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COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

2021
15 | mar

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

2,166,290 confirmed cases
194,710 deaths
3.37 vaccines/100 people

COLOMBIA

2,305,884 confirmed cases
61,243 deaths
1.54 vaccines/100 people

ECUADOR

302,498 confirmed cases
16,240 deaths
0.79 vaccines/100 people

BRAZIL

11,519,609 confirmed cases
279,286 deaths
5.37 vaccines/100 people

PERU

1,412,406 confirmed cases
49,003 deaths
1.49 vaccines/100 people

PARAGUAY

181,414 confirmed cases
3,517 deaths
0.11 vaccines/100 people

BOLIVIA

259,389 confirmed cases
11,958 deaths
1.18 vaccines/100 people

URUGUAY

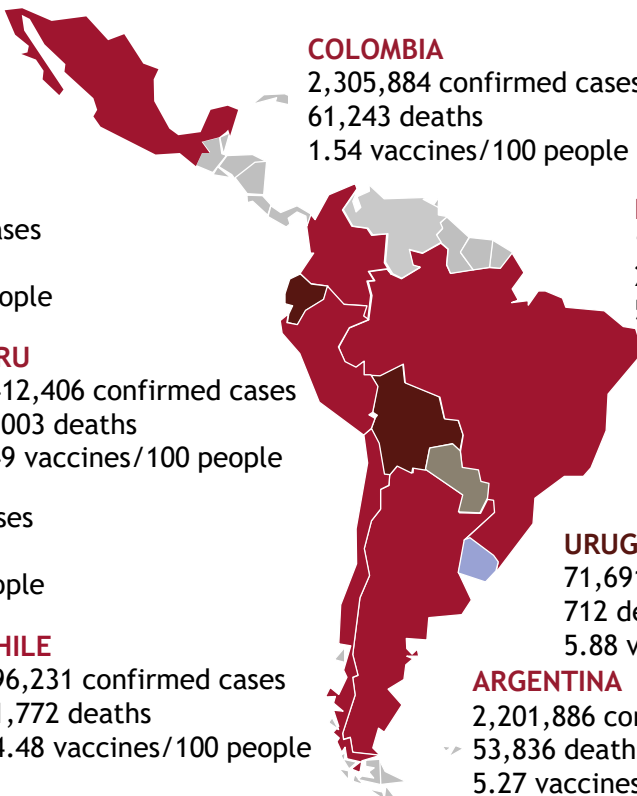
71,691 confirmed cases
712 deaths
5.88 vaccines/100 people

CHILE

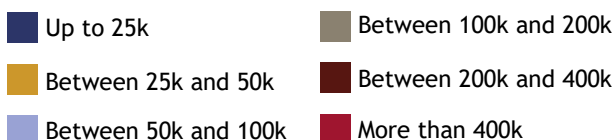
896,231 confirmed cases
21,772 deaths
34.48 vaccines/100 people

ARGENTINA

2,201,886 confirmed cases
53,836 deaths
5.27 vaccines/100 people



CASES BY COUNTRY



COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

MARCH 08-15, 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	2,201,886	52,250	23.6%	53,836	53,836	4%	176,598
BOLIVIA	259,389	5,116	-2.8%	11,958	11,958	-22%	68,081
BRAZIL	11,519,609	500,265	6.9%	279,286	279,286	32%	133,884
CHILE	896,231	35,698	16.0%	21,772	21,772	21%	529,833
COLOMBIA	2,305,884	29,228	17.1%	61,243	61,243	0%	234,499
ECUADOR	302,498	7,995	-1.7%	16,240	16,240	-3%	59,994
MEXICO	2,166,290	37,690	-9.5%	194,710	194,710	-16%	44,436
PARAGUAY	181,414	13,371	56.0%	3,517	3,517	45%	113,470
PERU	1,412,406	41,230	-0.3%	49,003	49,003	-16%	248,844
URUGUAY	71,691	7,854	34.4%	712	712	42%	327,628

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 15/03/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: Health Emergency extended until the end of the year while government tightens restrictions on foreign flights.

Bolivia: Former president Jeanine Añez arrested on terrorism charges deepening political tensions.

Brazil: With rising pressure on vaccine rollout, Minister Pazzuello faces possible removal

Colombia: Vaccine private purchase-proposals in the spotlight.

Chile: State of Exception extended until the end of June after Congress approval.

Ecuador: Investigation on vaccination scandal carries on

Mexico: President AMLO assured that the country has 140 million vaccine doses guaranteed in contracts.

Paraguay: Government tightens restrictions amid political turmoil and sanitary distress.

Peru: Restrictions on foreign travelers eased as vaccination advances.

Uruguay: President Lacalle Pou convenes Council of Ministers to assess the health situation.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,201,886	53,836	1,993,215	1,184	1.59

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Emergency is extended until the end of 2021. • Health Minister met with the Secretary of Domestic Trade. Among other issues, they discussed the evolution of the prices of medicines and medical supplies. • Health Minister met with provincial ministers to discuss strategies to improve vaccination for priority groups.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New doses of Sinopharm and Sputnik V are expected for the next few weeks. • Vaccination accelerated for those under 60 years old. • Curevac COVID-19 vaccine to be tested in Argentina.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government removed duties on incremental exports for the automotive industry. • A public hearing has begun to address new gas tariffs, after a two-year freeze. • President Fernandez announced investments and economic aid for areas affected by forest fires.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Ministry issued recommendation to avoid foreign travel due to new COVID-19 strains. • Government made official the reduction in the frequency of flights from abroad. • Social distancing measure extended until April 9th.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Fernandez attacked with stones while visiting the southern part of the country. • Mayor of BA City stated that he is "concerned" about the absence of a Justice Minister, local press reported. • MERCOSUR presidential summit will be held virtually. On-site attendance was suspended due to increased cases of COVID19. • Following the Minister of Justice's resignation, President Fernandez should decide on a replacement this week, local press reported.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
259,389	11,958	204,813	1,015	1.18

Government Measures	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government and the San Simon University (UMSS) signed an inter-institutional cooperation agreement to strengthen the national vaccine rollout. More than 2 million COVID-19 vaccines will be arriving by the end of March according to the government. This will be the third shipment since the vaccination plan began. According to the Vice Minister of Commerce, Bolivia became the fifth country in Latin America with the highest percentage of the population that has received at least one vaccine dose.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government announced new credit benefits for small, medium, and big companies amid the economic reactivation plan. The National Industry Development (FOGADIN) fund was created last week to support small producers around Bolivia and promote economic recovery.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While minor violent-incidents were reported in Santa Cruz and Pando during the local elections last week, the PARLASUR highlighted a successful development during the voting day.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to experts, the ruling Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) party positioned itself as a rural political movement after losing every single capital city of the country in the latest local elections. The new local authorities will take office at the beginning of May, Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) announced. Former president Jeanine Añez was arrested on Saturday for allegedly being part of a coup against Evo Morales in the 2019 elections. It is important to note that this hasn't been the first arrest over high-level opposition officials. Several ex-cabinet ministers, as well as former military leaders, have also been captured.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
11,519,609	279,286	10,063,808	1,307	5.37

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANVISA gave full regulatory approval to the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. • Further vaccine purchase contracts are under negotiation with Janssen and Pfizer and could be announced this week. • The Ministry of Health signed an agreement to purchase 10 million doses of the Russian Sputnik vaccine, although the vaccine is yet to be approved by ANVISA.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State governors called on the national government to release a schedule achieving 70% vaccinations by July.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Emergency PEC was officially promulgated on Monday, March 15th, allowing the new emergency aid to begin distribution.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello may resign this week among criticism over the government's handling of the pandemic. • The ruling by Minister Edson Fachin, of the STF, overturned ex-President Lula da Silva's convictions, allowing him to possibly run in the 2022 elections against Bolsonaro. • Congress will evaluate presidential vetoes this week, with a focus on the Legal Framework for Sanitation and the Law on Hydrological Risk.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Monetary Policy Committee will meet on March 17th, to begin a process of interest rate hikes in the face of inflationary pressure. • The Joint Budget Committee will vote on the sectoral reports related to legislative amendments this week. • The seasonally-adjusted IBC-Br economic activity index reached the highest level since February 2020, indicating the strength of the economic recovery since the pandemic crash.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
896,231	21,772	840,668	1,132	34.48

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health announced new sanitary measures to avoid the expansion of the new Brazilian variant. The extension of the State of Exception was approved by Congress amid concerns on the real purpose of the measure. For some legislators, the decision is not only thought to tackle the sanitary crisis, but also the security dilemma in the Araucanian region.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Sinovac shipment of more than 2 million doses arrived in the country at the beginning of last week. Chile has received more than 10 million vaccines since the official rollout started. Chile leads the vaccine race in Latin America and is among the top in the world.
	Country reopening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announces strict quarantine in Santiago after the increase of confirmed COVID-19 cases.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chancellor Allamand held a meeting with the Indonesian Minister of Commerce, Muhammad Lufti, with whom he discussed the commercial exchange of both countries and Chile's interest in joining the AANZFTA block.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal to create the new Minister of Public Security raises concerns within the legislative branch. President Piñera enacts a law to hold April's elections in two days. The measure was enforced to prevent Coronavirus infections.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exports rise to 41% and reach a record-high expansion in the last 11 years, according to El Mercurio. IMF raises Chile's GDP projections to 6% and recommends fastening the pension reform discussions.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government removed iconic Baquedano statue amid protests in downtown Santiago. More than 50 schools have suspended classes due to new infections of COVID-19. Foreign affairs commission addresses the migratory crisis in the northern part of the country.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,305,884	61,243	2,206,210	1,195	1.54

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADRES published the schedule for interested entities to submit pending bills for services and technologies not financed with UPC for the second quarter of 2021. Pharmaceutical sovereignty and vaccine purchase proposals pushed by Congress and local governments were announced. Bogota seeks to manufacture vaccines against COVID-19.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health assigned the vaccine distribution for each of the regions throughout the country after the arrival of new Sinovac doses. After the frontline healthcare workers were successfully vaccinated in Bogota, the local government will begin massive vaccination in adults over 80 years old. New Pfizer shipment of more than 99,000 vaccines arrived in the country last week. Colombia to receive more than 2.2 million Pfizer doses in April as the country is about to reach half a million people vaccinated.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the resumption of the new legislative period, some key agendas appear to be the topics of discussion from now on.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government tax reform project will include taxing high pensions, according to the local press. <i>Centro Democrático</i> political party launched a wealth tax proposal as a way to tackle the economic crisis and finance social programs amid the COVID-19 crisis. These are the main pillars that could be included in the next tax reform. Colombian household expenditure grew in February 2.8% according to a recent report.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Parent Association filed legal action to hold on-site school classes.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
302,498	16,240	263,164	911	0.79

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health inquired with the Attorneys Office about the possibility of municipalities acquiring COVID-19 vaccines. The Inter-American Development Bank granted a credit for USD 63 million for the purchase of vaccines through the COVAX mechanism. Mexico donated 95 thousand doses of the polio vaccine to the Ecuadorian Health Ministry.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fifth shipment of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines arrived, while President Moreno offered to vaccinate two million people until May 20. From March 15, people over 65 years will be able to schedule a vaccination appointment on a website.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IDB approved an additional financing for USD 200 million for employment recovery programs.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government extended remote working modality until April 13th.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the framework of International Women's Day, President Moreno presented a law project to promote women's work. The Foreign Minister presented his resignation. The Electoral Tribunal denied an appeal to partially recount the votes of the presidential election, made by indigenous leader Yaku Pérez. The Prosecutor's Office raided the home of the mayor of Quito regarding a possible corruption plot in the purchase of PCR tests. A Provincial Court ordered the Ministry of Health to deliver the list of vaccinated people involved in the VIP vaccination scandal and information on vaccine contracts.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,166,290	194,710	1,705,743	1,499	3.37

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COFEPRIS approved Remdesivir in an emergency character to be used against COVID-19. • The Health Secretariat is expecting a third wave of Coronavirus contagions. • According to a survey, the fear of being infected by COVID-19 is at its lowest level since November 2020.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President AMLO assured that the country has 140 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines guaranteed in contracts. • The country will receive from 1.6 to 2.7 million doses of AstraZeneca's vaccine via COVAX in March. • The Health Secretariat stated they will continue to use AstraZeneca's vaccine despite European complaints. • The government has set a goal to vaccinate 500,000 people a day. • Shipment with 200 thousand doses of the 'Sputnik V' vaccine against COVID-19 arrived in Mexico.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Mexico City, as of March 15, casinos, betting houses, amusement parks and theaters will resume activities.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMLO awaits vaccine donations from the USA two weeks after an official meeting between both countries. • Tensions between the government and the private sector arise amid discussions on possible energy reform.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woman's day strikes turned violent last week in Mexico City.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Coordinating Council (CCE) questions impact on investments of the new Mexican Electricity Industry Law. • The Ministry of Finance affirmed that once between 70 million and 80 million Mexicans have been vaccinated, the economy will resume its growth rate prior to the pandemic. • The government will study the need for a tax reform further this year.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
181,414	3,517	150,870	489	0.11

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate approves bill to redirect funds to purchase 2 million doses of AZ's COVID-19 vaccine. Vicente Bataglia appointed as new Director of the IPS, his top priority will be to guarantee supply of medicines. New Director of Health Network and Services appointed. Amid rapid increase of COVID-19 cases, hospitals have been repurposed to increase ICU capacity.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11,900 vaccines have been administered to health workers.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax Secretariat establishes extraordinary payment scheme for personal income tax. Government calls on the Economic Team to speed-up response measures.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobility restrictions enacted in 24 cities until April 4th. Government suspends on-site classes in cities under red alert despite opposition from parent associations.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former Ambassador publishes letters detailing contact with pharmaceutical companies to acquire COVID-19 vaccines and denounces lack of response from the government to advance. Opposition presents accusatory file draft against President Abdo. Government receives support from U.S Secretary of State amid political tensions. Agreement on surveillance of political funding signed. Government to submit bill to reform public purchase system.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Finance dismisses impact of political turmoil on the country's economic landscape. Central Bank poll establishes that inflation is expected to close at 3,3% in 2021. Consumer Index reaches pre-pandemic level in April.

PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,412,406	49,003	1,322,685	1,472	1.49

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council of Ministers reported a "slight reduction" in cases and deaths from COVID-19 since the new measures in January. National Institute of Health to produce rapid molecular tests to detect COVID-19. The government signed an agreement with mining-energy companies for the donation of 1,000 tons of medicinal oxygen.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 vaccination campaign for senior citizens to begin in upcoming days. The Minister of Health assured that the Sputnik V vaccination already requested registration. The government is considering acquiring Johnson & Johnson vaccines, which only require a single dose, to immunize indigenous communities. The country received 117,500 doses of Pfizer's vaccine; the first batch shipped by COVAX Facility. A small group of mayors marched to demand that the central government allow companies and municipalities to buy COVID-19 vaccines.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congress ratified its decision to set caps on the interest rates charged by financial institutions.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government suspended mandatory quarantine for foreign travelers and the requirement for COVID-19 tests on domestic flights.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for preemptive prison against former President Martin Vizcarra issued IPSOS poll highlights negative feelings towards presidential candidates.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to INE the percentage of people under adequate employment fell in the Metropolitan area of Lima.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
71,691	712	60,517	204	5.88

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With new record of daily cases of COVID-19, Uruguay is in its worst position since the onset of the pandemic. FEMI (Internal Medical Federation) issued a statement expressing concern about the increase in the number of cases throughout the country. President Lacalle Pou convened a Council of Ministers to assess the health situation.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First 50 thousand doses of Pfizer's vaccine arrived. Medical personnel is vaccinated with this vaccine. Second shipment of Sinovac vaccines is expected to arrive this week, local press reported. Uruguay ranks third in the region in terms of vaccines administered per 100,000 inhabitants, local press stated. Starting this week, people between the ages of 50 and 70 can register to receive the vaccine, local press remarked.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After cuts and controversy, Education and Culture Ministry announced resources for science and technology. Government submitted to parliament a bill establishing tax benefits and debt payment facilities for micro and small enterprises (MSMEs).
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government postponed coordinated surgeries and evaluates hybrid model in schools, local press reported. Executive sends bill to parliament to extend again the limit on the right to assembly, local press reported. Government extended for one month the beginning of onsite medical consultations.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frente Amplio summoned the Health Minister to Parliament to explain the situation regarding ASSE. Interior Ministry investigates police abuse following <i>Frente Amplio</i> complaint. Uruguayan Foreign Minister stated that USA should "listen to MERCOSUR" because "it seems that the only one that listens to us is China", local press reported.

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