

Vietnam's trade ministry asked China's Guangxi authorities to take urgent measures to ease congestion at border crossings after China stepped up its border controls with neighbours to follow zero COVID-19 policies, state media reported.

Pictures and video footage from state-run Vietnam News Agency (VNA) showed thousands of trucks were held up at the border following reports that imported COVID-19 cases had been detected in Guangxi province.

"Anti-virus prevention measures that Guangxi is applying under the 'zero COVID' policies, including closing border gates or stopping fruit imports, are over necessary," VNA reported, citing a trade ministry statement.

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In response, Guangxi trade officials said they would increase the duration of customs clearance and pass along other proposals to mitigate the border situation to higher authorities, according to the VNA report.

China is Vietnam's largest trading partner, and the biggest market for its fruit and vegetables.