cumulative ICU Admissions                     |

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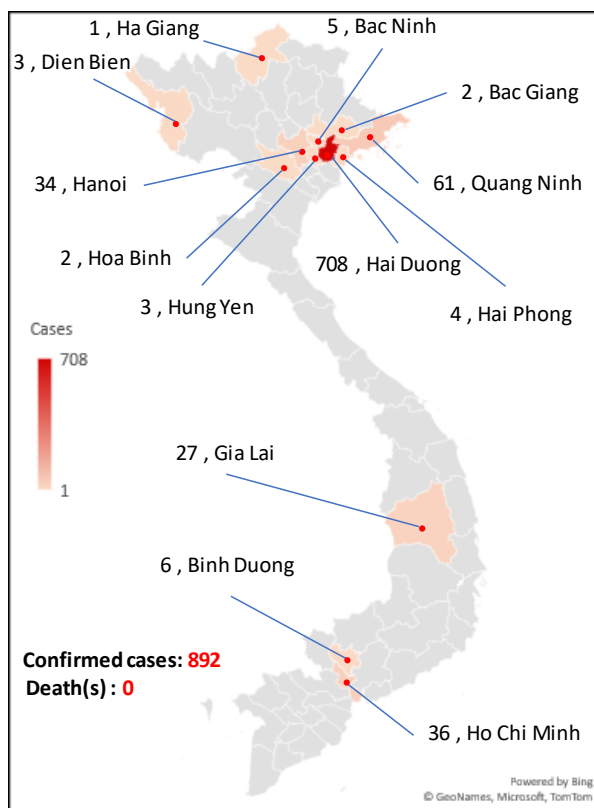
|                                        |                                             |                 |                                        |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>7.2%</b>                            | <b>511</b>                                  | <b>25</b> (TBU) | <b>0</b>                               |
| Imported Cases in past 28<br>days (37) | Cases in past 28 days<br>with no link (TBU) | Active Clusters | Active clusters with<br>>3 generations |

### Health Service Provision COVID-19

|                                                                 |                                                  |                                                       |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Most of<br/>national<br/>hospital<br/>staff</b>              | <b>0</b>                                         | <b>64</b>                                             | <b>371</b>                                                                                                                                    | <b>0</b> (TBD)                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Health care<br>workers trained<br>in COVID19 Case<br>Management | Healthcare worker<br>cases reported past<br>week | Hospitals admitting<br>COVID-19 patients<br>past week | ICU beds for COVID-<br>19 patients<br>(estimated in 6<br>currently affected<br>provinces)<br><br>(out of approx.<br>3,500 beds<br>nationwide) | Non-ICU Hospital<br>beds for COVID-19<br>patients<br><br>(Six field hospitals<br>established: 3 in<br>Hai Duong, 1 each<br>in Quang Ninh,<br>Dien Bien, Gia Lai.<br><br>28 Feb - Hai Duong<br>field hospital #1<br>disbanded) |

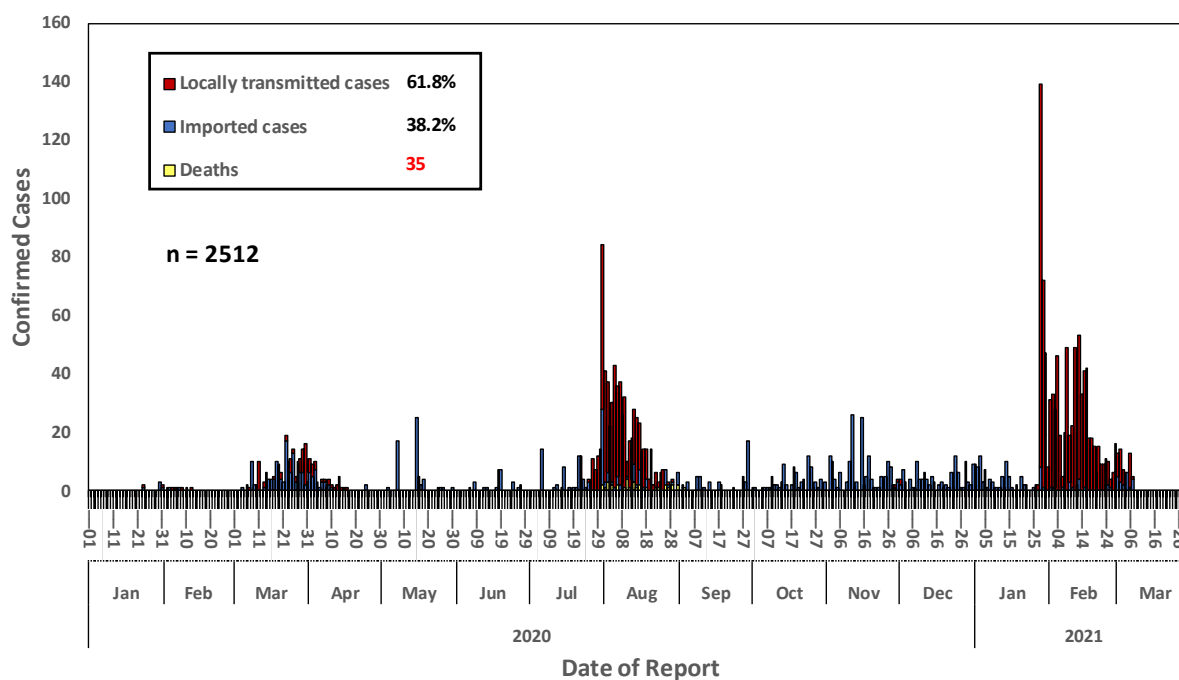


**Figure 1. Epidemic curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases by date of reporting, current outbreak, Viet Nam, as of 7 Mar 2021**

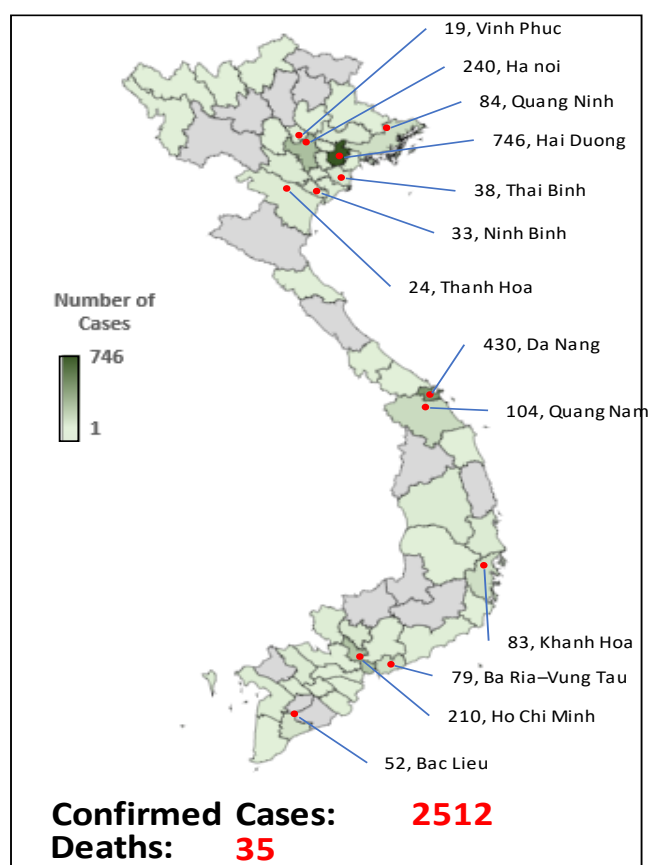


**Figure 2. Distribution of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases by place of detection, current outbreak, Viet Nam, as of 7 Mar 2021**



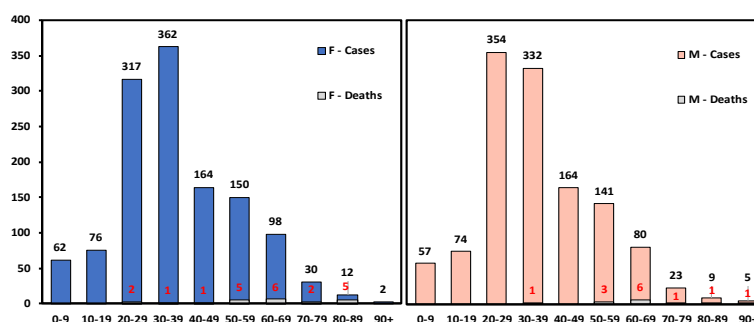


**Figure 3. Epidemic curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases, Viet Nam, by date of reporting**



**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          | 62 (3)           | 0 (0)         | 57 (4)           | 0 (0)         |
| 10-19        | 76 (0)           | 0 (0)         | 74 (1)           | 0 (0)         |
| 20-29        | 317 (12)         | 2 (0)         | 354 (7)          | 0 (0)         |
| 30-39        | 362 (12)         | 1 (0)         | 332 (6)          | 1 (0)         |
| 40-49        | 164 (4)          | 1 (0)         | 164 (3)          | 0 (0)         |
| 50-59        | 150 (7)          | 5 (0)         | 141 (2)          | 3 (0)         |
| 60-69        | 98 (0)           | 6 (0)         | 80 (2)           | 6 (0)         |
| 70-79        | 30 (1)           | 2 (0)         | 23 (0)           | 1 (0)         |
| 80-89        | 12 (0)           | 5 (0)         | 9 (0)            | 1 (0)         |
| 90+          | 2 (0)            | 0 (0)         | 5 (0)            | 1 (0)         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1273 (39)</b> | <b>22 (0)</b> | <b>1239 (25)</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

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 is commenced by the MOH on 8 March 2021.

### 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 ongoing community outbreaks that is affecting at 13 cities/ provinces



(as of 7 March 2021). 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.

## 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).