

SOCIAL SECURITY REGULATIONS IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN VIETNAM – PRACTICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*Tran Thi Thuy Lam **

Abstract: *The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted all aspects of socio-economic life, including social insurance. Many workers have lost their jobs, and their livelihoods have faced difficulties. As a result, they need support to overcome the consequences of the pandemic. The government has also had to expand social security packages to assist its people in overcoming hardship. This article analyses the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on social security and assesses the current state of Vietnam's laws and practises regarding the “unprecedented” specific social security packages in the context of the pandemic (including unemployment insurance, health insurance, and social assistance). On that basis, the article also proposes several recommendations to further strengthen social security for people in general and during the pandemic in particular.*

Keywords: *COVID-19 pandemic; employment; social security; employment and social security*

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1. The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on employment and social security

The first several suspected cases of coronavirus in Wuhan, China, were reported on 31 December 2019, and the first death from coronavirus occurred in Wuhan on 9 January 2020¹. The COVID-19 pandemic has spread to nearly 220 countries and territories. The number of infected people is almost ten times higher, and the number of deaths double, that of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2002 - 2003².

* Associate Professor, Doctor, Hanoi Law University. E-mail: thuylamld@hlu.edu.vn

¹ Fernando Duarte (2020), *Who is 'patient zero' in the coronavirus outbreak?*, <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200221-coronavirus-the-harmful-hunt-for-covid-19s-patient-zero>, last accessed on 11 March 2021.

² Worldometers (2021), *Countries where COVID-19 has spread*, <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/countries-where-coronavirus-has-spread/>, last accessed on 11 March 2021.