



---

## Vietnam: Updates in relation to COVID-19 as of April 1, 2020

### Vu Le Bang, Ha Hoang Loc, Nguyen Thi Thanh Huong, Tomomi Murata

---

*\*This article is based on information available as of 1 April 2020*

#### 1. Prime Minister's Directive No. 16

- On 31 March 2020, the Prime Minister issued Directive No. 16/CT-TTg on implementing urgent measures for prevention and control of COVID-19 (“**Directive No. 16**”). In this document, the Prime Minister requests Ministries, Ministerial and Governmental Agencies, and People’s Committees of provinces to implement, among other things, the following urgent measures:
- (i) To carry out nationwide quarantine for 15 days from 0:00 a.m. on 1 April 2020, on the principle that each family, village, commune, district, and province is quarantined from the others; and factories must ensure a safe distance [between workers], the wearing of facemasks, and sanitation in the workplace as prescribed. Everyone is requested to stay at home, and going outside is allowed only in cases of absolute necessity, namely, buying food, provisions, or medicines, seeking emergency treatment, working at facilities or businesses that are allowed to remain in operation to provide essential goods or services, and in other urgent circumstances. A safety distance of at least 2 meters must be strictly observed during communication, and it is forbidden to form groups of more than 2 people outside office buildings, schools, hospitals, and in public places.
  - (ii) Heads of enterprises, factories, and businesses are responsible for implementing epidemic prevention and control measures in their enterprises, factories, and businesses to ensure their workers’ health and safety. Officials and employees of State agencies and units shall adopt information technology to allow employees to work from home, except for those whose physical presence at work is absolutely necessary, such as for provision of essential goods and services or dealing with confidential documents.
  - (iii) The Ministry of Transport and the People’s Committees of provinces shall basically order the shutdown of public transportation. Restrict movement from one area to another; stop movement from affected areas to other areas except for performance of official tasks, provision of essential food and provisions, transporting workers and specialists of enterprises, and transporting raw materials for production.

---

This newsletter was written by its authors and does not reflect the views or opinion of Nishimura & Asahi. In addition, this newsletter is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship or to be legal advice and should not be considered to be a substitute for legal advice. Individual legal and factual circumstances should be taken into consideration in consultation with professional local counsel prior to taking any action related to the subject matter of this newsletter.

- (iv) Temporarily close the primary and secondary border checkpoints for people along the border with Laos and Cambodia, strictly control the entry through international border checkpoints on roads, and persons entering from Laos and Cambodia shall be quarantined for 14 days.

## 2. Hanoi People's Committee Directive No. 5

- On 31 March 2020, the Hanoi People's Committee issued Directive 05/CT-UBND (to implement Directive No. 16 of the Prime Minister) which clearly lists businesses that are allowed to maintain operations during the quarantine, namely:
  - (i) supermarkets (except for entertainment and on-the-spot/dine-in food services)
  - (ii) trade centres (only supermarkets in (i) above, hospitals)
  - (iii) traditional markets (only stores selling dried and fresh foods)
  - (iv) convenience stores, mini markets (except for on-the-spot/dine-in food services)
  - (v) general goods stores, stores selling fruits
  - (vi) hotels and other places of accommodation
  - (vii) chain stores for agriculture products, foods, and medicines
  - (viii) medical examination and treatment services
  - (ix) postal services
  - (x) banking services and electronic payment services
  - (xi) broadcasting and communication services
  - (xii) security guard services
  - (xiii) gas and petrol outlets
  - (xiv) funeral services
  - (xv) detoxification centres
  - (xvi) social protection centres.

## 3. Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee's Instruction

- Similarly, Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee instructed its subordinate agencies to implement Directive No. 16 of the Prime Minister, including: (i) arranging for officials and employees of State agencies and units to adopt information technology to work from home and stop receiving dossiers for administrative procedures in person (instead, applying is permitted through on-line submissions), (ii) requesting people to stay at home except for the situations allowed under Directive 16, (iii) working with enterprises which are still allowed to operate to provide essential goods or services on prevention measures to be carried out, (iv) restricting transport pursuant to the guidance of the Ministry of Transport, and (v) identifying and strictly supervising the medical quarantine of suspected persons.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Available at the official website of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee:  
<http://www.hochiminhcity.gov.vn/thongtinthanhpho/tintuc/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?CategoryId=34&ItemId=64039&PublishedDate=2020-04-01T20:00:00Z>; <http://www.hochiminhcity.gov.vn/thongtinthanhpho/tintuc/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?CategoryId=3&ItemId=64034&PublishedDate=2020-04-01T07:35:00Z> (accessed on 1 April 2020).

#### 4. Telegram No. 02 of Minister of Public Security

- On the afternoon of 31 March 2020, the Minister of Public Security also issued Telegram No. 02, requesting public security agencies at all levels to ensure strict compliance with directives from competent authorities, including Directive No. 16, such as by: (i) dividing teams into shifts for working and refraining from close contact, (ii) temporarily suspending receiving citizens to deal with public-security-related requests, except for urgent cases, (iii) discovering and strictly dealing with any violation of the Directive No. 16 in a timely manner, and (iv) identifying and strictly supervising the medical quarantine of suspected persons.<sup>2</sup>

#### 5. Announcement of Nationwide Epidemic of COVID-19

- On 1 April 2020, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 447/QĐ-TTg on the announcement of a nationwide epidemic of Covid-19 (“**Decision**”). According to this Decision, all relevant persons and entities are required to strictly implement the directives of the Prime Minister (including Directive No. 16) and to follow and apply measures to prevent and control the pandemic which are in accordance with those established in the Law on Fighting and Preventing Infectious Diseases (“**Law**”). Pursuant to this Law, the measures include, but are not limited to, epidemic declaration and reporting; organization of medical quarantine; sanitation, disinfection and sterilization in epidemic zones; control of entry into and exit from epidemic zones; and mobilization and requisition of resources. The highest level of the measures is a declaration of a State emergency in case of an epidemic which will be announced by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly or the President. As of 2 April 2020, a State emergency has not yet been declared in Vietnam in relation to Covid-19.



[Vu Le Bang](#)

Vietnam Partner\*, Ho Chi Minh City Office  
[vu.le.bang@jurists.jp](mailto:vu.le.bang@jurists.jp)



[Ha Hoang Loc](#)

Vietnam Partner\*, Ho Chi Minh City Office  
[ha.hoang.loc@jurists.jp](mailto:ha.hoang.loc@jurists.jp)



[Nguyen Thi Thanh  
Huong](#)

Counsel, Hanoi Office  
[nguyen.thi.thanh.huong@jurists.jp](mailto:nguyen.thi.thanh.huong@jurists.jp)



[Tomomi Murata](#)

Attorney-at-Law, Singapore Office  
[t\\_murata@jurists.co.jp](mailto:t_murata@jurists.co.jp)

\*Please note that we are not engaged in a Gaikokuho Kyodo Jigyo (the operation of a foreign law joint enterprise).

<sup>2</sup> Available at DTI News Dantri International: <https://dantri.com.vn/xa-hoi/bo-cong-an-xu-ly-nghiem-truong-hop-vi-pham-chi-thi-cach-ly-toan-xa-hoi-20200401160451036.htm> (accessed on 1 April 2020).