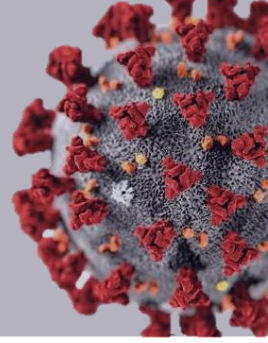
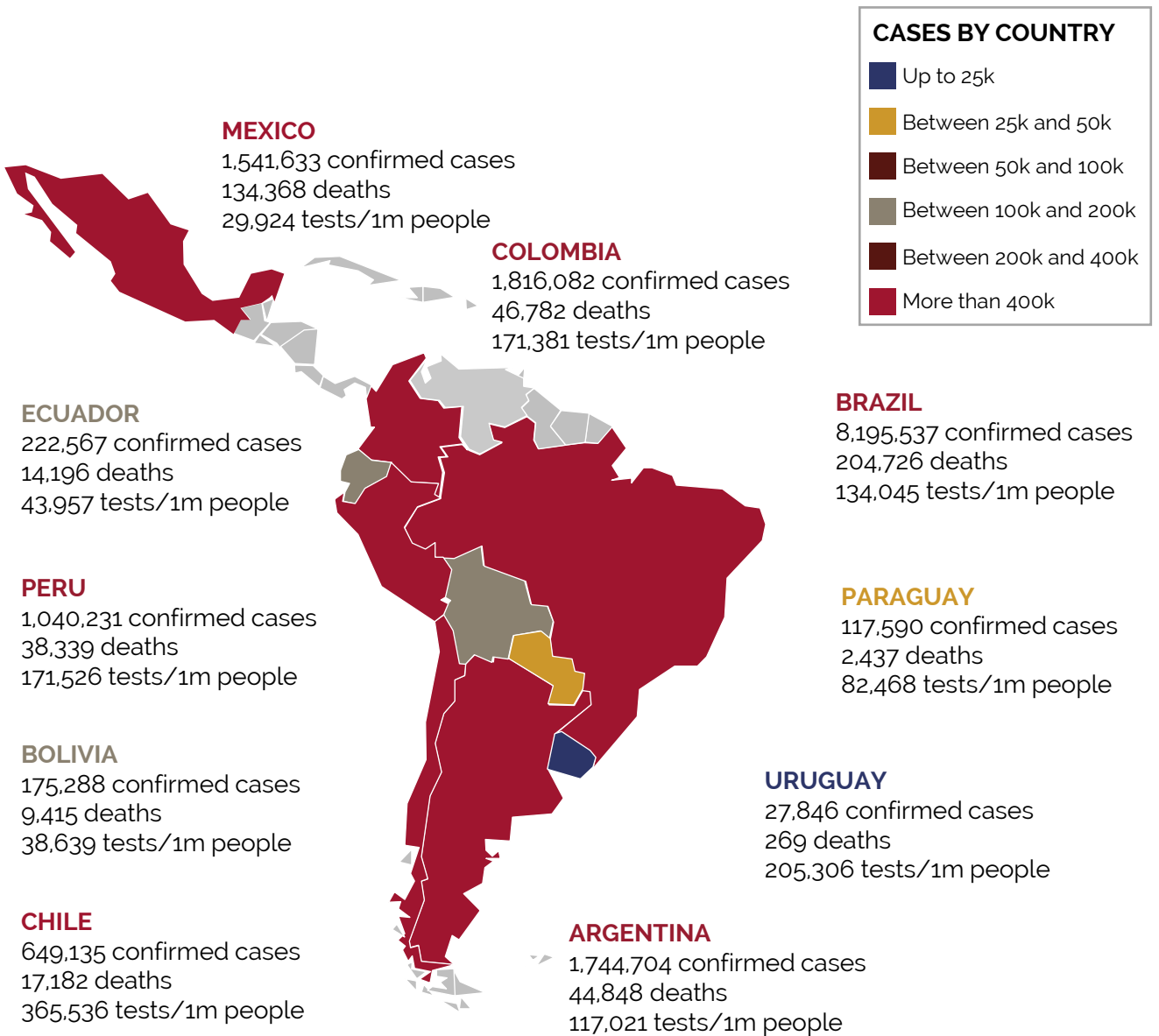


PROSPECTIVA | LATAM COVID-19-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

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



Source: Prospectiva. At 6pm, 12/1/21

COVID-19-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

JANUARY 4-12, 2021

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

COUNTRY	CASES			DEATHS			TESTS X -MILION
	TOTAL	NEW	W-O-W INCREASE (%)	TOTAL	NEW	W-O-W INCREASE (%)	
ARGENTINA	1,744,704	95,764	45.9%	44,848	1,214	23%	117,021
BOLIVIA	175,288	12,627	61.5%	9,415	214	108%	38,639
BRAZIL	8,195,637	441,077	64.3%	204,726	8,135	51%	134,045
CHILE	649,135	28,494	38.8%	17,182	415	28%	363,536
COLOMBIA	1,816,082	129,951	41.8%	46,782	2,595	29%	171,381
ECUADOR	222,567	7,487	30.8%	14,196	127	65%	43,957
MEXICO	1,541,633	92,878	42.2%	134,368	7,155	49%	29,924
PARAGUAY	117,590	7,753	43.2%	2,437	132	13%	82,468
PERU	1,040,231	20,756	75.6%	38,399	569	60%	171,526
URUGUAY	27,846	6,420	36.7%	269	58	9%	205,306

Source: National Health Ministries (As of: 12/1/2021 | 18:00 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: Amid controversies, new shipment of Sputnik V vaccine is expected.

Bolivia: Government prompts strict control measures to avoid drug price speculation.

Brazil: Ministry of Health confirms start of vaccination campaign.

Colombia: Concerns rise as a vaccine rollout calendar is not yet defined.

Chile: Sanitary alert extended for six more months as vaccine rollouts continue.

Ecuador: President Moreno's trip to the US for vaccine negotiations was postponed.

Mexico: The government reserved for five years the agreements and contracts related to COVID-19 vaccine purchases.

Paraguay: Ministry of Health outlines logistical plan for COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

Peru: The Association of Municipalities reached an agreement with Israel to purchase five million vaccines.

Uruguay: As cases increase, the government seeks to expand sanitary facilities and secure purchase agreements for COVID-19 vaccines.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION
1,744,704	44,848	1,527,861	987

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the country's largest private medical companies is considering going to court after the government failed to authorize an inflationary fee increase. After a meeting to discuss the possible reform of the health system, representatives of the Labor Union (CGT) ask for more funds for <i>Obras Sociales</i>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government expects 5 Million Doses of Sputnik V Vaccine before the end of the month. Final details of the purchasing of Sinopharm vaccine are being defined, local press remarked. While waiting for Pfizer to accept its latest proposal, government will negotiate to obtain the Moderna vaccine. Mexican officials met with their Argentinean counterparts to outline details of the joint development of the Oxford vaccine .
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Secretaries of Finance and Economic Policy were appointed.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Buenos Aires City, restaurants, bars, theaters and all commercial activity will be closed from 1 to 6 in the morning. Similar restrictions will apply to 118 municipalities of the Province of Buenos Aires, including summer municipalities like Pinamar or Mar del Plata.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personalities linked to Kirchnerism wrote a statement demanding the release of former Vice President- convicted in a corruption case- and other "political prisoners". The Chamber of Deputies begins extraordinary sessions: projects linked to the economy will be given priority.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agricultural sector ceased commercial activities to protest corn export restrictions.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION
175,288	9,415	138,809	801

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 5 days Santa Cruz exceeded the number of cases reported in October and November, local press announced. Government launched joint plan with local authorities to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Ministry of Health informed the necessity of protecting healthcare workers as vaccines will first be applied to them. Minister of Health, Edgar Pozo, inaugurates ICU beds at La Paz as hospitals and health centers continue to be under pressure. Government prompts operations to control drug price speculation for COVID-19.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government moves forward with high level discussions on the purchase of the Chinese <i>CoronaVac</i> vaccine. According to local press, the government contacted <i>Butantan Institute</i>, in São Paulo to manage the purchase of vaccines. Local governments will be responsible of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution, local press said.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government grants a grace period of four months for rescheduling credits deferrals, official source announced.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The traditional <i>Oruro's Carnaval</i> was suspended after regrowth of COVID-19 cases.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments ask for special law to allocate more funds and special resources for COVID-19 control. Political tensions persist as MAS legislators move forward with strategy against former president Jeanine Añez.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the World Bank's Global Perspective report, Bolivia will be among the Latin American countries that will grow the most in 2021.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION
8,195,637	204,726	7,274,707	960

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council for Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Policies released a study on the purchasing of medicines with two recommendations – periodic reviews of medicines purchased above the international average price and reformulating guidelines for PDP agreements.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Butantan Institute is ready to present new information on the effectiveness of the Coronavac vaccine in studies in Brazil. Health Minister Pazuello announced that vaccinations will begin four days after ANVISA approval of a vaccine, citing January 20th as the date the government is aiming to begin vaccinations.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INPC inflation data for 2020 was 5.22%, increasing mandatory expenditures like minimum wage and social security payments.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The competition of Speaker of the House is now clearly delineated, with Baleia Rossi (MDB/SP) supported by Maia and the left and Arthur Lira (PP/AL) supported by the centrão. Rossi's base is larger than Lira's, with 278 representatives in the parties aligned with Rossi, above the necessary 257 representatives, but Rossi is expected to experience more defections on the secret ballot vote.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debate over compliance with the spending cap was reignited following a Senate presentation on the extension of the state of emergency through June. Possible solutions to the spending cap limits being considered are extending the War Budget or passing the Emergency PEC, among others.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION
649,135	17,182	608,804	895

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chileans and foreigners residing in the country must have a negative PCR test result to enter the country. <i>Cenabast</i> increased its volume of operations in medicines and medical supplies by 38% in 2020. Francisca Crispi was appointed as the new Health College president in Santiago de Chile. Sanitary alert extended for six more months; government announced.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced that more than 15 million people are expected to be vaccinated for 2021's first semester. According to the Ministry of Health, Chinese Sinovac vaccine will be arriving to the country between the 23rd and 24th of January. Vaccination rollouts began at Maule's region. National Health Institution director informed about the details and efficacy of <i>Pfizer/BioNtech</i> vaccine. More than 10,600 people have been vaccinated as of January 11th.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislators presented Covid mandatory vaccination bill. While the project is under discussion in Congress, more than 70% of Chileans are willing to get vaccinated according to Ipsos's latest poll. Academia and civil society launched an initiative to motivate dialogue and social cohesion in the country. The project aims not only to strengthen discussions in a polarized environment, but to design a joint national plan amid the constitutional debates. President Piñera announced new social benefits for more than 7 million people affected amid the sanitary crisis.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chilean economy will grow above the average of the region in 2021, according to local press. Despite infrastructure investment fall last year by 12%, the <i>Chilean Chamber of Construction (CCHC)</i> announced in a report that the sector is expected to grow around 8% in 2021.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION
1,816,082	46,782	1,646,892	914

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mayor of Bogota, Claudia Lopez, announced the arrival of a new COVID-19 variant in Bogota as cases surge. Nonetheless, this information has not been confirmed yet by the Ministry of Health. As cases rose in the last weeks, local governments established new services and measures. COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns have prevented around 15,000 deaths, report concluded. Colombian scientists found low-cost method for rapid COVID-19 tests.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group of legislators asked the national government to publish COVID-19 vaccine contract clauses as a measure to guarantee transparency. Vaccination against COVID-19 would begin in mid-February, Minister of Health announced. However, doubts on the exact date persist. Government advances in the vaccination plan and the way prioritized groups are going to be organized. Manizales to be one of the first cities to start out vaccination. Minister of Health defined the route and vaccination process for COVID-19.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 new peak increased dollar rates as benefits emerge for some sectors. Poor and vulnerable families to receive additional fiscal aids amid lockdowns.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different curfews were announced in major cities of the country as cases surge after the first weeks of January.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some legislators call for the resignation of Bogota's mayor Claudia Lopez after a vacation travel amid pandemic crisis. Legislator announces vote of confidence against Minister of Health if vaccination campaign against COVID-19 does not begin in March 2021. Congresswoman files request to make COVID-19 procurement agreements public.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION
222,567	14,196	193,581	798

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tents and other spaces for COVID-19 patients were reopened. The Ministry of Health will expand genomic surveillance of COVID-19, in order to identify new variants. The government confirmed its first case of contagion of COVID-19 with the United Kingdom variant. Intensive Care Units continue to be at top capacity throughout the country.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Moreno's trip to the US for vaccine negotiations was postponed.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecuador and Colombia agreed to redirect common resources to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the border. Over half the economically active population is working informally, according to the Ministry of Labor.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College of Physicians requested that flights from Europe be suspended.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A debate between candidates for the Presidency was held.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank expects the country's GDP to grow by 3.5% in 2021. The Central Bank reported that the national economy contracted 8.8% in the third quarter of 2020.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION
1,541,633	134,368	1,160,373	1036

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first case of the COVID-19 variant discovered in UK was reported in Mexico. PROFECO denied shortage of medicinal oxygen.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COFEPRIS approved the start of phase 3 of the CureVac vaccine in Mexico. The government reserved for five years the agreements and contracts related to the COVID-19 vaccine purchases. The Undersecretary of Health traveled to Argentina to exchange information on different vaccine initiatives. 10,000 brigades to carry out the national vaccination plan are being prepared.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Finance stated that GDP could grow faster than expected if the vaccination plan slows down contagion.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO announced his first “tour” of 2021.
Outlook	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAHO called on Mexico to increase its health budget. Tensions grow among the restaurant industry which continue to demand reopening in Mexico City.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national economy will grow 3.7% in 2021, according to World Bank estimates.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION
117,590	2,437	93,258	339

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government opens new sanitary facilities. Ministry of Health to carry out randomized COVID-19 tests. Dengue continues to be a top concern for health officials. Seroprevalence study continues to be carried out in Asunción.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate approves bill authorizing government to directly negotiate COVID-19 vaccines. Minister of Health highlights that state of emergency enables purchase and import of vaccines approved by reference entities. Lasca laboratory will import J&J's COVID-19 vaccine, according to manager. Ministry of Health met with National Defense Council to outline logistical details for COVID-19 vaccination.
	Country reopening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens re-entering the country will have to submit negative PCR test. Ministry of Health enables protocols for pools and swimming areas. Government establishes new circulation restriction measures until January 31st.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congress representatives call for accountability from President Abdo Benitez in recent corruption scandals. Preliminary candidates for local elections stir political landscape.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banco Nacional de Fomento has disbursed over USD 160 million in loans.

PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION
1,040,231	38,399	371,000	1,156

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical College warned that a second wave of COVID-19 had already started in three regions. • Minister of Health confirmed the first case of the new COVID-19 variant reported in the United Kingdom and restarted a national testing plan in popular neighborhoods. • The government warned that intensive care units are collapsed at a national level while they evaluate additional measures to face the pandemic.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Culture joined the working group that will support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination process. • The Association of Municipalities announced that they reached an agreement with Israel to purchase five million vaccines. • The Ministry of Health announced that Covax Facility vaccines could arrive by the first quarter of 2021. • CureVac began selecting some volunteers in Peru to begin the third phase of clinical trials of its vaccine.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government extended suspension of flights from Europe.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ombudsman's Office urged the Ministry of Health to issue a prevention protocol COVID-19 for the 2021 electoral campaign.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Medical College requested that the Government establishes dialogue with the Medical Federation to avoid an indefinite national strike.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economy is expected to grow about 5.1% per year between 2021 and 2026, reported the Economy Ministry.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION
27,846	269	20,099	77

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased deaths: Uruguay registered the same number of deaths in the last 18 days as it did from March to December 2020. New COVID 19 infection record registered. The State Health Services Administration - ASSE - doubled intensive care capacity in Maldonado.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purchase of vaccines is "about to close", stated Lacalle Pou, President of Uruguay. President of CASMU, a leading company in private health services, indicated that 75,000 Sputnik V vaccines could arrive in Uruguay in March or April.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration deadline to access School Feeding Program during January and February was prorogated. It is to ensure access and continuity of the services. National Health Insurance extended for workers who had lost coverage in 2020. It will be for the whole year 2021.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government extended border closure until January 30th. Increasing pressure on the government to take more restrictive measures, local press remarked.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pro-referendum campaign was launched to repeal the entire text of the Urgent Consideration Law (LUC).
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber of Tourism will ask for new economic incentives to face the "drowning" of the border closure

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