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COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

2021
08|mar

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

MEXICO

2,128,600 confirmed cases
190,604 deaths
2.17 vaccines/100 people

ECUADOR

294,503 confirmed cases
16,039 deaths
0.40 vaccines/100 people

PERU

1,371,176 confirmed cases
47,854 deaths
1.14 vaccines/100 people

BOLIVIA

254,273 confirmed cases
11,823 deaths
0.91 vaccines/100 people

CHILE

860,553 confirmed cases
21,163 deaths
24.19 vaccines/100 people

COLOMBIA

2,276,656 confirmed cases
60,503 deaths
0.58 vaccines/100 people

BRAZIL

11,019,344 confirmed cases
265,500 deaths
5.1 vaccines/100 people

PARAGUAY

168,043 confirmed cases
3,318 deaths
0.02 vaccines/100 people

URUGUAY

63,837 confirmed cases
651 deaths
2.03 vaccines/100 people

ARGENTINA

2,149,636 confirmed cases
52,880 deaths
3.38 vaccines/100 people

CASES BY COUNTRY

Between 25k and 50k

Between 50k and 100k

Between 200k and 400k

Up to 25k

Between 100k and 200k

More than 400k

COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

MARCH 1 - MARCH 8, 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 (%)	
ARGENTINA	2,149,636	42,271	12.4%	52,880	915	51%	169,766
BOLIVIA	254,273	5,263	-21.7%	11,823	174	-16%	64,582
BRAZIL	11,019,344	468,085	31.4%	265,500	10,482	33%	133,902
CHILE	860,533	30,763	15.0%	21,163	503	-6%	508,820
COLOMBIA	2,276,656	24,966	13.3%	60,503	737	-7%	228,628
ECUADOR	294,503	8,136	-28.6%	16,039	207	-27%	58,330
MEXICO	2,128,600	41,662	-8.6%	190,604	4,889	-13%	43,277
PARAGUAY	168,043	8,569	10.5%	3,318	137	18%	108,121
PERU	1,371,176	41,371	-11.0%	47,854	1,360	-3%	237,873
URUGUAY	63,837	5,843	12.8%	651	43	26%	306,035

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 08/03/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: Following vaccination scandal, key positions have been filled at the Health Ministry

Bolivia: Local elections took place without any major reports of corruption or violence.

Brazil: As COVID-19 cases surge, government seeks to enforce curfews and lockdowns.

Colombia: Government delivers the schedule of COVID-19 vaccines arrival for March.

Chile: Despite vaccine rollout progress, Piñera requested the extension of the state of exception.

Ecuador: Ministry of Health establishes guidelines for municipalities to purchase COVID-19 vaccines.

Mexico: The government reported that over 2.7 million vaccines have been applied so far.

Paraguay: Political turmoil prompts wave of changes in key offices.

Peru: Ministry of Health issues a call to strengthen social distancing measures.

Uruguay: While the arrival of Pfizer vaccines is expected, the enrollment calendar is open for non-essential personnel aged 55-59 to be vaccinated with Sinovac.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,149,636	52,880	1,945,816	1,163	3.38

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the departure of the Health Minister and some members of the former cabinet, new replacements in the Ministry were <u>formalized</u>. Sandra Tirado will be the new <u>Secretary of Health Access</u>. A <u>joint statement</u> signed by all provincial health ministers expressing consensus on the COVID-19 vaccine strategy was released.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While more than <u>1.5 million</u> vaccines have already been administered, It is expected that Argentina will surpass 3 million vaccines <u>distributed</u> in the upcoming days. Health authorities published <u>local study</u> on high immune response to Sputnik V vaccine.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government <u>agreed</u> to monitor prices in coordination with the construction sector. President Fernandez met with Chinese businessmen who will invest in <u>electric car production</u>.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cinemas and theaters <u>reopened</u> in Buenos Aires city. <u>Five subway</u> stations in Buenos Aires city returned to operation.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health chambers and unions held <u>first meeting</u> to define the sector's 2021 wage bargaining agreements. As <u>Economy Minister</u> prepares to negotiate in Washington, President Fernandez said he "does not want to rush" with the <u>IMF agreement</u>.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repression and incidents in protests <u>against</u> the return to isolation in Formosa province . Opposition will request interpellation of the Minister of Interior regarding violence in Formosa, local press <u>reported</u>. Amid political turmoil, President Fernandez made a supportive gesture to the governor of Formosa, local press <u>reported</u>. Internal tensions within the ruling party over the role of a bicameral commission to investigate the <u>justice system</u>.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
254,273	11,823	198,236	1,004	0.91

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another shipment of more than 23 tons of COVID-19 medicines arrived at the country from China. This is the second massive purchase the government enforces amid concerns of shortages in some cities of Bolivia.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Arce launched the renewable diesel project. Government expects to reduce diesel imports. Bolivia and Colombia agree on mechanisms to boost trade between the two countries.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line-jumping concerns rise amid the massive vaccination plan in Bolivia. Government announced the massive vaccination plan in Cochabamba that will include for its first phase healthcare workers and patients with chronic conditions. President Arce announced the arrival during March of 100 thousand Sinopharm doses and 1,7 M Sputnik V vaccines.
Outlook	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare workers to resume protests this week after a short pause amid local elections.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India leads the list of destination for Bolivian exports, mainly due to gold sales, local press reported. Bolivia's Central Bank published its latest survey of economic expectations.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local elections took place amid a calm and peaceful polling day. While there weren't any major incidents reported, official results haven't been published yet. According to non-official numbers, MAS would have lost elections in the three most important city-capitals of the country: Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and La Paz. Former Senate president, Eva Copa, won at El Alto, the second most populated city of the country. An unexpected victory in a traditionally socialist city. Copa was pushed out of the MAS party last year for being too moderate.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATIONS PER 100
11,019,344	265,500	9,757,178	1,243	5.1

Government Measures	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health announced negotiations with Moderna for the purchase of 13 million new doses of the company's mRNA vaccine. The National Council of Health Secretaries released an open letter to the Ministry of Health calling for a national curfew and stricter social distancing measures. Bill 534/2021, which allows states and private entities to purchase COVID-19 vaccines, was approved by the House of Representatives.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Emergency PEC (186/2019), which included emergency aid funds outside the spending cap, in addition to fiscal triggers to control government spending was approved in the Senate.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Health General Pazuello held meetings with state governors and municipal officials over the possibility of adopting more strict social distancing measures on a national level.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attention drawn by the Emergency PEC in the House may further delay the installation of standing committees' members. The Senate has gone fully remote, suspending committee work, in the face of increasing COVID-19 case numbers.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The approval of the new round of emergency aid, although more limited, is expected to boost household consumption beginning in March and continuing through the second quarter. Inflation, sectoral, and unemployment data all set to be released over the next week will have an important role in influencing the COPOM meeting to set the SELIC interest rate on March 16th.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
860,533	21,163	809,941	1,101	24.19

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Piñera requests the extension of the state of exception until June. While the MoH valued the general approval of the “Mejor Fonasa” initiative, several health organizations were against the decision. The bill continues its normal path within Congress. The Ministry of Health announced that more than 9.5 M COVID-19 tests have been applied since the pandemic began in Chile.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 2 M Sinovac doses expected to arrive this week. President Piñera announced more than 20 thousand vaccine donations to Paraguay and Ecuador. According to the president this will not affect the internal vaccine rollout for the month of March. More than 4 M people have been vaccinated in Chile as of the end of last week. More than 220,000 Pfizer doses arrived last Wednesday to continue the massive vaccination plan.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law of “Registro Deudores de Alimentos” was presented before Congress. The government seeks to strengthen the punishments for those who breach food pensions payment. Employment Law was extended as an increase on subsidies was announced.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Piñera kicked-off the school year amid concerns.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Piñera's approval rating dropped by 4 percent compared to the last week's CADEM national poll.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Economy, Lucas Palacios, celebrated February's CPI increase of only 0,2%. He argued that this will grant less pressures for March, when most families increase their daily expenses.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 400 people of different sectors participated at the <i>Chile Delibera</i> initiative. A space created to discuss the main challenges on the health sector agenda.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,276,656	60,503	2,177,199	1,181	0.58

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmaceutical employment plan discussions moves on in several actions and measures. Colombia asks to prevent restrictions on the export of vaccines before the World Trade Organization.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colombia became one of the first countries in the world to receive COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX-Facility multilateral mechanism. More than 117,000 Pfizer doses arrived at the country to complement the national vaccination plan. Bogotá, Cundinamarca and Quindío, the most effective applying vaccines against COVID-19. Private companies' vaccine procurement is still open as the government has not ruled out this possibility. Government delivers the schedule of COVID-19 vaccines arrival for March. Experts' requests to accelerate the vaccine rollout in the country after two weeks of starting the process.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National authorities extended until June 1st the closure of land and river borders, in force since mid-March. The government extended the selective national quarantine until June 1st, 2021. Thus, there are some sanitary measures and mobility restrictions that remain in force in the country.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Fedesarrollo</i> proposed a fiscal reform plan to increase in 0.52 percentage points Colombia's GDP in 2022.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amid the possible resignation Colombian Vice-president, Marta Lucia Ramirez, some legislators proposed an opposition leader for her replacement to seek a counterweight. New legislative period begins as of mid-March. Nonetheless, the government could call for extraordinary sessions before.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
294,503	16,039	256,009	900	0.40

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rodolfo Farfan was appointed as new Minister of Health.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health announced the beginning of phase 1 of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, as well as the launch of a technological platform for citizens to register for the inoculation process. The MoH established the necessary conditions so that municipalities can purchase coronavirus vaccines; it also announced the arrival of more of Pfizer's vaccines. Ecuador received a donation from the Chilean government of 20,000 doses of Sinovac's Covid-19 vaccine. The Higher Polytechnic School of the Littoral (ESPOL) reported they have developed a prototype of a COVID-19 vaccine. Volunteers are being called on to participate in clinical trials for Anhui Zhifei Logcom's vaccine. The COVAX Initiative confirmed the delivery of 756,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine for Ecuador
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Government resigned after the simultaneous riots in four prisons. President Moreno disaffiliated from his political party, Alianza País (AP).
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The indigenous movement asked the national regulation agency, ARCSA, to approve the Sputnik V vaccine. An Ecuadorian university is researching possible pre-immunity against COVID-19.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Electronic Commerce Strategy to be presented in upcoming days.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,128,600	190,604	1,670,431	1,468	2.17

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress' Health Commission asked not to import medicines without labels in Spanish. • COVID-19 vaccine prototype from the Autonomous University of Querétaro (UAQ) reported advances in clinical trials on animals.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 2.7 million vaccines have been applied so far in the country. • The government received the Certificate of Analysis for the Sinovac vaccine, which will begin application soon. • Parastatal BIRMEX began the distribution of 800,000 vaccines from Sinovac to different parts of the country. • Foreign Affairs Secretariat assured that the CanSino vaccine will begin to be applied at the end of March. • Covaxin, the vaccine by Bharat Biotech International Limited, could be approved after the New Molecules Committee of COFEPIRS reported a favorable opinion from the experts.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President AMLO held a virtual meeting with President Biden.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities refuse to receive COVID-19 vaccines. • UNICEF urged Mexico to open schools in regions where COVID-19 infections have decreased. • The current pandemic caused poverty to reach 50.6% of the population, according to ECLAC.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bank of Mexico estimated that the national economy could grow 4.8%, if the vaccination strategy advances. • The Development Bank of Latin America ratified the entry of Mexico as a full member.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
168,043	3,318	140,561	461	0.02

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health announces simplified purchase procedure for drugs and health supplies. Julio Borba takes office as Minister of Health, following Mazzoleni's resignation. Government meets with local pharmaceutical guild to ensure transparency in tenders. Government to guarantee supply for respiratory hospitals in high-demand.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shipment of 20,000 doses of Coronavac COVID-19 vaccine received from Chile through cooperation agreement.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aid to support cost of COVID-19 treatments and medicines for patients in critical state authorized.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership in the Ministry of Health steps down after shortage scandal. New Minister will seek to contain resignations from other key officials. INERAM Director resigns after continuous complaints over shortage of supplies and drugs. Chamber of Deputies reviews bill calling binational entities to carry out the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines. Electoral Court establishes that anticipating elections would be unconstitutional. Abdo Benitez reshuffles cabinet; new leadership in Education and Women's Ministries, and in the Chief of Staff's office appointed.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amid wave of protests, citizens call Abdo Benitez to resign or face political trial. Nurse Association of Paraguay joined protests on shortage of supplies and drugs.

PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,371,176	47,854	1,276,245	1,438	1.14

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health issued a call to the population to strengthen health measures and protocols against the coronavirus.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50,000 doses of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccines arrived in the country. The Minister of Health announced that COVID-19 vaccination for adults over 60 years of age will begin on March 8th. The General Directorate of Medicines, Supplies and Drugs (Digemid) dismissed rumors on the rejection of the Sputnik V vaccine. The Minister of Economy assured that the country does not have fiscal problems for the financing of the vaccines.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cash handouts to vulnerable families will be delivered through 'paying cars' who will carry the subsidy to the most remote areas of the country. The government placed global bonds for 4,000 million USD. The regulation of the "Antitrust Law" was approved. The government decided to reschedule Reactiva Peru's credits.
Outlook	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) is preparing the mechanisms to deliver economic support to orphans due to COVID-19. The Council of Ministers approved an increase in the budget to mitigate the economic crisis among cultural and artistic sector. A trial against former president, Alberto Fujimori, for the thousands of forced sterilizations that were carried out under his government, has begun. The church warned of a humanitarian crisis after militarization of the Ecuador-Peru border.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
63,837	651	54,861	187	2.03

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASSE and Mevir signed an agreement to build and improve polyclinics in rural areas. • Consolidation of the upward trend in COVID-19 cases, local press reported.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Ministry published a vaccination campaign monitor and on the third day, 54,000 people have been vaccinated. • Enrollment schedule enabled for non-essential personnel between 55-59 years old to be vaccinated with Sinovac. • President announced that Pfizer vaccines will arrive March 10th, local press reported. • While vaccination centers were closed last Saturday due to low enrollment, government expects an increase in registrations this week, local press remarked.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Lacalle Pou announced a USD \$1.2 billion infrastructure works plan, local press reported.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montevideo will keep closure hours for restaurants if it remains in the red zone according to Harvard's index, local press reported.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following meeting with PIT-CNT, government will evaluate purchasing more from local industries, local press reported.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Lacalle Pou spoke before Congress to review his administration after one year in office. • After internal struggles, members of the government coalition await statements from the Livestock Ministry to reopen discussions on the Forestry Law. • <i>Frente Amplio</i> created a working group to analyze the Forestry Law project. • The Mayor of Montevideo signed to promote the referendum against the articles of the LUC.

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