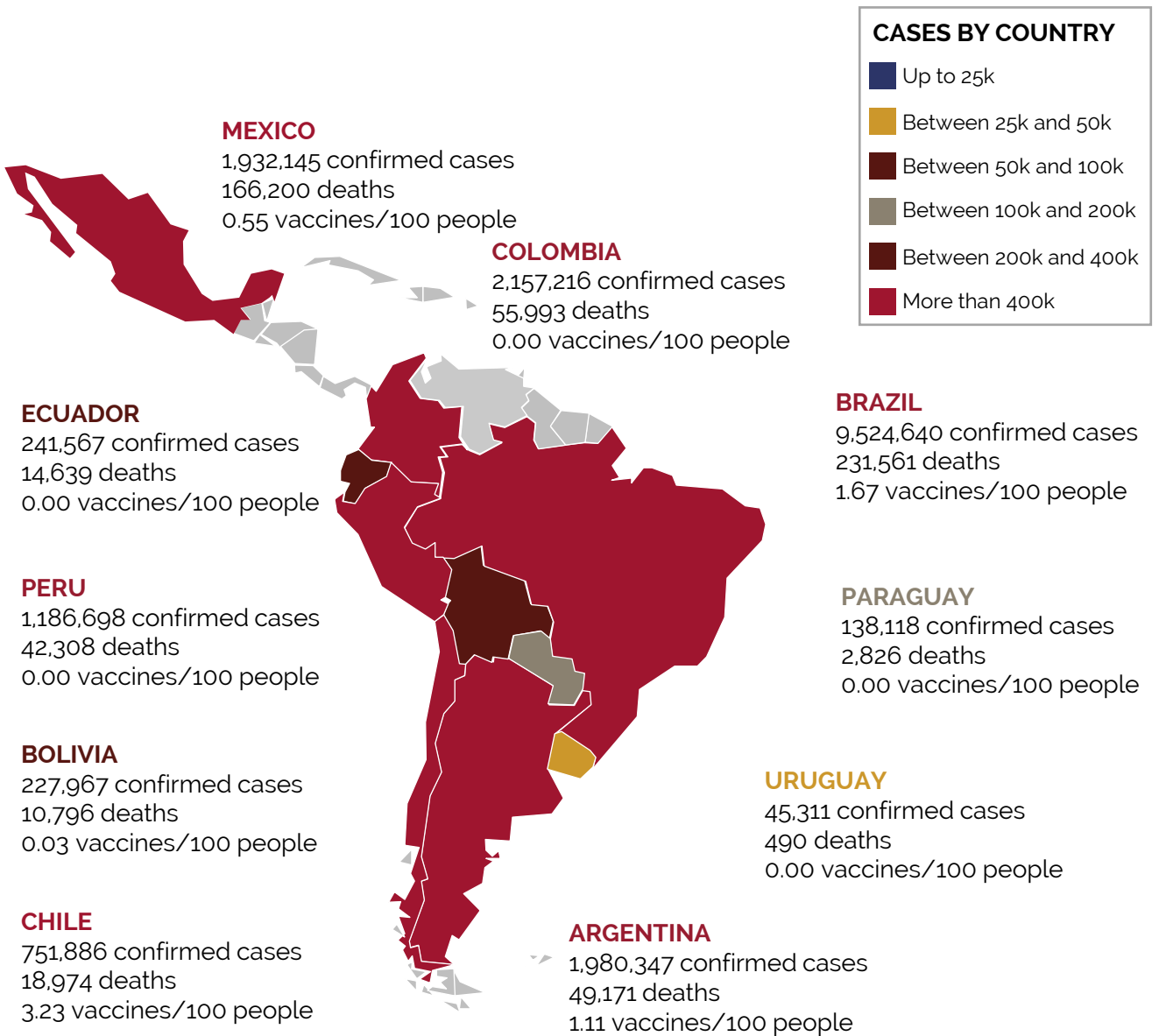


SPREAD OF COVID-19-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA



COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 1-8, 2021

COVID-19 CASE EVOLUTION: THIS WEEK'S DATA

COUNTRY	CASES			DEATHS			TESTS
	TOTAL	NEW	W-O-W INCREASE (%)	TOTAL	NEW	W-O-W INCREASE (%)	X -MILION
ARGENTINA	1,980,347	46,494	-21.3%	49,171	922	-24%	143,207
BOLIVIA	227,967	11,132	-29.5%	10,796	417	6%	51,300
BRAZIL	9,524,640	295,318	-22.1%	231,561	6,462	-19%	133,975
CHILE	751,886	20,998	-24.2%	18,974	437	-19%	436,566
COLOMBIA	2,157,216	52,710	-31.3%	55,993	1,721	-32%	205,100
ECUADOR	258,282	7,296	-22.5%	15,012	122	-51%	51,059
MEXICO	1,932,145	67,885	-32.8%	166,200	7,664	-14%	37,717
PARAGUAY	138,118	4,891	-12.3%	2,826	108	7%	94,134
PERU	1,186,698	48,459	23.5%	42,308	1,282	3%	198,747
URUGUAY	45,311	3,573	-13.0%	490	54	-10%	255,430

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 08/02/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



Please take our survey to share your insights and opinions on Prospectiva's weekly reports. Click the following [link](#) to access the survey.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: Health Minister stated that "herd immunity" would be achieved after July.

Bolivia: COVID-19 vaccine was delivered in all nine departments prioritizing healthcare workers.

Brazil: New leadership in Congress elected.

Colombia: Vaccination plan decree enacted weeks before the start of vaccine rollout.

Chile: As massive vaccination moves forward, Piñera's approval reaches highest level since October.

Ecuador: First round of presidential elections took place amidst increased contagions.

Mexico: 3 million medicines purchased to support the fight against COVID-19.

Paraguay: Abdo appoints new Minister of Technology while Minister of Health faces questionings on budget execution.

Peru: The first batch of COVID-19 vaccines arrived in the country.

Uruguay: As contagions drop, logistics move forward to start the vaccination process.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,980,347	49,171	1,778,965	1,082	0.65

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazilian variants of COVID19 were detected in Argentina. • After an authorized inflation increase of 3.5% for March, private health providers are still <u>negotiating</u> an automatic authorization formula.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Minister stated that 62 million doses of COVID19 vaccines have been committed to Argentina through agreements already signed. Considering this, he stated that "herd immunity" would be reached after July. • With no agreement on prices and quantities, the government is waiting for a gesture from the Chinese president to close the deal for Sinopharm, local press reported.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bill to make less people pay income tax is promoted by the officialism. It will be discussed in extraordinary sessions. • Government meets to schedule appointments with business chambers and union representatives to reach price and wage agreements.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government re-launched the Productive Recovery Program II (Repro II) to help companies in need to pay salaries. • Alberto Fernández ratified the possibility of limiting exports or increasing withholding taxes to the agriculture sector. The aim would be to control food prices.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Buenos Aires City Government defined the in-person back-to-school protocol. • The Minister of Education said that it will be possible to return to in-person classes in "weekly blocks" by groups.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition representatives traveled to the province of Formosa to gather information from people who were in COVID 19 isolation centers accused of human rights violations.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
227,967	10,796	168,040	0.03	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government distributes more than 50,000 free COVID-19 diagnostic tests in Santa Cruz, one of the hardest-hit cities in the country. More than 90 health supplies were donated by the “Solidaridad Medica España” non-governmental organization.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health completes delivery of COVID-19 vaccines in all nine departments of the country. Government began the immunization plan for healthcare workers. Bolivia to receive the first doses of COVAX-Facility after being enlisted in the pilot program “Primera Ola”. More than 90,000 Pfizer doses will be delivered in mid-February, according to local press.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eugenia Mendoza appointed as the new executive director of COMIBOL. More than 3,8 million people were benefited by the “Bono contra el hambre”, President Arce announced. Congress sanctions law that approves CAF credit access, to support health emergency care.
Outlook	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Education launches the 2021 objectives and guidelines for the upcoming school year. Healthcare workers protested in Santa Cruz after the government denied to enforce a strict lockdown in the city.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consumer Price Index registered a positive variation of 0.47% compared to December 2020, Bolivia’s INE reported.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government celebrated the return of democracy after taking office in October 2020 by creating a special date called “Día de la Recuperación de la Democracia Intercultural”. The National Electoral Tribunal (TSE) announced the sanitary measures to be enacted in March elections. After the sanitary emergency law was enacted by Congress, President Arce celebrated the decision. But, some health associations, especially from Santa Cruz, have raised concerns regarding the content of the initiative.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATIONS PER 100
9,524,640	231,561	8,397,187	1,085	1.67

Government Measures	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brazil has distributed 3.59 million doses as of February 7th, while the country continues to face a number of supply issues. The Fiocruz Institute, which intends to produce 15 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine locally in February, received the necessary inputs for 2.8 million doses from China, following an import dispute in January. A Provisional Measure for Vaccines (MP 1003/2020) is under consideration to ease the rules for ANVISA to give emergency approval to vaccines, provided the vaccine has been approved by any one of nine international health agencies.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The failed truckers' strike last week, with low adherence by truckers, removed the government's fear that it would need to intervene to change gas prices again.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arthur Lira (PP/AL) was elected as the new Speaker of the House and Rodrigo Pacheco (DEM/MG) was elected as the new President of the Senate. Under new leadership, Congress will focus on the most urgent priorities including the 2021 Budget, the extension of emergency aid, and the Emergency Constitutional Amendment.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COPOM's interest rate policy is coming under increasing pressure due to rising commodity prices due to demand from China driving up inflation. Key reforms including on taxation and administration, which are meant to aid the economy long-term, will be delayed until later in the year to consider more urgent priorities.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
751,886	18,974	710,029	987	3.23

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in the plan <i>Paso a Paso</i> announced. Clinical Trial's law was passed into the health commission for discussion as the final approval is pending. Despite vaccination rollout began more than a week ago, several regions of the country continue to experience a rapid increase of COVID-19 cases. Arica and Paniracota regions the most affected, Ministry of Health reported. ISP ruled on the use of Avifavir to control COVID-19 expansion.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chile is considered one of the countries with the highest number of people vaccinated. The country is expecting vaccinating more than 80% of the total population before 2021's first semester. The government has vaccinated more than 380,000 people as of February 5: one of the highest figures in the region. President Piñera made a positive balance after the first day of massive vaccination in the country. According to a <i>CADEM</i> poll, more than half of the respondents agreed to get vaccinated. Chile will start receiving COVAX-Facility vaccines throughout this month, <i>La Tercera</i> announced. A first batch of more than 900,000 AstraZeneca doses is expected.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business confidence rises sharply in January, to its highest level in 28 months. Copper products exports almost tripled reaching more than 18 countries. Newly appointed Finance Minister Rodrigo Cerda valued the latest <i>IMACEC</i> figures however, much remains to be done.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Piñera announced the first government objectives for 2021 after its annual cabinet council. Health reform and vaccine rollout amongst the main points on the agenda. Approval of President Piñera reaches 22%: the highest level reported since October 2020.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,157,216	55,993	2,027,333	1,093	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platform “<i>Mi Vacuna</i>” launched. The online tool will grant specific and insightful information of the vaccination process in the country. According to official numbers the second COVID-19 wave had a greater impact regarding death tolls. From December 15 to January 30, more than 14,000 people died, representing 26% of all COVID-19 victims in the country PAHO reported that Colombia registered the highest COVID-19 cases rate in South America during the last week.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INVIMA authorized a new clinical trial for Clover vaccine. This is the fourth trial approved so far. The Ministry of Health announced the intention to acquire Sputnik V vaccine after a confidentiality agreement was signed. Government enacted the vaccination plan decree to organize phases and prioritize populations. Local governments discussed on the vaccine distribution and possible purchase by municipalities. President Duque raised concerns over the possible trade restrictions that might enact vaccine producer countries. Local HMOs get ready for the vaccine rollout at the end of February, preparing the logistic and distribution plans.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Central Bank co-directors appointed amid criticisms given their closeness to President Duque.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Duque's public statements on the failure of multilateralism actions generated criticisms. Special Court for Peace -JEP rules on kidnappings committed by former FARC guerrilla.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019 GDP levels would only be reached towards the end of 2022, Central Bank reported. First vaccination phase will boost the country's economic reactivation, economic expert argued.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wave of violence in port city of Buenaventura. According to the Colombian Association of Oncology, cancer detection fell by 39% in the first half of 2020 due to COVID-19 fears of contagion.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
258,282	15,012	220,398	843	0.04

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new record was registered in hospitalized patients for COVID-19 throughout the country. Pediatric influenza vaccination campaign to begin this week in Ecuador.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 6,000 people were vaccinated against COVID-19 as part of the country's vaccination pilot plan. The National Association of Clinics and Private Hospitals requested that their front-line personnel also be included in the immunization plan. Ecuador will access up to 885 600 vaccine doses through COVAX Facility.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Moreno announced a USD \$200 cash bonus to front-line personnel of the second wave of the pandemic.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government will present a proposed protocol for the reopening of the Peruvian and Colombian borders.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of presidential elections took place amidst increased contagions. The Health Minister appeared before the Prosecutor's Office for influence peddling in the vaccine rollout.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andean Community of Nations agrees to strengthen food security and reactivation of regional trade.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,932,145	166,200	1,490,077	1,281	0.55

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After recovering from COVID-19, President AMLO stated that he will resume his tours of the country this week and will continue not to use a mask. The Health Secretariat reported that five variants of coronavirus have been detected in the country. The parastatal company BIRMEX purchased 3 million units of anesthetics and anticoagulants for COVID-19 patients.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COFEPRIS granted an emergency use authorization to the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine. Call center and website installed for vaccine registration for older adults. Sinovac has requested sanitary registration for their coronavirus vaccine. The new doses of Pfizer's vaccine will arrive later than expected, until February 15. The Superior Audit of the Federation will audit the purchase contracts of the Mexican government for COVID-19 vaccines.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional business representatives met with Economy Secretariat in order to create a joint work agenda. The Secretary of Tourism asked the Secretary of Economy and the Secretary of Health to consider tourism as an essential activity for the country's economy.
Outlook	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senators proposed to reform the Constitution so that the states can acquire supplies, locally or internationally, during a health emergency. PAHO alerts of increase in COVID cases in tourist states of Mexico.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO has estimated that the Mexican economy will grow 5% in 2021.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
138,118	2,826	114,258	393	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health confirms purchase agreement of Sputnik V vaccine. Concerns over dengue continues to increase as reports of cases rises. Second phase of COVID-19 seroprevalence study in Central.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health clarifies specific points on vaccination rollout plan.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Finance to submit alternate bill on financial aid to workers on bordering area with Argentina.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocol for resuming in-house schooling close to being submitted.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank to support access to USD \$136 million loan for productive projects for the first time after 24 years. Fitch Ratings highlights positive outlook for GDP growth in 2021.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vote of confidence against Chief of Staff, Juan Ernesto Villamayor, fails to gather enough support in the Chamber of Deputies. Congress representatives question Minister of Health's purchase capacities due to low budget execution. President Abdo appoints new Minister of Technology and Communications. Plan to vote from home in the upcoming municipal elections kickstarted. Over 2,000 voting stations established for the internal elections scheduled for June 20th. Paraguayan embassy in Buenos Aires vandalized.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study to analyze technological impact of COVID-19 in Paraguayan businesses. Request in social media platform calling to reopen Encarnacion-Posadas bridge.

PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,886,698	3942,308,777	1,094,573	1,272	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Health reported the presence of the Brazilian variant of the coronavirus in three regions. EsSalud was authorized to purchase medicinal oxygen generating plants and other goods in the international market. The government approved a decree to increase the public health budget in the framework of the pandemic.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government approved the registry for Phase I of the National Vaccination Plan. The first 300,000 doses of Sinopharm’s COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Peru with the help of over 20 national companies. The government closed an agreement with Pfizer to buy 20 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines and granted it conditional sanitary registration. UNICEF and the Serum Institute of India announced that around 100 countries, including Peru, will have access to COVID-19 vaccines. According to the Prime Minister, the misuse of vaccines is a crime that will be administratively and criminally punished.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is in process of drafting a National Tourism Reactivation Plan.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health streamlined the procedure for travelers that wish to shorten their mandatory quarantine period.
Outlook	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Peruvian Society of Intensive Medicine asked the authorities to declare the country in a state of disaster and request international help.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMF raised its forecast on the growth of the Peruvian economy for this year to 9%.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
45,311	490	38,976	141	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contagions <u>down</u>: 2,200 fewer active cases of COVID- 19 in 17 days. The State Health Services Administration (ASSE) issued a statement announcing its intention to use <u>plasma</u> for COVID-19 patients. British and Brazilian <u>strains</u> detected in Uruguay.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of the Presidency visited the Chinese ambassador to advance the logistics of SinoVac vaccine <u>delivery</u>. 4 <u>ultra freezers</u> arrived in order to transport the vaccines throughout the country. Uruguay will receive 172,800 doses of AstraZeneca's vaccine through Covax, local press <u>reported</u>. Ministry of Education and Culture prepares database for vaccination of <u>teaching personnel</u>.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Administration of Power Plants and Electric Transmissions (UTE) will implement a regularization and benefits <u>plan</u> aimed at 100,000 users in vulnerable situations. Tourism companies will be granted a <u>grace period</u> for the payment of restructured loans, Central Bank announced.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At bilateral meeting, Lacalle Pou and Bolsonaro discussed the possibility of <u>relaxing</u> trade with countries outside MERCOSUR.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reopening of the <u>museums</u> of the National Directorate of Culture of Montevideo. The <u>Ministry of Public Health</u> recommended that children under five years old should not wear a mask.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social and workers' organizations <u>announced</u> the collection of the first 100,000 signatures to call for a referendum against the LUC. The Frente Amplio celebrated its <u>50th anniversary</u>. Uruguay ranks <u>first</u> in Latin American Democracy Index by The Economist publication.

BRASÍLIA



+55 61 3344-3780



SBS Q. 2, Ed. Prime Business, Sl. 1110

70070-120

SÃO PAULO



+55 11 3816-3636



Avenida Brigadeiro Faria Lima, 201, 9º andar, cj 91, Ed. Tomie Ohtake

05426-100

WASHINGTON D.C



+1 202 710 9000



1440 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20005,

United States

BOGOTÁ



+57 3108 129 860



Cl 93B, no. 13-92, Sala 404,

110221