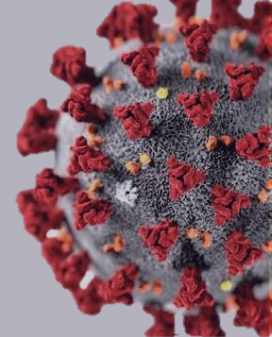
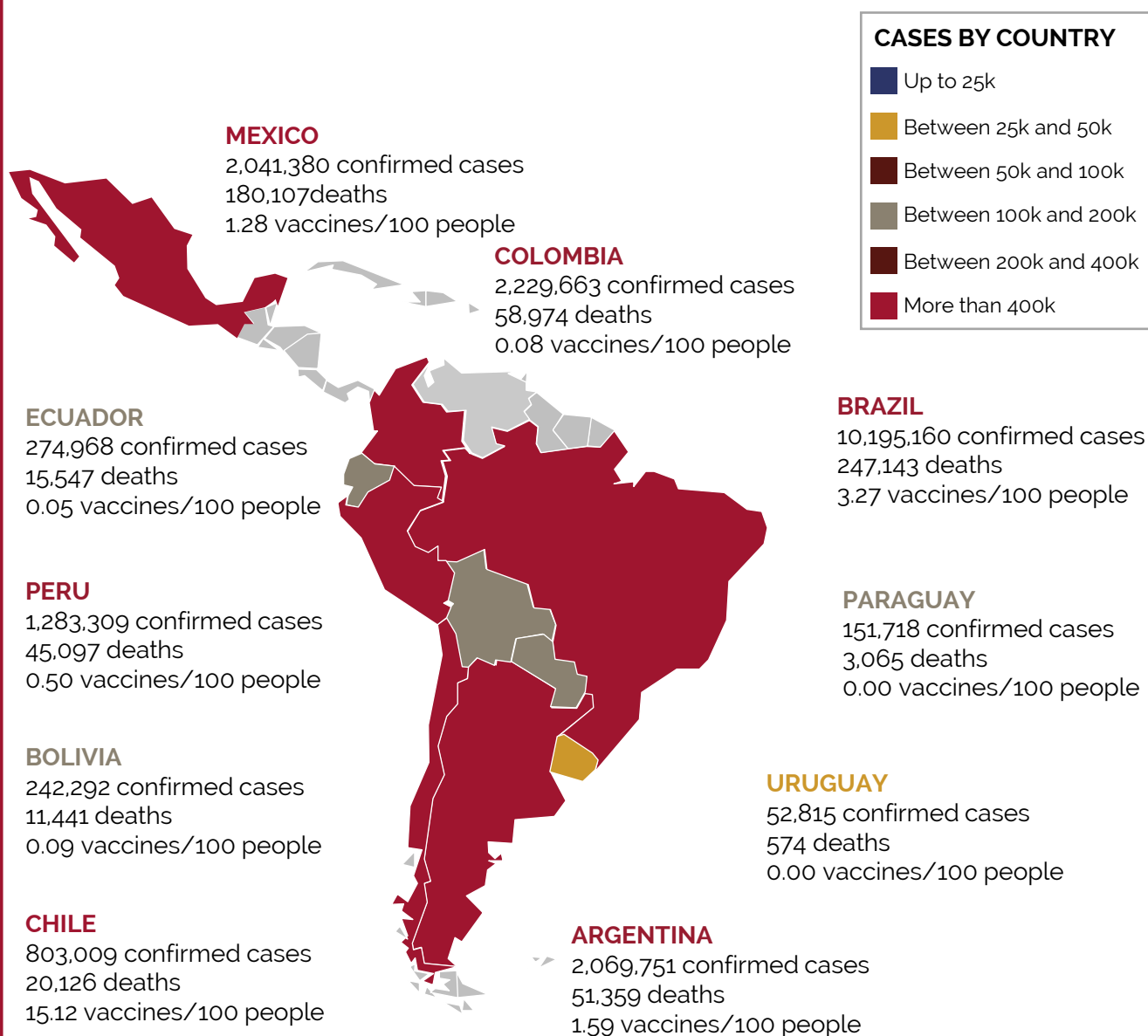


# PROSPECTIVA | LATAM COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

[www.prospectiva.com](http://www.prospectiva.com)



## SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA



Source: Prospectiva. At 4pm, 22/02/21

# COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 15-22, 2021

## COVID-19 CASE EVOLUTION: THIS WEEK'S DATA

COUNTRY	CASES			DEATHS			TESTS X - MILION
	TOTAL	NEW	W-O-W INCREASE (%)	TOTAL	NEW	W-O-W INCREASE (%)	
<b>ARGENTINA</b>	2,069,751	43,953	-3.3%	51,359	1,123	5%	157,809
<b>BOLIVIA</b>	242,292	5,560	-36.6%	11,441	239	-41%	57,218
<b>BRAZIL</b>	10,195,160	355,158	12.6%	247,143	7,784	0%	133,938
<b>CHILE</b>	803,009	23,468	-15.1%	20,126	502	-23%	473,005
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	2,229,663	34,624	-8.5%	58,974	1,369	-15%	18,942
<b>ECUADOR</b>	274,968	7,267	-22.8%	15,547	192	-44%	54,682
<b>MEXICO</b>	2,041,380	48,586	-19.9%	180,107	5,900	-26%	40,660
<b>PARAGUAY</b>	151,718	7,676	29.6%	3,065	129	17%	101,056
<b>PERU</b>	1,283,309	48,011	-1.2%	45,097	1,394	0%	218,219
<b>URUGUAY</b>	52,815	3,906	8.6%	574	39	-13%	278,870

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 22/02/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**Argentina:** Health Minister resigned after scandal on irregularities in the vaccination process.

**Bolivia:** Government prompted massive purchase of COVID-19 medicines from India.

**Brazil:** Concerns over government involvement in Petrobras' director appointment.

**Colombia:** Rollout began after the arrival of first 50,000 Pfizer doses.

**Chile:** President Piñera's approval on the rise amid historic vaccine rollout.

**Ecuador:** Vaccination plan continues after arrival of new doses from Pfizer.

**Mexico:** A decree that eliminates import tariffs on COVID-19 vaccines and oxygen tanks was published.

**Paraguay:** COVID-19 vaccination campaign kickstarted with health workers.

**Peru:** Vaccination scandal continues to grow and dominate the agenda while the health emergency is extended.

**Uruguay:** Government expecting arrival of first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines.

# ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,069,751	51,359	1,872,213	1,130	1.59

<b>Government Measures</b>	<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After irregularities in the vaccination process and VIP vaccination scandal, Health Minister was asked to <a href="#">resign</a>, and Carla Vizzotti was appointed for this <a href="#">position</a>.</li> <li>In wake of vaccine controversy, the opposition prepares press conference and <a href="#">legislative initiatives</a> to ensure transparency.</li> </ul>
	<b>Vaccine Rollout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Ministry <a href="#">authorized</a> Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine on an emergency basis and <a href="#">one million</a> doses are expected to arrive this week, according to <a href="#">local press</a>.</li> <li>Vaccinations for adults <a href="#">over 80</a> years old began in the city of Buenos Aires.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government launched new Gas Plan <a href="#">bidding process</a> to cover the winter demand.</li> <li>Public audience planned to discuss <a href="#">gas tariffs</a> on March 15<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
	<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Fernandez announced creation of <a href="#">Economic and Social Council</a>.</li> <li>President met with teachers' union <a href="#">representatives</a>.</li> </ul>
	<b>Country Opening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">In site classes</a> started in CABA, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, and Jujuy last week, according to the Education Minister, there was <a href="#">90% student attendance</a>. On-site classes <a href="#">have also started</a> in the Province of Buenos Aires.</li> </ul>
<b>Outlook</b>	<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial governors from the southern region of the country met to form a regional bloc, local press <a href="#">reported</a>.</li> <li>Human Rights Watch <a href="#">criticized</a> Argentina over VIP vaccination scandal.</li> </ul>

# BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
242,292	11,441	185,155	972	0.09

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bolivia <a href="#">registered</a> a new decrease in COVID-19 cases at the beginning of the week as vaccine rollout continues to take place.</li> <li>More than 2 million facemasks and a mobile hospital were <a href="#">donated</a> by the Chinese government.</li> <li>Government <a href="#">purchased</a> more than 20 tons of medicines to treat COVID-19 patients. The acquisition was made in India with several local pharma companies.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 10,000 healthcare workers have been <a href="#">vaccinated</a> with Sputnik's first dose as of February 15.</li> <li>The government <a href="#">announced</a> that the cold chain for the Pfizer and Sinopharm vaccines is now ready as new doses are expected to arrive in the upcoming weeks.</li> <li>New vaccine shipments to arrive in February 28, viceminister of health <a href="#">reported</a>.</li> <li>President Arce <a href="#">announced</a> the arrival of half a million Sinopharm vaccines doses in the upcoming days.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health sector <a href="#">announced</a> national strike against the Sanitary Emergency Law.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Arce again <a href="#">referred</a> to the tax on large fortunes and how it benefits wealth redistribution in the country.</li> <li>Concerns <a href="#">arise</a> regarding the economic reactivation process; Arce's main agenda and theme during campaign.</li> <li>The government <a href="#">returned</a> a massive credit aid afforded by the IMF during Jeanine Añez's mandate.</li> </ul>
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former president Evo Morales <a href="#">announced</a> his return to politics as he will be supporting MAS candidates' political tours throughout the country.</li> <li>President Arce <a href="#">celebrates</a> his first 100 days in office.</li> </ul>

# BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATIONS PER 100
10,195,160	247,143	9,095,483	1,157	3.27

Government Measures	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello <a href="#">held</a> a meeting with mayors and governors to discuss vaccine distribution to municipalities.</li> <li>Brazil is expecting to <a href="#">distribute</a> 231 million doses of vaccine by July, pending approval of the Russian Sputnik V and Indian Covaxin vaccines.</li> <li>MP 1026/21 <a href="#">presented</a> in the House allows for the private sector to acquire emergency authorized vaccines, provided private actors follow the Ministry's priority groups and donate half their vaccine purchases to the public health system.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bolsonaro <a href="#">intervened</a> into Petrobras' selection of the next director, resulting in the company's market value dropping 35% and affecting other state-owned publicly traded companies.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A consensus over emergency aid is <a href="#">developing</a> in Congress, to exempt the aid from the spending ceiling by expanding the Bolsa Familia program.</li> <li>Deputy Daniel Silveira (PSL/RJ) was <a href="#">arrested</a> for a video threatening Supreme Court ministers, with the House voting to uphold the arrest.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tax Reform is likely to begin <a href="#">consideration</a> in the Senate, with PEC 110 including flexible sectoral tax rates, due to political conflict in the House.</li> <li>Bolsonaro's intervention has <a href="#">raised</a> questions about the viability of the privatization agenda under his administration as an election approaches, worrying investors.</li> </ul>

# CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
803,009	20,126	760,577	1,047	15.12

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government <a href="#">launched</a> a reactivation plan for non-Covid treatments that have been postponed or canceled amid the pandemic crisis.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Piñera <a href="#">announced</a> an advance in the vaccination date for teachers and education workers.</li> <li>More than 2 million people have been <a href="#">vaccinated</a> as of the end of last week.</li> <li>More than 160,000 new Pfizer doses <a href="#">arrived</a> in the country at the end of last week.</li> </ul>
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government <a href="#">announced</a> the start of the 2021 school year amid concerns.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Economy <a href="#">launched</a> a new plan for the reactivation of tourism and industry sectors.</li> <li>Government <a href="#">launched</a> <i>Subsidio Protege</i>. Which grants financial aid to families with children under two years of age.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Piñera reaches his highest approval level since the beginning of the year, according to CADEM <a href="#">poll</a>.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copper <a href="#">reaches</a> its best sale price since September 2012. The advancement of global vaccination has generated better expectations regarding the demand.</li> <li>According to Moody's, private consumption will <a href="#">contribute</a> significantly to boost economic recovery in the next two years.</li> <li>Despite the economic crisis, more than 15,000 new companies were <a href="#">created</a> in January, according to data provided by the Ministry of Economy.</li> </ul>
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Fenpruss</i> <a href="#">calls</a> for strengthening the public health sector to address delayed health care appointments.</li> <li>Around 35,000 people have been <a href="#">vaccinated</a> without being part of the prioritized vaccination groups, according to local press.</li> </ul>

# COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,229,663	58,974	2,124,695	1,151	0.08

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From the first of March the Ministry of Health will open a <a href="#">nomination</a> for the exclusion of health technologies.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccine rollout <a href="#">begins</a> after the arrival of 50,000 Pfizer doses in the country.</li> <li>A second batch of 192,000 Sinovac doses <a href="#">arrived</a> on Saturday morning as more than 45,000 vaccines are going to be delivered for the Amazon region and rural areas of the country.</li> <li>Health Superintendent <a href="#">created</a> an elite group to monitor the vaccination process against COVID-19.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Finance <a href="#">proposed</a> an austerity plan given the reduction in tax collection amid the economic crisis. The document will be open for public comments until the beginning of March.</li> <li>The National and Economic Policy Council (CONPES) <a href="#">approved</a> the Policy for reactivation: Nuevo compromiso por el futuro de Colombia. This strategy seeks to reactivate the economy and accelerate growth as it was before the pandemic crisis began.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pharmaceutical safety bill <a href="#">moves forward</a> as key actors beyond Congress begin to support the measure. This project rules the national policy bases for scientific research, technological development and innovation within the pharmaceutical safety sector.</li> <li>The presidential electoral race moves forward as new coalitions and candidates emerge for the 2022 elections. The center-left coalition or <i>Coalición de la Esperanza</i> will be <a href="#">launching</a> their political proposal in late April. Meanwhile, the left-wing coalition, or <i>Pacto Histórico</i>, <a href="#">confirmed</a> the adherence of the <i>Partido de los Comunes</i>.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colombia's GDP <a href="#">suffered</a> a historical contraction of (-6,8%), according to the latest figures of the National Statistics Department (DANE).</li> </ul>

## ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
274,968	15,547	238,817	873	0.05

<b>Government Measures</b>	<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Public Health <a href="#">reported</a> the normalization of the distribution of pentavalent vaccines in the country.</li> </ul>
	<b>Vaccine Rollout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecuador <a href="#">received</a> 16,380 new doses of the Pfizer vaccine to complete vaccination of the initial target group.</li> <li>The Municipality of Guayaquil <a href="#">asked</a> the Government for authorization to freely buy vaccines against <a href="#">COVID-19</a>.</li> <li>The National Health Bioethics Commission <a href="#">requested</a> to suspend the clinical trial of Anhui Zhifei Logcom's vaccine.</li> </ul>
	<b>Country Opening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Emergency Operations Committee <a href="#">approved</a> the progressive return of rural schools.</li> </ul>
<b>Outlook</b>	<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leftist candidate, Andrés Arauz, will <a href="#">face</a> conservative candidate, Guillermo Lasso, in the second round of the presidential election.</li> <li>The mayor of Quito <a href="#">warned</a> that he will import doses of COVID-19 vaccines with or without the respective authorization.</li> <li>The Legislative Administration Council <a href="#">approved</a> two requests for political trials against the Minister of Health.</li> </ul>
	<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Municipality of Quito, the Armed Forces and the National Police are <a href="#">preparing</a> to control strategic points upon the announcement of mobilizations.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presidential candidate, Andrés Arauz, met with representatives of the International Monetary Fund.</li> <li>The Ecuadorian Society of Public Health <a href="#">asked</a> the government to "develop a coherent vaccination plan".</li> </ul>



# MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,041,380	180,107	1,595,320	1,388	1.28

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mexico <a href="#">exceeded</a> two million confirmed cases of COVID-19.</li> <li>A new head of the national regulatory agency, COFEPRIS, was <a href="#">appointed</a>.</li> <li>Undersecretary of Health, Hugo López-Gatell, <a href="#">tested</a> positive for COVID-19.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government <a href="#">received</a> almost half a million COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and 200 thousand doses <a href="#">from</a> Sinovac.</li> <li>Frist batch of Sputnik V vaccine <a href="#">expected</a> to arrive this week.</li> <li>The country <a href="#">denounced</a> unequal access to coronavirus vaccines before the UN Security Council.</li> <li>President AMLO <a href="#">confirmed</a> that vaccination plan will include educational staff in states where contagions are low.</li> <li>A decree that eliminates import tariffs on vaccines against COVID-19 and oxygen tanks was <a href="#">published</a>.</li> </ul>
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public and private universities in Mexico City to <a href="#">open</a> exclusively for students waiting to complete their degree in the areas of health sciences.</li> <li>The National Association of Private Schools <a href="#">announced</a> that they will return to face-to-face classes as of March 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The President of Argentina will <a href="#">make</a> an official visit to Mexico from February 22 to 24.</li> <li>Economy Commission in the country <a href="#">rejected</a> President AMLO's electrical reform.</li> </ul>
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost three thousand workers from the health sector have died from COVID-19, <a href="#">according</a> to a PAHO report.</li> <li>The country <a href="#">faced</a> power outages in 26 states.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foreign direct investment fell by 11.7% in 2020, <a href="#">according</a> to the Economy Secretariat.</li> </ul>

# PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
151,718	3,065	126,919	426	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Health <a href="#">presents</a> Digital Agenda for Health Services project.</li> <li>Minister of Health <a href="#">delivers report</a> on drug procurement before Congress.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccination to health personnel in <a href="#">Central and Asuncion underway</a> with 4,000 doses of Sputnik V vaccine.</li> <li>Minister of Health expecting 4,3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines acquired through COVAX mechanism to be <a href="#">confirmed</a> in the upcoming week.</li> </ul>
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government <a href="#">extends restrictions</a> until March 14th.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electoral Court <a href="#">distributes</a> voting stations throughout the country to train citizens on how to use them for the upcoming elections.</li> <li>New chairman of the Supreme Court of Justice <a href="#">appointed</a>.</li> <li>President Abdo meets with Uruguayan counterpart to <a href="#">discuss</a> trade opportunities and other issues.</li> <li>Congress to resume sessions <a href="#">next week</a>.</li> <li>Senator <a href="#">questions</a> COVAX mechanism in private hearing with President Abdo.</li> </ul>
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher guild and Ministry of Education to <a href="#">draft</a> protocol for resuming on-site schooling.</li> </ul>

# PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,283,309	45,097	1,183,238	1,356	0

<b>Government Measures</b>	<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Institute of Health <u>suspended</u> the Center for Clinical Studies of the Cayetano Heredia University for new trials</li> <li>A law that declares the National Health System in emergency for 12 months was <u>published</u>.</li> </ul>
	<b>Vaccine Rollout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health <u>reported</u> that they are expecting two more million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines.</li> <li>A bill so that companies can buy vaccines to apply them to their workers was <u>presented</u> to the Congress.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council of Ministers <u>approved</u> an Emergency Decree for the economic compensation of workers in the health sector.</li> </ul>
	<b>Country opening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Sagasti <u>extended</u> the health emergency until September 2 due to the "high probability that the pandemic will continue throughout the year"</li> </ul>
<b>Outlook</b>	<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Congress <u>approved</u> the possibility of holding a political trial against former president Vizcarra and the previous ministers of Health and of Foreign Affairs, in relation to the vaccination scandal.</li> <li>The Congress also <u>appointed</u> an investigative commission on said vaccination scandal.</li> <li>The Prosecutor's Office <u>asked</u> for the preliminary arrest of seven of those involved in the vaccination scandal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The country's economy <u>fell</u> 11.1% during 2020, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics.</li> </ul>

# URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
52,815	574	46,265	165	0

<b>Government Measures</b>	<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Lacalle Pou to lead a <a href="#">meeting with Ministers</a> to discuss the health emergency in view of upcoming arrival of vaccines.</li> <li>According to the latest <a href="#">official COVID19 report</a>, cases without epidemiological link increased.</li> </ul>
	<b>Vaccine Rollout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>200,000 Sinovac vaccines are expected to reach Uruguay, local press <a href="#">reported</a>.</li> <li>Health Ministry informed mutualists that vaccines could arrive "at any time", local press <a href="#">reported</a>.</li> <li><a href="#">Early appointment</a> for vaccination must be requested by web, app or phone.</li> <li><a href="#">Public confidence</a> in vaccines to be purchased by Uruguay increased.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Energy Sector Fund to invest in research, development and innovation projects in energy products and services, presidency portal <a href="#">announced</a>.</li> </ul>
	<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Lacalle Pou received Paraguayan President Mario Abdo Benítez. They discussed the flexibilization of MERCOSUR, local press <a href="#">reported</a>.</li> </ul>
	<b>Country Opening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Public Education Administration (ANEP) reduced the <a href="#">required distance</a> between students in classrooms from 1.5 to 1 meter.</li> <li>Government <a href="#">extended</a> the limitation on the right to assembly for an additional 30 days.</li> </ul>
<b>Outlook</b>	<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frente Amplio is considering <a href="#">postponing</a> its internal elections until the end of the year.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private sector claims to government for change in criteria to access tax exemptions for renewable energy projects, local press <a href="#">remarked</a>.</li> </ul>

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