



### **1st June Update – Vietnam is feeling the pinch as Covid numbers increase**

Vietnam has had relative success in controlling the virus but cases have been rising over the past weeks. Overall, the country has registered just over 7,000 infections and 47 deaths, but the latest spike accounts for more than half of the total number of cases.

Over the weekend, officials warned of a new “very dangerous” hybrid variant discovered in the country. The government says the new variant combines features of the variants first identified in India and the UK, and is easily transmissible by air.

The latest outbreak in Ho Chi Minh City is centred around a Christian mission and a chef from the Sheraton Hotel, which had seen at least 125 positive cases, and accounts for most of the city’s infections.

Those living in the vicinity of the cluster have already been tested and are in lockdown.

Officials now plan to test the rest of Ho Chi Minh City’s 13 million people which is estimated it will take 4 months at a ratio of 100,000 per day.

It is important to note the following new key restrictions:

New social distancing measures across the city for 15 days, starting from 31 May.

Shops and restaurants are closed, and religious activities have been suspended. “All events that gather more than 10 people in public are banned city-wide, but the city is considering to lower the number of people to just five,” the government said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-57303306>

### **TRAVEL NEWS INDUSTRY NEWS**

Vietnam Airlines has signed an agreement with the International Air Transport Association to trial a vaccine passport next month.



## **Indochina Travel Services (ITS) Vietnam**

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It will implement the IATA Travel Pass initiative that allows people to store verified Covid19-test and vaccination certificates on a smartphone app.

They must be issued by authorized facilities registered with IATA.

Le Hong Ha, CEO of Vietnam Airlines, said: "The most important goal of the initiative is to revive people's faith in air transport and ensure safe and smooth travel."

Nick Careen, an IATA board member, said it is a solution for facilitating international travel during the pandemic.

Three countries have signed up for the use of the IATA Travel Pass, Singapore, Panama and Estonia, and 30 airlines.

Reference

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/companies/vietnam-airlines-signs-up-for-international-vaccine-passport-program-4286663.html>