

Viet Nam COVID-19 Situation Report #34

21 March 2021

Report as of 21 March 2021, 18:00

Situation Summary

Highlights of Current Situation Report

- **The latest outbreaks have been basically brought under control. As of 21 Mar 2021, 11 out of 13 provinces have not reported additional cases in at least past one month.**
- Since the emergence of this outbreak which initiated from Hai Duong and Quang Ninh provinces on 25 Jan, by 21 March **908 locally transmitted cases** have been reported from thirteen **(13) cities/ provinces** across the country. These include: Hai Duong (724); 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.
- **Majority of the cases either asymptomatic (90%) or with mild symptoms (8.25%),** the remaining 5 cases are severe or with severe prognosis and in a critical condition.
- **Lockdown, social distancing lifted; schools reopened; nonessential services resumed in various provinces/ areas** including Ha Noi, HCMC, Hai Phong, Hai Duong, Gia Lai. Of notes:
 - From 16 Mar: Ha Noi allowed re-opening of internet and online game shops. At the same time, permitting the reoperation of inter-provincial bus routes but compliance to 5K measures is required.
 - From 0:00, 18 March, Hai Duong lifted social distancing restrictions, allowing transport operations, businesses, services and reopening of sports facilities and relic sites but still under strict public health safety conditions. Four localities - Hai Duong City, Kinh Mon Township, and Cam Giang and Kim Thanh districts, which recorded a high number of new cases, continued to apply some restrictions following the PM's Directive No. 15/CT-TTg. Meanwhile, eight other districts and cities applied measures set out in the PM's Directive No. 19/CT-TTg.
 - 17 Mar: Social distancing was lifted in the last 2 areas of Phuc Thanh district and Kim Tan district of Hai Duong province after 14 days without new cases reported.
- **The vaccination campaign which commenced on March 8 with the AstraZeneca vaccine** is ongoing with more locations started in addition to three priority location including Hai Duong, National Hospital of Tropical Diseases – facility #2 (NHTD #2) in Ha Noi and Hospital of Tropical Diseases (HTD) in HCMC. Health care and frontline workers (HCWs) are given priority in these locations.
 - From 8 Mar to 21 Mar, **33.891** HCWs and other frontline workers in 16 localities have received their first shot: Hai Duong (**16.635**), Ha Noi (**6.360**), Hung Yen (**2.571**), Bac Ninh (**2.233**), Bac Giang (**2.642**), Hai Phong (**205**), HCMC (**916**), Gia Lai (**200**), Long An (**224**), Da Nang (**117**), Hoa Binh (**887**), Khanh Hoa (**105**), Dien Bien (**115**), Ba Ria - Vung Tau (**87**), Ha Giang (**176**) and Binh Duong (**398**).
 - 16 cases were reported with serious AEFIs from several sites; all cases had been timely detected, managed and being stable at health care facilities.
 - The vaccination campaign will continue as planned while health authorities will be closely monitoring post-immunization reactions. The MoH is investigating the causalities of those AEFI cases.
 - **COVAX 1.3 mil vaccines (AZ/SK Bio)** will likely to arrive to Noi Bai airport in early April, subject to UNICEF SD shipment and flight arrangement. GDPM is developing the allocation plan for those 1.3 mil doses.
 - 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.
 - By the end of March, the National Expanded Program on Immunization (NPI) will complete delivery of training on vaccination to the remaining provinces, to be ready for the next batch of COVID-19 vaccines arriving in country.
 - **Vaccinated foreign arrivals should still undergo 14-day quarantine.**



- **Viet Nam received 1,000 doses of Russia-made Sputnik V vaccine. This batch of vaccines was a gift of Russia government to Viet Nam**, which was brought by Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Nikolai Patrushev on March 16 on his official two-day business trip in Ha Noi.
- **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 is looking into application of Vaccine Passport.** On 19 Mar, The NSC discussed possibilities and solutions to implement the “COVID-19 vaccine passport” scheme while ensuring the principle of “safety first”.
- **Sub-national transmission assessment¹:**
 - ✓ Hai Duong province remains Stage 2 – Localized community transmission: cases with unknown/ unclear epi links. Sporadic cases continue to be reported though with a down trend. In past 7 days, 17 locally acquired cases were reported from the province.
 - ✓ Fourteen (14) provinces are in Stage 1 – Imported transmission: cases reported from Ha Noi and Hai Phong 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. Quang Ninh, Binh Duong and HCMC remain in Stage 1 as even though there were no locally acquired cases reported during past at least one month, there were imported cases reported from international flights. Nine other provinces also received imported cases from international/ charter flights (Khanh Hoa, Long An, Dong Nai, Ba Ria – Vung Tau, Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Tien Giang, Ninh Thuan and Tay Ninh).
 - ✓ The remaining provinces are in Stage 0 – No transmission: no additional cases reported for at least 28 days and no clear signals of community transmission.
- As of 21 Mar, **Viet Nam has reported 2,572 laboratory confirmed cases including 35 deaths (PFC 1.36%); 2,198 cases (85.4%) have recovered.**
- Currently **37,754 people are under quarantine** of which 490 are quarantine at HCFs, 18,620 are in centralized quarantine (including hotels), and 18,644 are under home quarantine.

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 Jan 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.
- 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 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

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

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 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 1,215,000 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 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.**
- **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 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.
- Timely and transparent communication and risk communication activities.

Update from past 7 days:

- **From 15-21 Mar 2021, 18 new laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported (decrease 57.1% compared to last week); of those 38.9% were locally transmitted cases, and without any additional deaths.**
- During the week, number of RT-PCR conducted daily reduced to approximately 7,000 tests, bringing **total number of tests conducted to 2,75,618 since the beginning of the outbreak.**
- **As of 21 Mar 2021, Viet Nam has reported a total of 2,572 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 1.36%) (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 2,572 cases, 1,004 cases (39%) are imported. About 93.2% are Vietnamese (see Figure 3).
- The ages of cases range from 2 months to 100 years old. About 59.6% of all cases are in the 30-69 years old group, 3.2% above 70 years old, and the remaining 37.2% 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.

○ **Other Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs)**

- During last week, more lockdowns, social distancing have been lifted including in public transports, universities reopened; nonessential services resumed in various provinces/ areas including Ha Noi, HCMC, Hai Phong, Hai Duong and Gia Lai.

Community lockdown and social distancing:

- From 18 Mar: Hai Duong province (except residential areas where COVID-19 cases were reported in the past 2 weeks) to apply PM's Directive No. 19 including:
 - ✓ Suspension of festivals, religious, sports activities with mass gathering and entertainment services
 - ✓ Reopened non-essential services shops, restaurants, hotels ensuring prevention measures
 - ✓ Re-operated public transports
- From 0:00 20 Mar Hai Phong applied a "new normal", i.e. reopened all activities that were suspended since 22 Feb, however 5K adherence is required.

School closure:

- 18 Mar: Hai Duong province
 - ✓ Kindergartens remain close until end of Mar
 - ✓ 7 districts in Hai Duong: schools reopen for students grades 1-12
 - ✓ 5 districts with COVID-19 cases reported in the past 2 weeks: school reopen for students from grades 9-12; students of the remaining grades continue on-line classes until further notice.

Travel restriction:

- ✓ Big cities including Ha Noi, HCMC, Da Nang, Hue and neighbouring provinces of Hai Duong continue to apply travel restriction measures for people coming from the lockdown areas that have not passed 14 days since the last report of cases, including health declaration, PCR Testing and centralized or home quarantine for 14 days.

- Details before 7 March: refer to previous reports

○ **Incoming and exit travellers:** from 6 PM 15 Mar – 6 PM 20 Mar

- Through ground crossing:
 - Viet Nam -China: Immigrants: 11,632 (11,488 legal, 144 illegal), emigrants: 12,991
 - Viet Nam- Laos: Immigrants:7,016 (7,001 legal, 15 illegal), emigrants: 17,452
 - Viet Nam -Cambodia: Immigrants: 424 (297 legal, 127 illegal), emigrants: 279
- Through airlines:
 - Foreigners: Immigrants: 2,215, emigrants: 1,647
 - Vietnamese: Immigrants: 2,942, emigrants: 3,205
 - Number of immigrants and emigrants some main countries
 - ✓ ROK: immigrants: 775, emigrants: 552
 - ✓ Japan: immigrants: 140, emigrants: 246
 - ✓ USA: immigrants: 38, emigrants: 50
 - ✓ Schengen countries: immigrants: 89, emigrants: 171

○ **Case management:**

- **2,198 cases (85.4%) have recovered.** Two patients are in severe condition (in the current outbreak). Case #1536 (previously reported) has improved and discontinued ECMO, still in invasive ventilation.

- Currently there are more than 300 patients being treated in 20 hospitals
 - **Majority of the cases either asymptomatic (85.4%) or with mild symptoms (10.8%),** the remaining 17 cases (3.8%) are severe or with severe prognosis and one case in a critical condition.
 - **Vaccination of COVID-19** for HCWs and frontline staff is on-going
 - MoH updated the guideline on health care for COVID-19 patient in HCFs
 - MoH has been providing **training on clinical management** of SARS 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 37,754 people are currently placed under quarantine.** Of those 490 were quarantined in HCFs; 18,620 were centralized quarantined; and 18,644 were under self-/home quarantine.
 - **Cumulatively:** from beginning of the outbreak to date, a total of **more than 14.3 million people have been placed under quarantine.**

Risk communication

- An online training course on COVID-19 vaccination designed for health workers is now available online in Vietnamese. The self-paced course is available in the Open WHO website in this link: [COVID-19 Vaccination Training for Health Workers \(Vietnamese\)](#)
 - MOH issued communication products on the side effects of vaccine and recommendation for injection for various vulnerable groups such as pregnant women/breastfeeding mothers, old people and those living with co-morbidities. These materials are available online in this link: [VNM MOH Advisory on What to Expect after Vaccination and Advice to Vulnerable Groups](#)
 - A short video explaining mild side effects from vaccination is published in the WHO social media page in this link: [What to Expect after COVID-19 Vaccination \(Video\)](#)
 - Briefing to Diplomatic Community and donor countries on COVID-19 Vaccination was held on 17 March to provide update on COVAX vaccination and preparedness
 - Communication on prevention messages continues on multiple platforms, including social media ads
- **Media monitoring and social listening highlights**
- Discussions on social media focus on: 1) side effects of vaccine (health workers were informed and expected those effects); vaccine supply (public appreciation to vaccine donations from different countries); and 3) vaccine passport (increasing expression of support)

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)
- Activities under vaccination:
 - ✓ Joined monitoring of the COVID-19 vaccination in Xin Man district, Ha Giang province
 - ✓ Trainings for AEFI causality assessment committee members at provincial level (4 training courses in different areas: 2 in North, 1 in Central/Highland, 1 in South): ongoing
 - ✓ Workshop on the draft guideline of AEFI surveillance for COVID-19 vaccines
 - ✓ Provision on 1) WHO training materials for health workers translated in Vietnamese (also uploaded to Open WHO), 2) WHO guidance on monitoring and reporting, logistics, 3) Product details on Janssen vaccine that was in the EUL on 12 Mar
 - ✓ On 12 March, technical coordination meeting was conducted with in-country partners and donors co-organized with UNICEF: update on COVID-19 vaccination (global and country) & map-out the potential supporting areas
- Other ongoing support is provided to:
 - ✓ Development of guideline on Ship Sanitation and Disinfection

- ✓ Finalization of Procedures for Management of incoming travellers in the context of COVID-19
- ✓ Conducting IAR for COVID-19 preparedness and response in Central-highland region
- ✓ Conducting RA for COVID-19 at households with PI NT and a result sharing workshop (29 Mar)
- ✓ Delivering training courses on surveillance, outbreak investigation, contact tracing and quarantine operation for selected higher risk provinces in Northern and Central regions (with NIHE and PI NT)
- ✓ Dissemination and Training courses on the newly issued Set of framework indicators to assess risk of communicable diseases including COVID-19 in three regions (with VIHEMA)
- ✓ Training courses on SARI case management and IPC in the context of COVID-19 in Hue, Can Tho, etc.
- 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 remain working with WPRO and HQ to gain the greenlight for request, with the shipments expected in coming weeks.

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 21 March, **908 cases have been reported from 13 cities/ provinces**. Hai Duong is the only province having locally acquired cases reported in past weeks even though with ongoing down trend in daily number of cases reported, thus remains in Stage 2. **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 one month. Five out of 13 provinces (Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Binh Duong and HCMC) are in Stage 1 (having imported cases from international flights). Nationwide, nine other provinces also received imported cases from international/ charter flights (Khanh Hoa, Long An, Dong Nai, Ba Ria – Vung Tau, Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Tien Giang, Ninh Thuan and Tay Ninh) within the past 28 days thus are classified under Stage 1. The remaining provinces are in Stage 0. Given continued efforts in enhanced surveillance including border surveillance and testing, additional sporadic cases, both from community (especially in Hai Duong) and imported cases are still expected in coming weeks.

Sub-national level (only 13 affected cities/ provinces in current outbreak are included) *

City/ province	No. of cases reported, as of 14 Mar 2021	Transmission Stage Assessment	Notes
Hai Duong	724	2	Basically, under control. 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, 7 new cases were reported, all of those cases were among F1 contacts, already in quarantine.
Quang Ninh	61	1	Under control. All cases linked with POYUN company or Van Don airport. Source of infection for index case (#1553) remains unknown. Remains in Stage 1 even though no additional cases reported in past 33 days. There were imported cases reported in past weeks.
HCMC	36	1	Under control. Epi links in Tan Son Nhat airport staff case remains unknown. No additional cases reported in past 43 days → but still in Stage 1 as one imported case reported last week.
Ha Noi	34	1	All three clusters with known epi links. Transmission within 3 generations. Source of transmission for the Japanese deceased remains unknown. No additional cases reported in past 34 days → but still in Stage 1 as two imported cases reported last week.
Gia Lai	27	0	One case remains with unknow epi links. 13 Mar: social distancing was lifted in the last 2 areas of Ia Pa district and Ayun Pa town. No additional cases reported in past 45 days.
Binh Duong	6	1	All cases linked with Hai Duong. Remains in Stage 1 even though it has been 42 days since last infection reported. 4 imported cases reported two weeks ago.
Bac Ninh	5	0	All cases with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 44 days.
Dien Bien	3	0	All cases with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 51 days.



Hai Phong	4	1	Case with clear epi links. From 24:00 of 8 Mar – lockdown lifted in Transport hospital in Hai Phong city after 14 days (after 3 cases including 2 nurses were reported which were linked with Cam Giang, Hai Duong). No new cases reported in past 27 days . Still under monitoring.
Hoa Binh	2	0	All cases with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 56 days.
Hung Yen	3	0	All cases with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 47 days.
Bac Giang	2	0	All cases with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 53 days.
Ha Giang	1	0	Case with clear epi links. No new cases reported in past 53 days.
TOTAL	908		

***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
50,939	18	0	0
NAT Tests past 7 days (-0.4% 7-day)	New cases past 7days (-57.1% 7-day)	Deaths past 7days (-% 7-day)	ICU Admissions past 7days (+0 cases 7-day)
2,735,618	2,572	35	60 (TBC)
Cumulative NAT Tests	Cumulative Cases	Cumulative Deaths	Cumulative ICU Admissions
38%	326	25 (TBU)	0
Imported Cases in past 28 days (72)	Cases in past 28 days with no link (TBU)	Active Clusters	Active clusters with >3 generations

Health Service Provision COVID-19

Most of national hospital staff	0	18	371	0 (TBD)
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 (estimated in 6 currently affected provinces) (out of approx. 3,500 beds nationwide)	Non-ICU Hospital beds for COVID-19 patients (Six field hospitals established: 3 in Hai Duong, 1 each in Quang Ninh, Dien Bien, Gia Lai. 28 Feb - Hai Duong field hospital #1 disbanded)

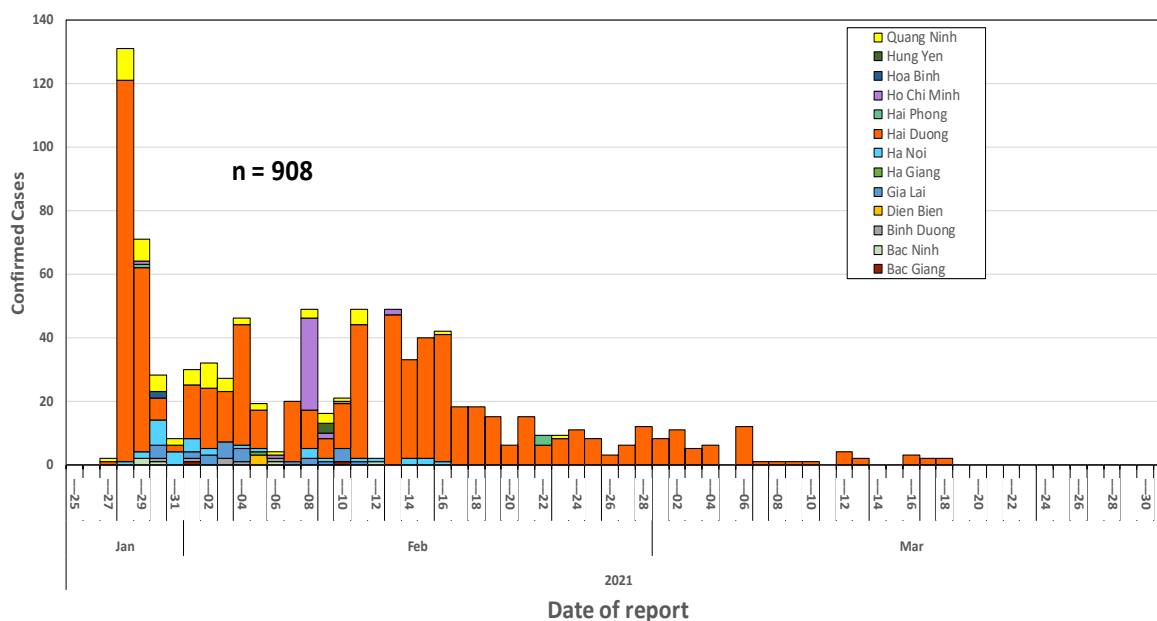


Figure 1. Epidemic curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases by date of reporting, current outbreak, Viet Nam, as of 21 Mar 2021

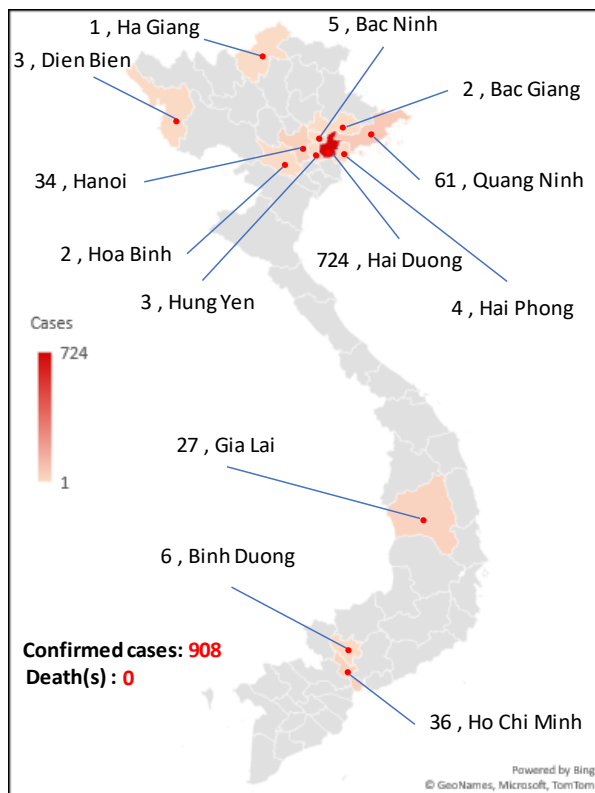


Figure 2. Distribution of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases by place of detection, current outbreak, Viet Nam, as of 21 Mar 2021

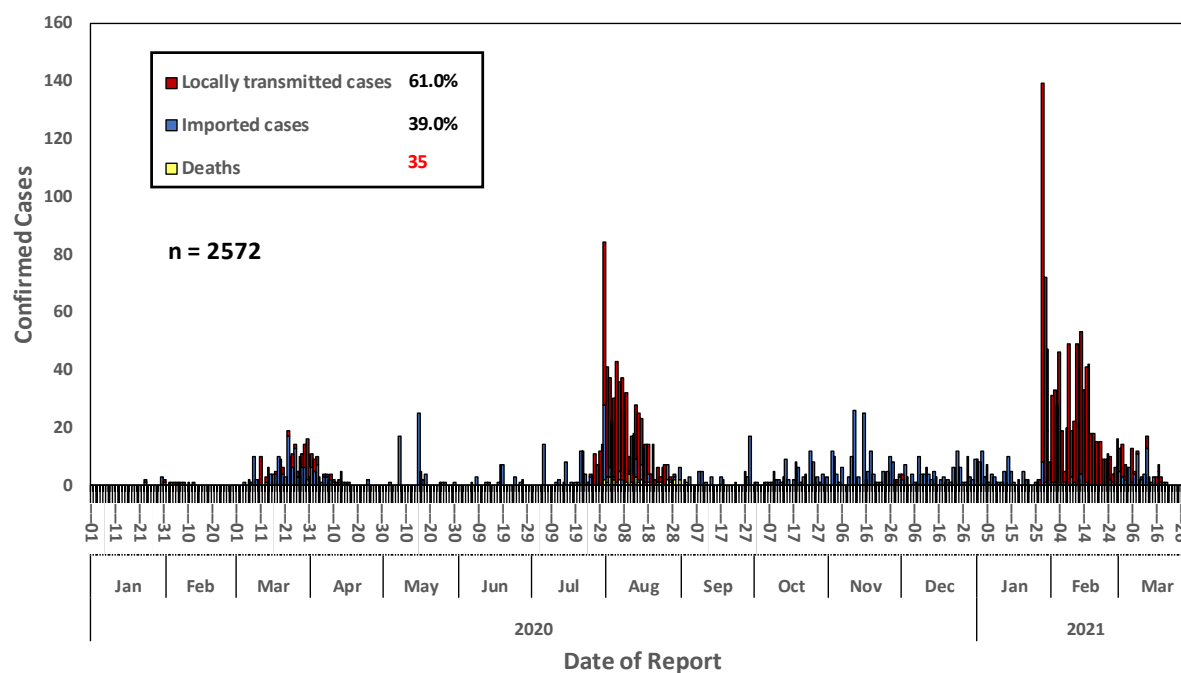


Figure 3. Epidemic curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases, Viet Nam, by date of reporting

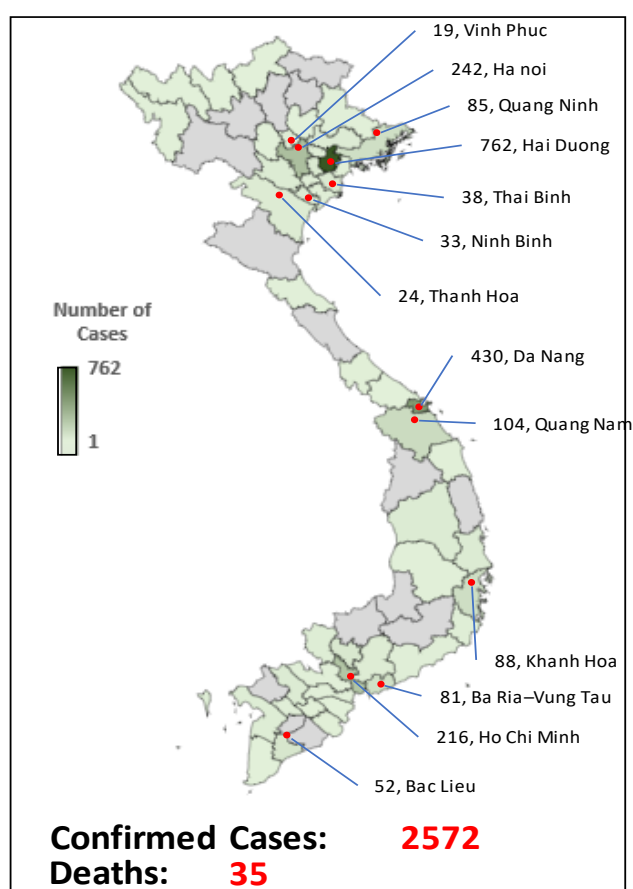


Figure 4. Distribution of cumulative COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases by place of detection, Viet Nam

Age Group	Female		Male	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
0-9	63 (1)	0 (0)	58 (1)	0 (0)
10-19	76 (0)	0 (0)	74 (0)	0 (0)
20-29	326 (3)	2 (0)	361 (1)	0 (0)
30-39	375 (2)	1 (0)	344 (6)	1 (0)
40-49	168 (1)	1 (0)	168 (1)	0 (0)
50-59	154 (1)	5 (0)	145 (0)	3 (0)
60-69	98 (0)	6 (0)	80 (0)	6 (0)
70-79	30 (0)	2 (0)	23 (0)	1 (0)
80-89	13 (1)	5 (0)	9 (0)	1 (0)
90+	2 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0)	1 (0)
Total	1305 (9)	22 (0)	1267 (9)	13 (0)

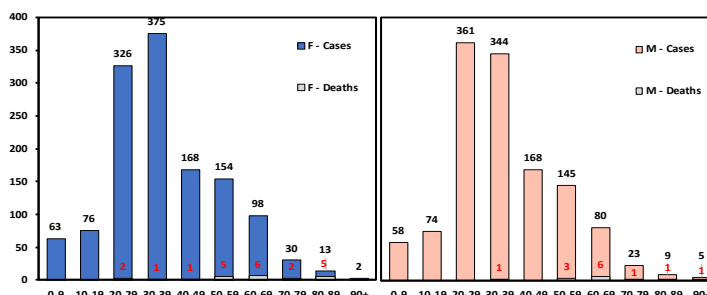


Table 1. Cumulative and new (past 7 days) cases and deaths by age and sex

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 13th 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 21 March 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.

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).