

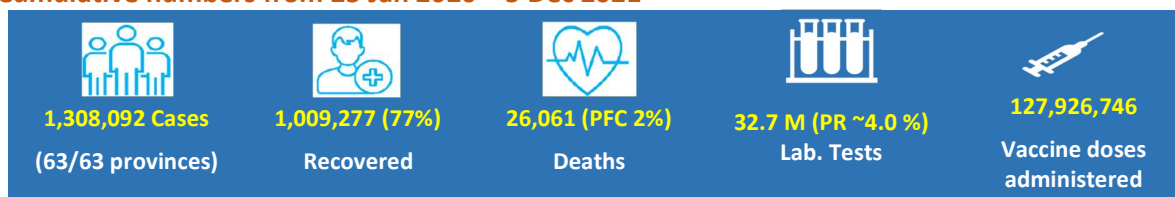


Viet Nam COVID-19 Situation Report #71

Epidemiological report as of 5 December 2021, 18:00

Situation Summary

Cumulative numbers from 25 Jan 2020 – 5 Dec 2021



Highlights from Current Community Outbreak (from 27 April to 5 December 2021)¹

- High numbers of both daily cases and deaths continued to be reported in many provinces across the country. During the week, increased community cases have been recorded almost all cities and provinces. Further community transmission might be expected in the coming weeks.
- During the week (from 29 Nov – 5 Dec), a total of **98,752 new cases** and **1,369 new deaths** were reported from the country. These included 98,695 locally acquired cases and 57 imported cases. Of the 57 imported cases, there were 4 foreigners and 53 repatriated Vietnamese citizens.
- The 7-day moving average of **cases** was 14,107 (**decreased 14.7%**); and **deaths** was 196 (**increased 36.1%**) compared to previous week.
- **Cumulatively for this wave**, as of 5 Dec 2021, **1,303,823 locally acquired cases** have been reported **including 26,026 deaths (PFC 2.2%)** from **63 cities/provinces**. Number of **recovered cases** is **1,006,460 (77%)**. See Figures 1, 2, and 3.
- **Five (5) cities/ provinces with highest case number** reported include: **HCMC** (478,309 cases, 18,322 deaths, PFC 3.83% ↑); **Binh Duong** (284,263 cases, 2,783 deaths, PFC 0.98% ↑); **Dong Nai** (89,514 cases, 796 deaths, PFC 0.89% ↑); **Long An** (38,624 cases, 640 deaths, PFC 1.66% ↑); **Tay Ninh** (32,483 cases, 300 deaths, PFC 0.92%).
- **HCMC still accounted for the highest number of cases** (467,407 local cases, approx. 36.7%) **and number of deaths** (18,322) accounted for 70.4% of the national tallies in the current wave.
- Two (2) provinces have not reported secondary transmission in the past 14 days: Lai Chau, Bac Kan.
- **Emergence of variant of concern (VOC) – B.1.1.529, named Omicron**
 - On 26 November 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529 a variant of concern (VOC), on the basis of advice from WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution. **The variant has been given the name Omicron.** It is a highly divergent variant with a high number of mutations, including 26-32 in the spike, some of which are concerning and may be associated with immune escape potential and higher transmissibility. However, there are still considerable uncertainties.
 - By 5 December 2021, at least 38 countries in all six regions of WHO have identified cases with **Omicron**. Countries reporting community transmission include South Africa, Botswana, Germany, United Kingdom, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium and United States of America.
 - Given mutations that may confer immune escape potential and possibly transmissibility advantage, **the likelihood of potential further spread of Omicron at the global level is high.** Depending on these characteristics, there could be future surges of COVID-19, which could have severe consequences. **The overall global risk related to the new VOC Omicron is assessed as very high.**

¹ For updates before 29 Nov 2021, refer to previous Sitreps. While epidemiological figures are as of 5 Dec, other information may cover beyond this cut-off date.

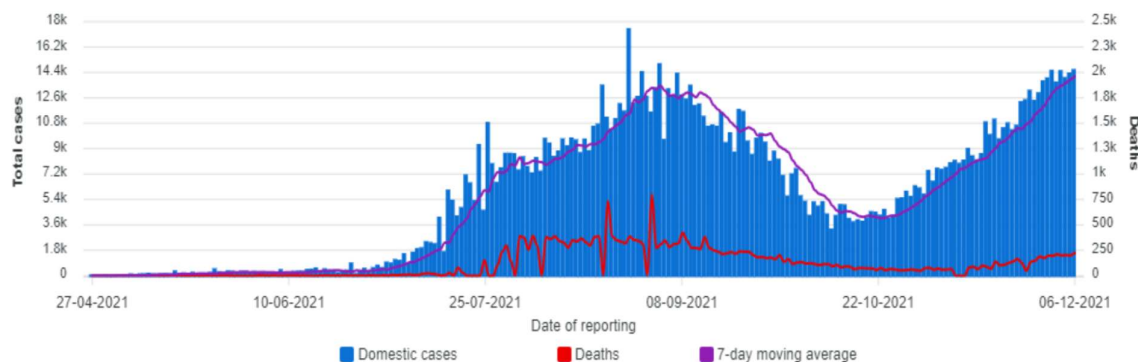


Figure 1. Epidemic curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases and deaths by date of reporting for the current outbreaks, from 27 Apr – 5 Dec 2021, Viet Nam

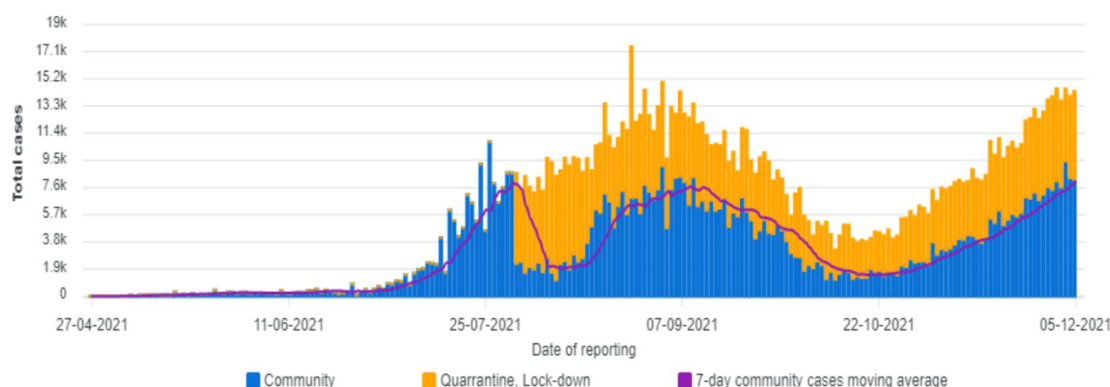


Figure 2. Epidemic curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases with category of detection, by date of reporting for the current outbreaks, from 27 Apr – 5 Dec 2021, Viet Nam

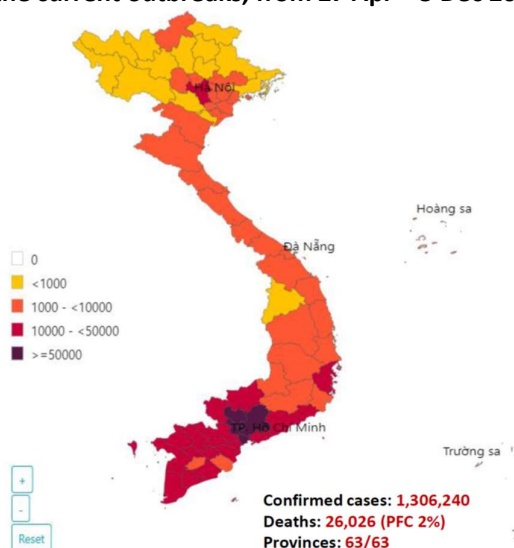
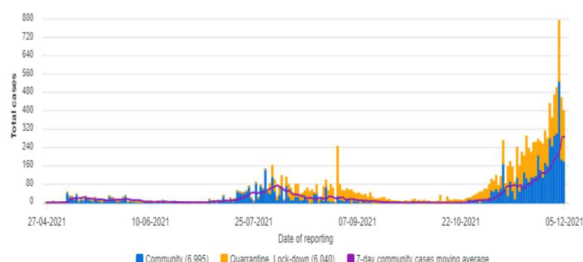
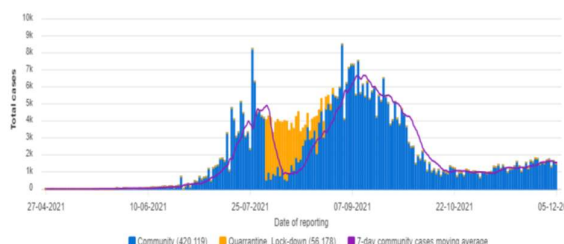


Figure 3. Distribution of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases in the current outbreaks by province, 27 Apr – 5 Dec 2021, Viet Nam

- **Provinces reported increased community cases in past 7 days:** Can Tho (↑ 1,250 cases), Soc Trang (↑ 1,083 cases); Ben Tre (↑ 1,043 cases); **Provinces reported decreased community cases:** Bac Ninh (↓ 383 cases), Dong Nai (↓ 176 cases) and Binh Duong (↓ 171 cases).

HCMC situation

- The 7-day moving average of cases **decreased 1.2%** (from 1,576 to 1,557 cases/day); and **increased 20% for deaths** (72 deaths/day). Daily cases increased 104% compared to past 14 days.
- Number of new cases per 100,000 pop reported in the past 7 days: 121 (compared to 122 cases for previous week, **outbreak level 4**)
- 94.2% of the target population (≥ 18 years old) have been fully vaccinated.



Ha Noi situation

- The 7-day moving average of cases **increased 79.3%** (from 271 to 486 cases/day). Daily cases increased 107% compared to past 14 days.
- Number of new cases per 100,000 pop reported in the past 7 days: 42 (compared to 23 cases for previous week, **outbreak level 2**)
- 90.1% of the target population (≥ 18 years old) have been fully vaccinated.

In most of these provinces, cases started from returnees from outbreaks areas, then onward community transmission took place, though still limited; and sporadic cases continued to be detected through fever and cough screening including those with unknown epi links.

Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases: Analysis from 1,250,811 cases shows that ages of cases range from 2 months to 100 years old. About 54% of all cases are in the 30-69 years old age group, 3.4% are above 70 years old, and the remaining 42.6% are under 30 years old. The proportion of males vs females is 48.8% vs 51.2%. *See Figure 4.*

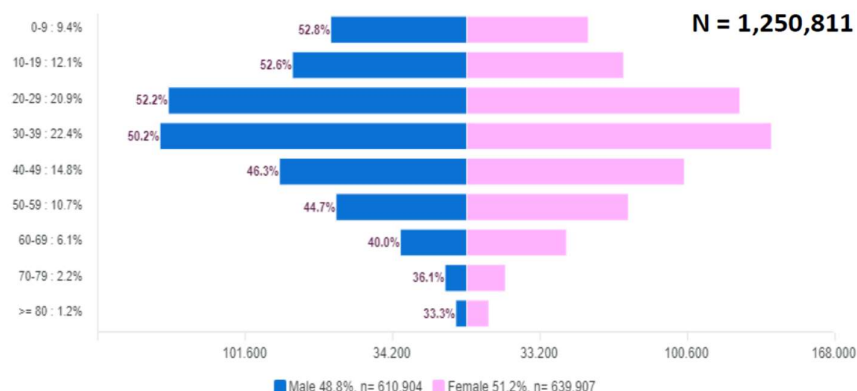


Figure 4. Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, current community outbreak as of 5 Dec 2021

For more details, visit: [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) of the General Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM)/MOH.



Cumulatively from Jan 2020 to 5 Dec 2021, Viet Nam has reported a total cumulative number **1,308,092 laboratory confirmed cases (99.7% are locally transmitted)** from all 63 provinces including **26,061 deaths (PFC 2%)**; of those approximately **77.2% have recovered**. There are currently **273,754 people being monitored and treated** of those **6,854 are severe cases** including **15 patients are under ECMO** (update as of 16:00 5 Dec 2021).

A **National Comprehensive Strategic Plan (NCSP)** now has been renamed as **COVID-19 Prevention and Control Comprehensive Plan (CPCCP)**, in a new normal context for **COVID-19** continues to be further revised. The draft 9th version is being circulated by the Viet Nam Health Environment Management Agency (VIHEMA) of the MOH for another round of comments from relevant government stakeholders including relevant Ministries and Sectors and international partner organizations. The CPCCP is expected to be approved by the Prime Minister in December 2021.

Vaccine supply and vaccination (See Annex 1)

As of 5 December, a total of 143,890,026 doses have arrived in Viet Nam (96% of target 150 million doses). In which: COVAX: 33,219,670 doses, donation from countries: 17,596,080 doses, and bilateral: 93,674,276 doses. There will be approximately 136,537,854 doses in the plan (COVAX: 31,663,830; bilateral: 98,112,124; and donation: 6,761,900). As of **5 December**, a total of **127,828,796 doses have been administered** (~7.1M doses last week): **73,393,169 people completed 1st dose, including children from 12-17 (~74.8% of total pop) and number of persons completed 2nd dose has reached 54,435,627 (~55.4% of total pop).**

To date, eight vaccines in Emergency Use Authorization by NRA of Viet Nam: AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), Sinopharm BIBP, Sputnik V, and Hayat-Vax COVID-19 (Sinopharm manufacturing site) and Abdala (no change).

Government direction and key public health response measures

- **2 Dec** – The GoV issued an urgent telegram of the PM on vaccination and treatment activities. The PM ordered: (i) MOH to direct and guide the PPCs to vaccinate all target groups, especially the elderly, people with underlying conditions, and request hospitals in collaboration with preventive medicine system to ensure safe vaccination, implementation of booster doses; (ii) MOH to distribute antivirals to provinces/cities for treatment for all confirmed cases; (iii) all provinces/cities to set up a system to monitor and manage health condition for all cases to avoid a situation whereby the cases cannot access health facilities when needed; and (iv) MOH to urgently complete licencing procedures and to procure antivirals to ensure effective treatment.
- **1 Dec** – The GoV issued an announcement of the PM's conclusions from the meeting on vaccine importation and production and medicines. The main conclusions included (i) The Government is determined to produce safe and effective domestic vaccines as early as possible; (ii) MOH in collaboration with relevant ministries and departments to urgently review and complete the legal framework and policies to facilitate production of vaccines, test kits, equipment, supplies and medicines; and (iii) MOH to take into account comments from the DPM Vu Duc Dam and the meeting participants in the development of the vaccine procurement plan including domestic vaccine, booster doses, procedures of vaccination of different types of vaccines, and types of vaccine for children under 18 years old.
- **29 Nov** - The GoV issued a letter to MOH, MOFA, MOT, MOPS, MOD on response to Omicron VOC. Key information includes: (i) MOH to closely follow up with the outbreaks caused by Omicron in the world, regularly contact WHO for updated information, and MOH to develop timely prevention and response measures; and (ii) MOH, MOFA, MOT, MOPD, MOD and related ministries to enhance management of incoming travellers with travel history from or via countries/areas where Omicron infected cases have been reported.

❖ Assessment of outbreak level

- Cities/provinces continue assessing the local outbreak level from commune/ward level, as guided by the Government Resolution No. 128/ NQ-CP dated 11 Oct and the MOH Decision No. 4800/QD-BYT dated 12 Oct.
- As of 8 Dec, there were 6,841 (64.5%) communes assessed as level 1 (unchanged); 2,715 (25.6%) communes assessed as level 2 (decreased 0.4%); 836 (7.9%) communes assessed as level 3 (increased 1.1%); and 217 (2.0%) communes assessed as level 4 (unchanged) compared to the assessment done on 30 Nov. This also reflects an ongoing increase in community transmission in various provinces across the country during the week.
- See the [MOH link](#) for a detailed update, as of 8 Dec 2021



- In response to the increasing number of community cases, many provinces including Tay Ninh, Can Tho, Ba Ria - Vung Tau have enhanced risk communication activities for public to remain vigilant. These included messages on 5K adherence, accelerating vaccination including for children. In addition, HCMC and Soc Trang provinces requested health facilities under military sector to provide support in COVID-19 prevention and response.

❖ **Hospital lockdown:**

- 3 Dec - Chuong My hospital in Ha Noi was closed, the hospital now only receives patients in emergency situation since there was a cluster of 9 HCWs reported who are working at laboratory, IPC, Infectious diseases departments, and screening area.
- 1 Dec - A building of the National Obstetrics and Gynaecology Hospital in Ha Noi was put under lockdown, as 3 Dec 25 cases were reported in the building including one HCW and 24 inpatients [EBS].
- 30 Nov - 5 Dec: The Lang Son Provincial General Hospital closed, the hospital only receive patients in emergency situation since 2 cases detected through regular screening in otorhinolaryngology and imaging departments [EBS].

❖ **School closure and reopening**

- In preparation for school reopening, various provinces/cities including Ha Noi, HCMC, Khanh Hoa and Da Nang updated and issued criteria for safe school assessment and guidelines for school authorities to respond as needed. The key safe school criteria include: i) the school has COVID-19 prevention and response plan in place; ii) provisions of clean water, soap and hand washing liquid are available; iii) all teachers and school staff are fully vaccinated; iv) students, teachers and school officials check body temperature before going to school; v) ensuring good ventilation in school environments; vi) teachers and staff to strictly implement 5K. Ha Noi and HCMC also issued the guidelines for schools' authority to respond if there is a COVID-19 case detected at school. Key information of the guidelines include: i) isolate F0 case immediately, inform local health authority; ii) support health authority to conduct contact tracing (for F1 and F2 contacts); iii) treatment of F0 and quarantine/ testing F1 and F2 contacts to be implemented as per the local guidelines (HCMC implements home-based treatment for mild and asymptomatic F0 cases, and home quarantine for F1 contacts. Ha Noi started implementing home-based treatment for mild and asymptomatic F0 cases and home quarantine for F1 contacts but this operation varies among localities; iv) disinfect the school as per the outbreak response SOP.
- 6 Dec: Various provinces/cities continued reopening schools. High school students in Long An province returned to schools, all grade 1,8,9 students in Da Nang (excepted Lien Chieu districts) returned to schools. [EBS]
- 6 Dec: 12th graders in Ha Noi returned to school, with 50% having in-person classes Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and the rest having them on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. High schools, vocational and continuing education facilities in low or medium coronavirus risk areas, are allowed to reopen.

❖ **Travel restriction:**

- The Civil Aviation Authority of Viet Nam (CAAV) has agreed with the MOH's proposal on suspension of international flights to/from some African countries in light of the emergence of VOC B.1.1.529 (Omicron).
- Earlier, the CAAV has proposed the resumption of normal operation of all domestic air routes from the beginning of 2022.

Laboratory testing

- A proactive testing strategy continues to be followed, with laboratory testing of all F1 contacts in some locations, members of outbreak communities/ localities as well as ad hoc testing in high-risk location in certain provinces.
- As of 5 Dec, approximately 32,590,663 RT-PCR tests (both single and pooled samples) have been conducted since Jan 2020. For this 4th wave, 26,887,231 RT-PCR tests (both single and pooled samples) and for this week, 1,004,222 RT-PCR tests (both single and pooled samples) have been conducted.
- Currently, there are 323 confirmatory laboratories for COVID-19 by RT-PCR established in Viet Nam including 131 from Northern region, 35 from Central-coastal region, 6 from Central-highland region, and 151 from Southern region.
- The Vietnamese MoH indicated the urgent need to strengthen the surveillance system to proactively control the COVID-19 situation and prevent the entry of Omicron. Its aim is to strengthen WGS based surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in order to rapidly detect unusual indicators related to variants of concern. NIHE/Pasteur are requested to proactively carry out genetic sequencing of infections suspected of harbouring the new mutant, especially those with epidemiological history from South African countries and new COVID-19 outbreaks (source).

Case management

- As of **17:00, 5 December**, there were **347,378** people infected with COVID-19 being isolated, monitored or treated in the country (**61.7% increase from last week**), in which **7,006 severe cases requiring oxygen** (**9.2% increase from last week**), this include 4,529 cases with mask/nasal cannula, 1,445 cases with HFNC, there are **903 cases with mechanical ventilation** (**13.4% increase from last week**), **92 cases in dialysis** and **20 ECMO cases** ([Source](#))
- While the percentage of severe patients has reduced slightly, the number of patients in the care pathways has been rapidly increasing in the past months, and with an increase in number of severe/critical cases requiring hospitalization (Figure 5). Most of the severe/critical COVID-19 cases are in the southern provinces (Figure 6).

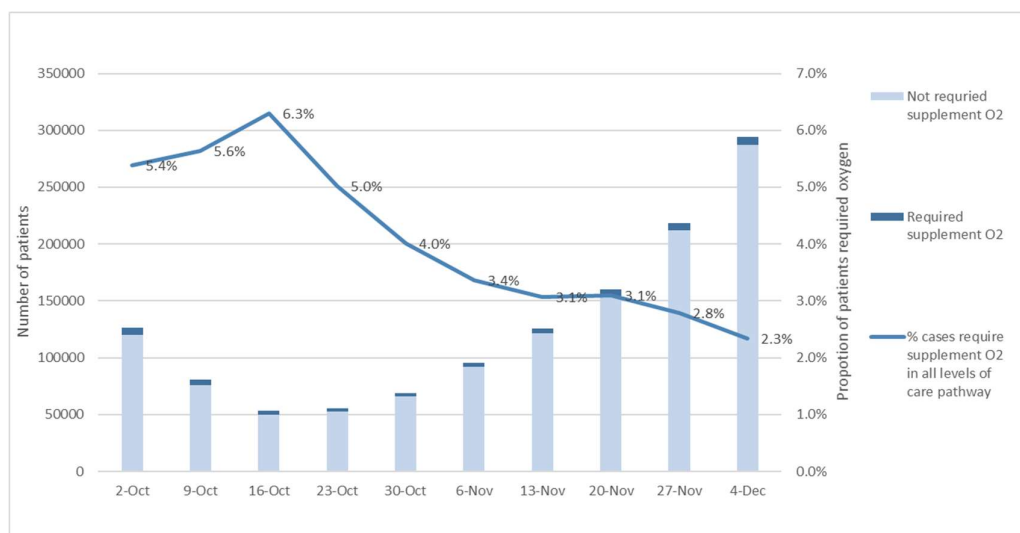


Figure 5. The trend of COVID-19 patients and proportion of those requiring Oxygen in the care pathway Viet Nam, 2 Oct – 4 Dec 2021 ([Source](#))

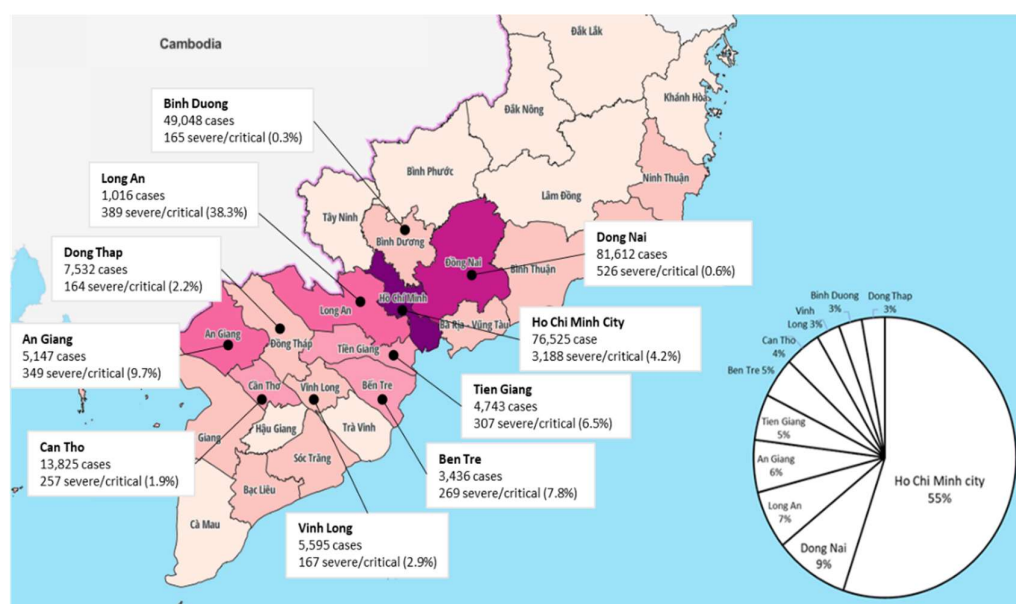


Figure 6. 10 provinces with highest number of severe/critical COVID-19 patients being treated as of 5 December 2021, Viet Nam ([Source](#))

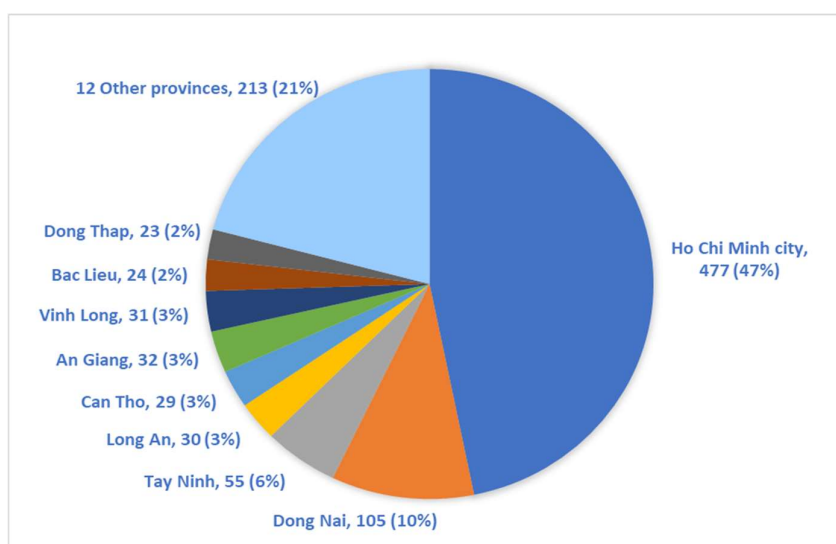


Figure 6. 10 provinces with highest number of critical COVID-19 patients being treated as of 5 December 2021, Viet Nam ([Source](#))

Government response:

Central level:

- 1 Dec – MOH promulgated Decision 5525/QĐ-BYT on guideline for risk classification of persons with confirmed COVID-19 and orientations for isolation and treatment.
- The MOH continues to mobilize health care workers to support west southern provinces including Tay Ninh, Can Tho, An Giang, Soc Trang, Ca Mau, etc. where number of new cases are reaching their current admission capacity (Source: [1,2,3,4](#)).

Provincial level:

- Ho Chi Minh City:
 - 2 Dec – DOH promulgated dispatch No.9003/SYT-NVY requesting all hospitals to establish plan on preparing COVID-19 beds and ICU beds for COVID-19 (if possible), all hospitals receiving COVID-19 patients to update their capacity.
 - 2 Dec – the city implements the campaign to strengthen the protection of and health care for at-risk groups with the aim to reduce the case incidence and fatality from COVID-19. This campaign is expected to launch until 31 Dec 2021.
 - 1 Dec – the city started piloting **for private healthcare facilities** to participate in home-based care and treatment of COVID-19 patients

For updates before 29 Nov, please see our previous sitrep.

Risk communication

- The Ministry of Health- Department of Communication (MOH-DOC) and WHO jointly organized a media training-workshop for journalists on 3 December 2021 on responsible reporting on vaccine safety and adverse events following immunization (AEFI). This training is part of a series of capacity building activities intended for various groups, including health workers. Media coverage of the training in this link: [communication skills training on COVID-19 for media](#).
- MOH and WHO continue to provide updates on Omicron, the new variant of concern announced by WHO following the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Group on SARS-CoV-2 Virus Evolution. Information was provided to the public either through media interviews, website and social media messages.
- Timely advice and guidance to the public from MOH and WHO, are available in multiple channels, and can also be accessed in the MOH Facebook page: [VNM MOH Sức khỏe Việt Nam](#) as well as WHO Facebook page: [World Health Organization Viet Nam](#).

- Media agencies get timely and regular updates on outbreak situation and Government action for content in media reports to the public. Current topics of interest are on Omicron, vaccine safety and updated guidance on Pfizer vaccine, vaccination for children, transition to new normal, travel advisories, public health and social measures, situation and risk assessment and 5K messaging.
- To further support communication on COVID-19, human interest stories from the field are documented by MOH and WHO. The content focuses on vaccinating priority groups and hard-to-reach areas in the country. Some of these stories are on: [reaching Hmong communities in Ha Giang; and prioritizing people with disabilities.](#)



- New communication materials developed and disseminated this week include the following:

Videos:

- [COVID-19 and TB: Vietnamese Q&A](#)
- [COVID-19 and Flu: Vietnamese Q&A](#)

Graphics:

- [Updated guidance on Pfizer vaccine](#)
- [Home care for COVID-19](#)
- [Stay vigilant: 5K plus vaccine](#)
- [Solidarity during COVID-19](#)
- [Low risk does not equal no risk: practice 5K](#)
- [Domestic violence at the time of COVID-19](#)



Other communication products and campaign materials on COVID-19, visit the [World Health Organization Viet Nam](#).

WHO's support

WHO continues to support the MOH in various technical areas, such as providing technical advice with scientific evidence including that of ongoing issues on VOC Omicron, supporting data management, reporting and information sharing, supporting the review and revision of technical guidelines; vaccine development and deployment as well as distribution plans and effective communication (e.g., reinforcement of preventive measures, media engagement and communications on vaccine safety); ongoing development of a **COVID-19 Prevention and Control Comprehensive Plan (CPCCP)**, previously called National Comprehensive Strategic Plan (NCSP) for COVID-19 in a new normal context.

For updates before 29 November - See previous Sitreps



Epidemiology

Epi Update COVID-19

Tests	Cases	Deaths	ICU Admissions
1,323,187	98,752	1,369	1,975
NAT Tests past 7 days (+63.7% 7-day)	New cases past 7 days (-14.7% 7-day)	Deaths past 7 days (+35.9% 7-day)	New ICU admissions past 7 days
32,730,840	1,308,092	26,061	At least 31,510 (TBU)
Cumulative NAT Tests	Cumulative Cases	Cumulative Deaths	Cumulative ICU Admissions

0.1%	At least 16,500	At least 450	99 (TBU)
Imported Cases in past 28 days (339)	Cases in past 28 days with no link (TBC)	Active Clusters	Active clusters with >3 generations

Health Service Provision COVID-19

Most of national hospital staff	TBU	98,752	16,000	30,000 (TBC)
Health care workers trained in COVID19 Case Management	Healthcare worker cases reported past week (Total: 2,868)	Hospitals admitting/ under monitoring COVID-19 past week	ICU beds in total estimated nationwide (ICU bed occupancy in HCMC and other affected provinces) (TBU)	Non-ICU Hospital beds for COVID-19 patients (As of end-Nov – various field hospitals reactivated across the country where new community clusters emerged)

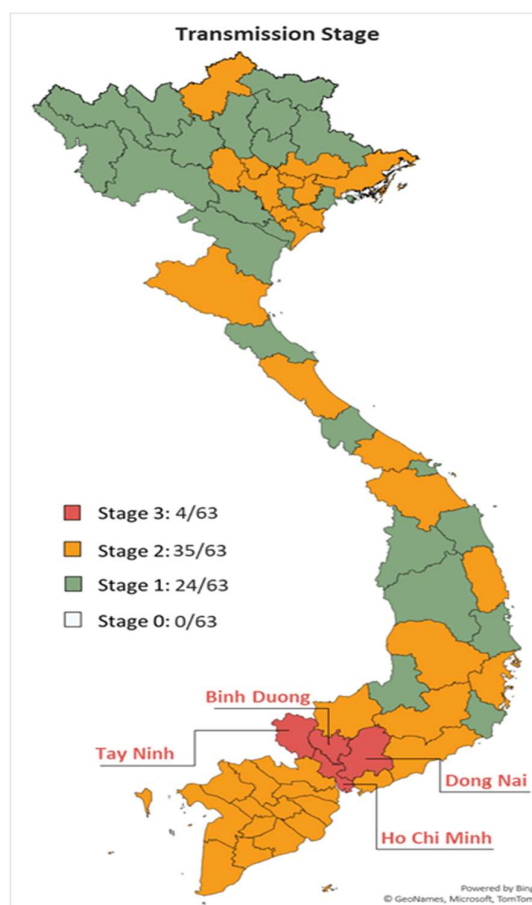
Transmission Stage Assessment (unchanged from previous week)

Overall assessment – As of the week ended on 5 Dec 2021, all 63 cities and provinces have reported COVID-19 cases in the current wave. **Twenty-four (24) provinces remain in Stage 1; 35 provinces remain in Stage 2; and 4 provinces remain in Stage 3.** As the country has entered a new normal stage from early October, with many provinces continued relaxing PHSMs, increases in trend of cases continued to be reported in the past seven consecutive weeks in many provinces including those with unknown epi links. There continues a risk of provinces moving upward in their transmission stage in the coming weeks. The risk is even higher if complacency or lack of vigilance takes place among the public and within the health systems.

Sub-national level

- **Four (4) provinces remain in Stage 3** – HCMC, Binh Duong, Dong Nai and Tay Ninh, where large-scale community transmission persists. Some Stage 2 provinces might potentially move to Stage 3 (i.e., An Giang, Can Tho, Soc Trang and other Southern provinces) thus are under a close monitoring.
- **Thirty-five (35) provinces remain in Stage 2** – these included Ha Noi, Bac Ninh, Nghe An, Binh Thuan, Khanh Hoa, Dong Thap, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Ben Tre, Soc Trang, An Giang, Tra Vinh, Tien Giang, Ba Ria – Vung Tau, Kien Giang, Ha Nam, Long An, Ha Giang, Phu Tho, Dak Lak, Bac Giang, Binh Phuoc, Bac Lieu, Lam Dong, Hau Giang, Binh Dinh, Vinh Phuc, Nam Dinh and Thua Thien - Hue. Even though, no clear signals of large-scale community transmission have been yet documented, increased number of cases including those with unclear epi links or unknown sources of infection have been reported in more provinces this week.
- **Twenty-four (24) provinces remain in Stage 1** – The remaining provinces.
- **No provinces are in Stage 0** – unchanged.

As a result of ongoing relaxed PHSMs, coupled with continued influx of returnees from outbreak areas to their home provinces, **further community transmission may be expected in the coming weeks. However, proportions of severe cases and deaths are expected to decrease in general; even though it may increase in hotspots provinces.** Ongoing efforts are given on increasing vaccination coverage, strengthening clinical care pathways and the overall preparedness and response capacity building in country.



Transmission Stage Assessment

Stage 0 - No cases

No new cases for at least 28 days. The risk of infection for most people in this area is minimal.

Stage 1 - Imported cases

Cases detected in the past 14 days are all imported or are linked to imported cases. No clear signals of further locally acquired transmission. Minimal risk of infection for the general population. The risk of infection for most people in this area is very low.

*Data may be incomplete for the current day or week

Stage 2 - Localized community transmission

Cases and clusters detected in the past 14 days are locally acquired but are mostly limited to places or population sub-groups. No clear signals of large-scale community transmission. Low risk of infection for the general population. The risk of infection for most people in this area is low but increased if interacting with places or population sub-groups with known transmission.

Stage 3 - Large-scale community transmission

Cases and clusters detected in the past 14 days are locally acquired and not limited to place or population sub-groups. Moderate to high risk of infection for the general population.

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

ANNEX 1 – COVID-19 vaccines supply and deployment as of 5 December 2021

