



## **Legal update – Notification regarding the conclusions of Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc at the regular meeting of the Government on COVID-19 Prevention and Control**

On 15 April 2020, the Government issued *Notification No. 155/TB-VPCP regarding the conclusions of Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc ("PM")* at the regular meeting of the Government on COVID-19 Prevention and Control ("**Notification 155**").

According to *Notification 155*, the PM states that the epidemic situation in Vietnam is still at risk of infection in the community, requiring the country to strictly implement the urgent measures outlined in *Directive No 16/CT-TTg on implementation of emergency measures, to fight Covid-19 ("Directive 16")*<sup>1</sup>. The PM requested the National Steering Committee on COVID-19 Prevention and Control ("**Covid-19 Committee**") to report and propose the strategy to proceed with further distancing measures after 15 April 2020.

In addition, *Notification 155*, the PM dealt with the following issues:

1. Instructed the Ministry of Education to assess the plan in respect of schools and exams for the 2019-2020 school year;
2. Instructed the State Bank of Vietnam to develop a cashless payment system;
3. Approved online medical examination and treatment;
4. Approved case surveillance software without disclosing personal information;
5. Approved the export of medical masks, protective uniforms and medical equipment for epidemic prevention to countries severely affected by the disease if supply in Vietnam is ensured.
6. Instructed the Deputy Prime Minister take charge in forming the ventilator manufacturing industry in Vietnam.

On the same day, the PM extended further social distancing measures **until 22 April 2020 or 30 April 2020** but such measures are not applied nationwide as required in *Directive 16*.

Instead, the PM stated that such measures are applied to cities and provinces based on the following criteria:

- traffic hubs;
- high density of movement and travel;
- population density;

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<sup>1</sup> See our translation for *Directive 16*: <https://bit.ly/3cnX7mn>

- having borders;
- having many people crossing borders;
- locations that have contact with or are visited by many foreigners; and
- factories and industrial parks.

On that basis, based on the recommendations of the Committee, the PM agreed to divide the provinces and cities in Vietnam into high-risk, risky, and the low-risk areas as defined below:

Group	Areas	Measures
High-risk	Ha Noi, Lao Cai, Quang Ninh, Bac Ninh, Ninh Binh, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Binh Thuan, Khanh Hoa, Ho Chi Minh City, Tay Ninh and Ha Tinh	Strictly implement <i>Directive 16</i> and <i>Directive 15/CT-TTg</i> regarding drastically implementing the peak phase of COVID-19 prevention and control dated 27 March 2020 (" <b>Directive 15</b> ") <sup>2</sup> <b>until the end of 22 April 2020 or 30 April 2020</b> , depending on the actual situation.
Risk	Binh Duong, Can Tho, Dong Nai, Ha Nam, Hai Phong, Kien Giang, Nam Dinh, Nghe An, Thai Nguyen, Thua Thien Hue, Soc Trang, Lang Son, An Giang, Binh Phuoc and Dong Thap	Strictly implement <i>Directive 15</i> and <i>Directive 16</i> until <b>22 April 2020</b> depending on the actual situation.
Low-risk	Other provinces and cities	Implement <i>Directive 15</i> .

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(a) Stop meetings, events gathering of over 20 people in 1 room; gathering from 10 people or more outside the workplace, school, hospital is not allowed; It is required to carry a minimum distance of 2m between people in public places is required.

b) Strictly stop religious ritual and gathering of 20 or more people at religious places; stop all cultural, sport and entertainment activities in public places.

c) Temporarily suspend the operation of service-providing establishments, except for those dealing in essential goods and services.

d) Restrict the movement of people, especially from epidemic provinces and cities to other localities. Temporarily suspend or re-organise public transport to restrict movement and concentration of people, except for means of transporting goods.