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2021  
26 July

## COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

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

#### MEXICO

2,748,518 confirmed cases  
238,424 deaths  
46.97 vaccines/100 people

#### COLOMBIA

4,727,846 confirmed cases  
118,868 deaths  
48.79 vaccines/100 people

#### ECUADOR

480,720 confirmed cases  
30,797 deaths  
53.91 vaccines/100 people

#### BRAZIL

19,688,663 confirmed cases  
549,999 deaths  
62.08 vaccines/100 people

#### PERU

2,104,394 confirmed cases  
195,890 deaths  
36.76 vaccines/100 people

#### BOLIVIA

468,423 confirmed cases  
17,651 deaths  
26.71 vaccines/100 people

#### PARAGUAY

449,341 confirmed cases  
14,653 deaths  
29.78 vaccines/100 people

#### CHILE

1,610,345 confirmed cases  
35,119 deaths  
132.36 vaccines/100 people

#### URUGUAY

380,431 confirmed cases  
5,931 deaths  
134.24 vaccines/100 people

#### ARGENTINA

4,846,615 confirmed cases  
103,721 deaths  
65.77 vaccines/100 people

#### CASES BY COUNTRY

- Between 100K and 500K
- Between 1M and 5M
- Between 500k and 1M
- More than 5M

# COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

JULY 19-JULY 26, 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>	4,846,615	77,473	-36.1%	103,721	1,766	-44%	413,167
<b>BOLIVIA</b>	468,423	6,269	-20.8%	17,651	193	-19%	171,216
<b>BRAZIL</b>	19,688,663	296,818	-1.7%	549,999	7,243	-21%	255,813
<b>CHILE</b>	1,610,345	9,462	-16.0%	35,119	580	4%	954,074
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	4,727,846	71,925	-50.0%	118,868	2,115	-46%	429,448
<b>ECUADOR</b>	480,720	4,655	-39.7%	30,797	8,844	7090%	90,766
<b>MEXICO</b>	2,748,518	89,381	30.2%	238,424	2,093	54%	62,927
<b>PARAGUAY</b>	449,341	4,849	-28.4%	14,653	365	-1%	229,361
<b>PERU</b>	2,104,394	10,640	-18.0%	195,890	744	-2%	457,745
<b>URUGUAY</b>	380,431	1,556	-32.2%	5,931	48	-29%	864,249

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 26/07/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**Argentina:** With candidate lists already defined, the electoral campaign period for the next legislative elections has begun.

**Bolivia:** COVID-19 vaccine rollout hits record high in single day as more than 2.7 million Bolivians have received at least one dose.

**Brazil:** Ministry of Health grapples with vaccine shortages as cities cancel first dose appointments.

**Colombia:** Ministry of Health confirms that prioritized groups will be vaccinated by August.

**Chile:** Chinese Sinovac evaluates vaccine plant in Chile after a delegation visited the country.

**Ecuador:** The Ministry of Public Health is working on a new strategy to accelerate the 9/100 Vaccination Plan.

**Mexico:** AMLO ruled out new closures due to third wave of COVID.

**Paraguay:** Government actively seeking to secure procurement agreements for COVID-19 vaccines as vaccination advances.

**Peru:** The Ministry of Health announced the acquisition of 20 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19.

**Uruguay:** Coronavirus is the leading cause of death in Uruguay so far in 2021.

# ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
4,846,615	103,721	4,493,984	2,273	65.77

## Government Measures

### Health

- Forty-six cases of the Delta variable were [recorded](#). Almost all are travelers, and their positive cases were discovered during isolation.
- Intensive care bed [occupancy](#) is declining and is below 60%.
- Ministry of Health [launched](#) National Plan to address acute myocardial infarction.

### Vaccine Rollout

- Argentina is to begin vaccinating [teenagers](#) between 12 and 17 years of age at risk with Moderna vaccine.
- More than [50%](#) of the population is vaccinated with at least one dose in the country.
- Given Sputnik's shortage of second doses, the Health Minister assured that the Government's priority is to complete vaccination schedules. Minister Vizzotti confirmed ongoing discussions with the [Russian Direct Investment Fund](#) to get the doses.

### Economic

- Argentina is [expected](#) to complete the first partial payment of its debt to the Paris Club this week.
- Government will pay an "[extraordinary subsidy](#)" to retired citizens during August.

### Country Opening

- Buenos Aires Province introduced the "sanitary passport". It is to enable stores to increase their capacity, local press [reported](#).

## Outlook

### Political

- Last Saturday [candidate lists](#) for the next legislative primary elections were defined. Now the [election campaign](#) period has begun.
- Both the [Minister of Social Development](#) and the [Minister of Defense](#) filed as candidates for the next legislative elections. Thus, they will leave their positions in the government cabinet.
- Government declared "[water emergency](#)" in view of the historic fall of the Parana River.

# BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
468,423	17,651	400,682	1,492	26.71

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bolivian authorities to <a href="#">strengthen</a> telemedicine initiatives with cooperation of Japan.</li> <li>Minister of Health <a href="#">participated</a> in a special session at Congress on COVID-19 management. Most questions were related to vaccine rollout, oxygen tanks acquisition, and national coordination with local governments.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 vaccine rollout <a href="#">hits</a> record high as 91.742 jabs were administered in single day. Meanwhile, more than 2.7 million Bolivians have received at least one dose.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government <a href="#">approves</a> decree to boost local food industries and reactivate the economy.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Luis Arce <a href="#">congratulated</a> Peruvian president-elect Pedro Castillo.</li> <li>Diego Pary was <a href="#">appointed</a> as the new United Nations Economic and Social Council vice-president. Pary is currently the ambassador of Bolivia to the UN.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From January to April 2021, oil and natural gas activity <a href="#">grew</a> by 11.1%, government announced.</li> <li>Over USD \$2 billion have been <a href="#">invested</a> in the national economy since President Arce took office.</li> <li>Government <a href="#">highlights</a> the expansion of the construction sector as well as the jobs it generates amid the economic recovery phase. As of May, the importation of iron bars increased by 44.4% and the production of cement in the country grew by 30.5%.</li> </ul>

# BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
19,688,663	549,999	18,349,436	2,568	62.08

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Via presidential decree, the government <b>expanded</b> the list of health products whose export is prohibited due to the fight against COVID-19.</li> <li>While the Delta variant remains a growing threat, Brazil's COVID-19 cases are still largely <b>caused</b> by the Gamma variant, first identified in Amazonas, which accounts for 98% of the cases in the country.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First dose vaccinations are <b>suspended</b> in eight capital cities across Brazil due to limited vaccine supplies which are only sufficient for already scheduled second doses.</li> <li>The Ministry of Health <b>noted</b> that it is set to distribute 10.2 million doses of vaccines "in the coming days".</li> <li>A labor court in São Paulo <b>confirmed</b> that hospital workers can be dismissed for refusing to be vaccinated, due to the health risks unvaccinated workers pose.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ministerial reform moving Ciro Nogueira (PP/PI) into the Chief of Staff position <b>strengthened</b> the position of the centrist parties, increasing Bolsonaro's political reliance on these parties to avoid impeachment and secure re-election.</li> <li>The alliance with the center will <b>weaken</b> Bolsonaro's rhetoric on his distance from traditional political parties but could help the president gain ground in the Northeast, where he faces his highest disapproval ratings and trails former president Lula da Silva in pre-election polls.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recreation of the Ministry of Employment and Social Security <b>weakened</b> the control of the Ministry of Economy over the administration's labor agenda, diminishing Guedes' influence in the Executive going forward.</li> <li>The release of employment indicators for May from IBGE and the release of US economic data, both by the end of July, will <b>influence</b> COPOM's decision on raising the SELIC rate by 0.75 p.p. or 1 p.p. on August 4th.</li> </ul>

# CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,610,345	35,119	1,564,777	1,821	132.36

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorities call on citizens to properly dispose face masks to <a href="#">avoid</a> contamination.</li> <li>Fonasa <a href="#">reports</a> coverage of COVID-19 rapid test.</li> <li>The government <a href="#">received</a> a delegation from Sinovac laboratory to discuss the installation of a vaccine plant in Chile.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Health Institute (ISP) <a href="#">approves</a> emergency use and importation of Sputnik V vaccine.</li> </ul>
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New measures were <a href="#">announced</a> for the operation of cultural spaces and activities amid the economic reactivation plan.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Energy <a href="#">announced</a> the deployment of more than 20 thousand hectares for the development of clean energy in the northern region of Antofagasta.</li> <li>President Piñera <a href="#">inaugurated</a> El Melon tunnel and explained the main advances and objectives of the reopening Paso a Paso plan.</li> <li>After months of discussion, the Ministry of Environment <a href="#">published</a> a roadmap for implementing circular economy in Chile.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senate approves draft Law on Same-Sex Marriage and <a href="#">sends</a> it to the lower chamber for final approval.</li> <li>Unidad Constitucional <a href="#">agrees</a> on a wide consultation for August 21 to choose a unique candidate for November's poll.</li> </ul>
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special education funds enabled to finance civil society and university projects to <a href="#">overcome</a> poverty in Chile, Minister of Education Karla Rubilar announced.</li> <li>Fondos Cultura <a href="#">launches</a> 2022 call with a historic support for the reactivation and economic recovery of the cultural sector.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 818 thousand SME relief bonds have been <a href="#">approved</a> so far by the Chilean government.</li> </ul>

# COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
4,727,846	118,868	4,487,973	2,310	48.79

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Delta variant case <a href="#">confirmed</a> by President Duque.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US government <a href="#">donates</a> 3.5 million Moderna vaccines to Colombia, totaling 6 million vaccines as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's worldwide efforts.</li> <li>While more than 25 million vaccine doses have been <a href="#">administered</a> so far in the country, some main cities <a href="#">announced</a> reaching herd immunity by December 2021.</li> <li>All priority groups would be <a href="#">open</a> for vaccination in August, Ministry of Health declared.</li> <li>Ministry of Health <a href="#">considering</a> reinforcement vaccination for at-risk groups.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duque <a href="#">signed</a> decree that authorizes exports of dried cannabis for medical and other industries usage. Colombia has a high potential on the sector, but regulatory progress has been slow.</li> <li>The "Decent Work Pact" was <a href="#">signed</a> between the government and the private sector which seeks to avoid illegal outsourcing and job insecurity.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Duque <a href="#">opened</a> the last legislative period of his term. Submitting a new tax reform as the main project in the agenda. Duque also highlighted Colombia's progress on becoming an epicenter of regional innovation and the leader of the fourth industrial revolution in South America.</li> <li>President Duque <a href="#">congratulated</a> Peruvian president-elect Pedro Castillo after a long and disputed election.</li> <li>Ricardo Galindo was <a href="#">appointed</a> as the new Tourism Vice Minister.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 166 thousand businesses were <a href="#">created</a> during the first semester of 2021, registering an increase of 26.2% compared to the same period in 2020.</li> </ul>



## ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
480,720	30,797	443,880	1,718	53.91

<b>Government Measures</b>	<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new president of the National Council for the Equality of Disabilities (CONADIS) was <a href="#">appointed</a>.</li> <li>Francisco Viteri was <a href="#">appointed</a> as the new Secretary of Health of Quito.</li> <li>The Ministry of Public Health <a href="#">clarified</a> that the 'Plan for the Supply of Medicines and Medical Devices' that is being developed does not contemplate the elimination of hospital pharmacies.</li> <li>The legislative Commission for the Right to Health <a href="#">urged</a> President Lasso to send the observations to the draft for the Law for Health Emergency Management.</li> </ul>
	<b>Vaccine Rollout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health <a href="#">announced</a> they have determined the guidelines to begin vaccinating children from the age of 12 with aggravating diseases.</li> <li>The Ministry of Public Health is <a href="#">working</a> on a new strategy to accelerate the 9/100 Vaccination Plan.</li> <li>The inoculation of the second doses of vaccines from Sinovac and Pfizer will be <a href="#">prioritized</a>.</li> </ul>
	<b>Country Opening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Emergency Operations Committee <a href="#">extended</a> until July 30 the deadline for the Ministries of Labor and Health to present the model for the progressive return to face-to-face activities.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Lasso <a href="#">ratified</a> the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States.</li> </ul>
<b>Outlook</b>	<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the dismissal of the former mayor, Santiago Guarderas <a href="#">took</a> office as mayor of the city of Quito.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Finance Minister <a href="#">held</a> a meeting with a representative of the World Bank.</li> <li>The Minister of Economy and Finance <a href="#">announced</a> that between August and September of this year a tax reform will be presented for its discussion with society.</li> </ul>



# MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2.748,518	238,424	2,148,642	1,829	46.97

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) <a href="#">alerted</a> about a counterfeit medicine sold as Remdesivir; as well as on the illegal <a href="#">sale</a> of COVID-19 rapid tests.</li> <li>President AMLO <a href="#">reported</a> on the advances of the centralized purchase for medicines by UNOPS.</li> <li>The COVID-19 Epidemic Risk Traffic Light update <a href="#">came</a> into effect.</li> <li>Hospitalization for COVID-19 patients <a href="#">increased</a> nationwide raising alerts.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government <a href="#">sent</a> the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology the pilot tests for the packaging of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine.</li> <li>BIRMEX director <a href="#">announced</a> that Mexico reached 77 million 422 thousand 585 packaged vaccines against COVID-19.</li> </ul>
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMLO <a href="#">ruled</a> out new closures due to third wave of COVID.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mexican and Colombian Foreign Ministers <a href="#">agreed</a> to cooperate on tourism, pandemic, trade and security.</li> </ul>
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the Economy Secretariat, the government is <a href="#">studying</a> the use of import quotas to reduce inflation.</li> <li>The US State Department <a href="#">reported</a> that the energy policies promoted by President AMLO "raise the cost of doing business in Mexico".</li> </ul>

# PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
449,341	14,653	412,875	2,028	29.78

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency hospital to expand resources for treating COVID-19 <a href="#">inaugurated</a>.</li> <li>President Abdo <a href="#">remarks</a> that Covax mechanism failed to deliver vaccines in an equitable way.</li> <li>Chamber of Deputies <a href="#">sanctions</a> bill to restructure DINAVISA's leadership and expand oversight on structural issues to the Ministry of Health.</li> <li>Director of Health Surveillance <a href="#">warns</a> of low demand of COVID-19 tests.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S donates one million doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, President Abdo <a href="#">confirmed</a>.</li> <li>Procurement contract for 2 million doses for 2022 <a href="#">signed</a> with Moderna.</li> <li>While negotiations are underway to buy 500,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines from AstraZeneca to be delivered in the final quarter of the year, the Minister of Health <a href="#">confirms</a> negotiations to secure vaccines through 2022 and 2023.</li> <li>Shipment of procured Covaxin doses to be sped up after high-level <a href="#">meeting</a> between the Foreign Affairs Ministers of India and Paraguay.</li> <li>Adolescents with comorbidities <a href="#">vaccinated</a> on focalized session.</li> </ul>
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Education <a href="#">discussed</a> with President Abdo the possibility of resuming on-site lessons for children. While over 500,000 teachers have been vaccinated, no plan has been yet approved.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foreign Affairs Minister seeks to strengthen bilateral <a href="#">relationship</a> with Mexico.</li> <li>President Abdo's Economic Team to <a href="#">submit</a> a Contingency Plan to mitigate the direct and spillover effects of the droughts impacting the country.</li> </ul>

# PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,104,394	195,890	-	5,855	36.76

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister of Health <a href="#">inaugurated</a> a medicinal oxygen plant at the National Institute of Rehabilitation.</li> <li>The Ministry of Health <a href="#">implemented</a> the electronic prescription service for those who receive care through the <i>Teleatiendo</i> Healthcare System.</li> <li>Extraordinary measures to boost the execution of investments by the Ministry of Health were <a href="#">approved</a>.</li> <li>A law that incorporates the medicinal and therapeutic use of cannabis and its derivatives was <a href="#">published</a>.</li> </ul>
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health <a href="#">announced</a> the acquisition of 20 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19.</li> <li>Vaccination of adolescents with different types of comorbidities <a href="#">began</a>.</li> <li>President Sagasti <a href="#">reassured</a> citizens that “all vaccines against COVID-19 are effective, safe and save lives”</li> <li>The country will <a href="#">receive</a> 101,760 vaccine doses from AstraZeneca donated by the Government of Spain.</li> <li>The government <a href="#">authorized</a> the transfer of resources to hire COVID-19 vaccination personnel.</li> </ul>
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Economy and Finance <a href="#">launched</a> its mobile application for citizens to access its main procedures and services.</li> </ul>
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Sagasti <a href="#">participated</a> in the third ordinary session of the National Council for Citizen Security.</li> <li>Keiko Fujimori <a href="#">accepted</a> her defeat against Pedro Castillo in the presidential elections.</li> </ul>

# URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
380,431	5,931	371,822	1,701	134.24

<b>Government Measures</b>	<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID19 cases dropped sharply during the last month. However, this trend has been slowing down in the last few days, local press <a href="#">reported</a>.</li> <li>One Uruguayan department is in the Green Zone of the Harvard index for the first time <a href="#">since</a> February.</li> <li>Coronavirus is the <a href="#">leading cause</a> of death in Uruguay so far in 2021.</li> </ul>
	<b>Vaccine Rollout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60% of population in Uruguay <a href="#">received</a> both doses of COVID-19 vaccines.</li> <li>Immunosuppressed and transplanted patients vaccinated with Sinovac will have third and fourth doses of Pfizer, local press <a href="#">reported</a>.</li> <li>The "district to district" <a href="#">campaign</a> reached 1,500 people who had not been vaccinated so far in Montevideo and Canelones.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government will <a href="#">reinforce</a> family allowances for more than 70 thousand children until December.</li> </ul>
	<b>Country opening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government would reopen borders (to vaccinated people) in September and is evaluating the possibility of offering vaccines to tourists, according to <a href="#">Tourism Minister</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Outlook</b>	<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Lacalle Pou convenes chairmen of Public Entities and Public Companies to present their management plans, local press <a href="#">reported</a>.</li> <li><a href="#">Local newspaper</a> conducted a poll on the possible referendum against the Law of Urgent Consideration (LUC). It showed that while 56.95% would vote no to repeal articles, 43.03% would vote yes.</li> <li>The Uruguayan Chamber of Information Technology (CUTI) <a href="#">presented</a> Test Uruguay, an initiative seeking to enhance the digital capabilities of all production sectors. President Lacalle Pou attended the presentation.</li> </ul>



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