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2021
18|may

COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

2,382,745 confirmed cases
220,489 deaths
18.07 vaccines/100 people

COLOMBIA

3,131,410 confirmed cases
81,809 deaths
14.66 vaccines/100 people

ECUADOR

411,466 confirmed cases
19,877 deaths
8.64 vaccines/100 people

BRAZIL

15,661,106 confirmed cases
436,862 deaths
25.23 vaccines/100 people

PERU

1,893,334 confirmed cases
66,471 deaths
7.73 vaccines/100 people

PARAGUAY

315,547 confirmed cases
7,692 deaths
2.46 vaccines/100 people

BOLIVIA

334,824 confirmed cases
13,566 deaths
9.48 vaccines/100 people

URUGUAY

242,906 confirmed cases
3,521 deaths
67.61 vaccines/100 people

CHILE

1,295,862 confirmed cases
27,965 deaths
86.69 vaccines/100 people

ARGENTINA

3,335,965 confirmed cases
71,027 deaths
22.13 vaccines/100 people

CASES BY COUNTRY

Up to 25k	Between 100k and 200k
Between 25k and 50k	Between 200k and 400k
Between 50k and 100k	More than 400k

COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

MAY 10 – MAY 18, 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	3,335,965	188,225	48.7%	71,027	3,702	46%	274,172
BOLIVIA	334,824	16,214	46.7%	13,566	338	63%	111,690
BRAZIL	15,661,106	451,206	4.8%	436,862	13,633	-7%	220,090
CHILE	1,295,862	43,054	16.4%	27,965	647	-2%	729,185
COLOMBIA	3,131,410	128,652	31.9%	81,809	3,955	47%	310,720
ECUADOR	411,466	9,406	-32.9%	19,877	635	33%	76,873
MEXICO	2,382,745	16,953	0.2%	220,489	1,504	-14%	52,693
PARAGUAY	315,547	17,758	16.5%	7,692	562	1%	166,469
PERU	1,893,334	43,044	9.5%	66,471	2,368	20%	363,138
URUGUAY	242,906	22,223	22.2%	3,521	399	0%	578,704

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 18/05/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: Government takes measures to curb inflation on food basket.

Bolivia: President Arce hosted the International Forum for Patent Release.

Brazil: High anticipation over former Minister Pazuello's testimony before the Pandemic CPI.

Colombia: Protests continue as concerns over possible COVID-19 outbreaks increases.

Chile: Constitutional members chosen in a surprising election results.

Ecuador: State of Exception comes to an end with no recommendations to extend it.

Mexico: Government to begin packaging and bottling the Sputnik V vaccine.

Paraguay: Vaccination campaign continues to focus on senior citizens with gradual lowering of age condition.

Peru: Days before the final election, presidential candidates signed the "Citizens' Proclamation" a commitment to democratic practices.

Uruguay: Trade union movement (PIT-CNT) announced a general work strike for June 17th.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
3,335,965	71,027	2,973,267	1,559	22.13

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new record number of COVID19 cases was reported. It was also confirmed the highest number of deaths so far in the pandemic. The Minister of Health warned that the "unusual" growth of cases of COVID-19 puts the health system under strain in the provinces. Buenos Aires province's congress approved the bill that enables the province to negotiate and purchase COVID-19 vaccines.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Minister stated that Argentina will receive almost 4 million AstraZeneca vaccines during May. Russian President announced regular shipments of Sputnik V vaccines to Argentina. Argentina will be part of phase III studies of the Israeli vaccine Brie Life, local press reported.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government decided to suspend meat exports for 30 days. This measure seeks to curb inflation, local press reported. Rural associations announced a 9-day stoppage in response to this measure. The Maximum Prices program, which includes ceilings for several food products, was extended until June 8th.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government evaluates new restrictions for the next stage. Even though a "total shutdown" has been ruled out, the government is considering tightening controls, local press reported.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government met with opposition leader, head of the Buenos Aires city government, to discuss the withdrawal of funds from the city. The ruling party called to discuss in committee a bill that modifies the necessary requirements to elect the General Attorney of the Nation. The opposition has advanced its rejection.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
334,824	13,566	273,403	1,148	7.53

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government expanded contracts for more than 3,000 frontline doctors amid concerns over a health reform bill. Bolivia participated at the International Patent Forum and emphasized starting an international and joint campaign for releasing vaccine patents.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A massive vaccination center was launched in Santa Cruz last week. A new Sinopharm shipment arrived in La Paz and El Alto last week. The government received new Sputnik V doses to continue expanding vaccine rollout around the country. In the official speech, President Arce highlighted the importance of Russia amid the vaccination campaign.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than USD \$1 billion have been invested in social and fiscal programs to reactivate the national economy, President Arce stated. Compulsory Insurance for construction workers was presented.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journalist associations rejected the idea of regulating television content and programs after alleged petitions in this matter were made within the Chamber of Deputies. While the pandemic is still the main topic on the agenda, different factors such as the “shadow of Evo Morales, the incapacity to approve the judicial reform, and the political persecution” have been other key topics that marked the first six months since President Luis Arce is in power.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns rise over VAT initiative for digital platforms and its repercussions on final users. Digital services have grown steadily amid the pandemic crisis, especially for education and entertainment purposes.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
15,661,106	436,862	14,152,433	2,043	25.23

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pandemic CPI will hear testimony from former Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello on May 19. The government published a decree temporarily banning travelers from India, the United Kingdom, and South Africa. The Ministry of Health launched the Awareness Campaign on Preventative Measures and Vaccination against COVID-19 on May 12.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health will be distributing a new batch of 6.4 million vaccines on May 18. Fiocruz, which produces the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine in Brazil, is set to receive a new shipment of active pharmaceutical ingredients from China on May 22. São Paulo expanded its vaccination campaign to include pregnant women and women who recently gave birth.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Reform will likely advance through the House CCJC with minimal changes, before facing real debate in the Special Committee. The much-awaited testimony of former Minister Pazuello at the COVID CPI this week could have severe repercussions for President Bolsonaro, although the Supreme Court approved his right to remain silent. New polling from DataFolha shows former President Lula da Silva in a strong position against Bolsonaro in a hypothetical 2022 election, although conditions are subject to change between now and the election.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to an analysis from Citi, Brazil's economy will take two years to fully recover from the effects of the pandemic.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,295,862	27,965	1,231,047	1,452	86.69

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Health made a call to comply with sanitary measures amid elections after concerns of possible new COVID-19 outbreaks. Universities duplicated their local capacities throughout the country to monitor COVID-19 genome sequencing. President Piñera enacted a new law on mental health.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 16 million vaccines have been administered so far in the country as of Monday of this week, MoH informed.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Transport to intensify fines on the public transport system. Ministry of Labor launched a Multidisciplinary Table to boost policies on the creation of formal jobs.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced the start of the Middle-Class Bonus second phase and the IFE payment for April. The Presidency Secretary, Juan José Ossa, announced new support agenda for Chilean families hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. Housing middle-class subsidy can be used in all the country regardless of where the application was made, Minister of Housing announced.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a historic speech after polls were closed, President Piñera brought up different insights and conclusions on the constitutional results. Among them, that the “citizens have sent a strong message to the government and traditional parties” regarding the disconnection with demands and social petitions. A two-hour permission was granted to vote for those that worked during the electoral dates.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
3,131,410	81,809	2,931,280	1,593	14.66

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health reform bill loses strength in Congress after several legislators stopped supporting the measure. Breast cancer bill advances at Congress after its approval in third debate.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 7.4 million doses have been administered as of the end of last week, Ministry of Health reported.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government and the strike committee met for a second time as protests continue to take place in some main cities of the country. President Duque announced deployment of military and police forces to remove blockades across the country. President Duque enacted hybrid working law. Foreign Minister, Claudia Blum, stepped aside from office one week after the resignation of Finance Minister Alberto Carrasquilla. Opposition senator filed claim against the Colombian government before the International Court of Justice.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidies to grant low-income students university support with tuition, and for salaries for citizens between 18 and 28 years, announced. Intense protests with episodes of violence were reported.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer confidence index reached -34% in April, according to Fedesarrollo's opinion poll, 22.8 percentage points decrease when compared to March. After 15 days of strike, and despite transport of basic goods has been facilitated through humanitarian corridors, the economic losses add up to USD \$200 million, FENALCO reported. Additionally, 90% of the medical supplies and medicines have been retained in national routes due to roadblocks and illegal barricades. A moderate new tax reform is expected to be presented before Congress, given the president's little room for maneuver and low legislative support. Despite the pandemic crisis, the economy grew by 1.1% in the first quarter of 2021.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
411,416	19,877	354,499	1,112	8.64

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARCSA authorizes import of Sputnik-V vaccine.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecuador's Soccer Federation begins vaccination rollout for professional soccer players with vaccines donated by CONMEBOL. Inquiries on possible VIP vaccination in La Concordia.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrictions lifted during from May 20th, enabling circulation in all provinces. Land border with Colombia to remain closed.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Committee recommends lifting State of Exception as its term expires on May 20th and in light of positive results. Political blocs establish their priorities for the upcoming legislative period as the National Assembly defines committees and leadership.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Bank study establishes that COVID-19 has costed Ecuador USD 16.382 million.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taxi guild protests increase in fuel prices. Indigenous protestors block access to PETROECUADOR after ongoing protests.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,382,745	220,489	1,903,494	1,695	18.07

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretary of Health launched a sanitary strategy to tackle COVID-19 expansion at the local level. COFEPRIS announces new evaluation guidelines for the certification of pharma manufacturing. The Mexican Pharmaceutical Institute (INEFAM) warned of a rise in drug shortages in the first months of 2021. As a result, people are turning to the black market for medication, local press reported. According to COPARMEX, the Mexican government should strengthen the centralized purchase of medicines amid the pandemic crisis. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) proposed a law for access to free medicines and called for an urgent response of the drug shortage situation.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnant women to receive vaccines against COVID-19 to reduce maternal mortality. Government to begin packaging and bottling the Sputnik V vaccine. More than 34 million doses will arrive in the country in June. Around 500,000 Sputnik V and 35,000 CanSino doses arrived in the country at the end of last week.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former president of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, visited AMLO to celebrate the Tenochtitlan anniversary. President AMLO among the leaders with the highest approval levels, according to an international poll.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fitch maintained Mexico's credit rating at BBB, reporting a stable economic outlook.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
315,547	7,692	262,336	1,067	2.46

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paraguay to receive COVID-19 vaccines from Qatar by the endo of May. Almost 7,000 aids related to medicines have been delivered. Ministry of Health announces purchase agreement for Soberana 2 COVID-19 vaccine. Paraguay submits bid to become an executive member in PAHO.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccination for citizens with 65+ years kickstarted. DINAVISA to track adults who were scheduled to receive vaccines but have not yet received the dose.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAT exemption extended for hospitality and tourism industries. Expansion of subsidy for border towns to be drafted. Itaipu enables platform to monitor social expenditure. Central Bank and Tax Secretariat to promote joint actions to increase transparency.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional travels from Argentineans to and from Paraguay to be expedited.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political advertisement enabled in public roads. President Abdo calls for national consensus to approve overarching bill. Frente Guasu explores alliances to secure Senate Chair.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiations with Brazil to increase water flows from shared damn to avoid losses in exports. PETROPAR will not increase oil prices.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focalized protests from medical guilds calling for better working conditions.

PERU

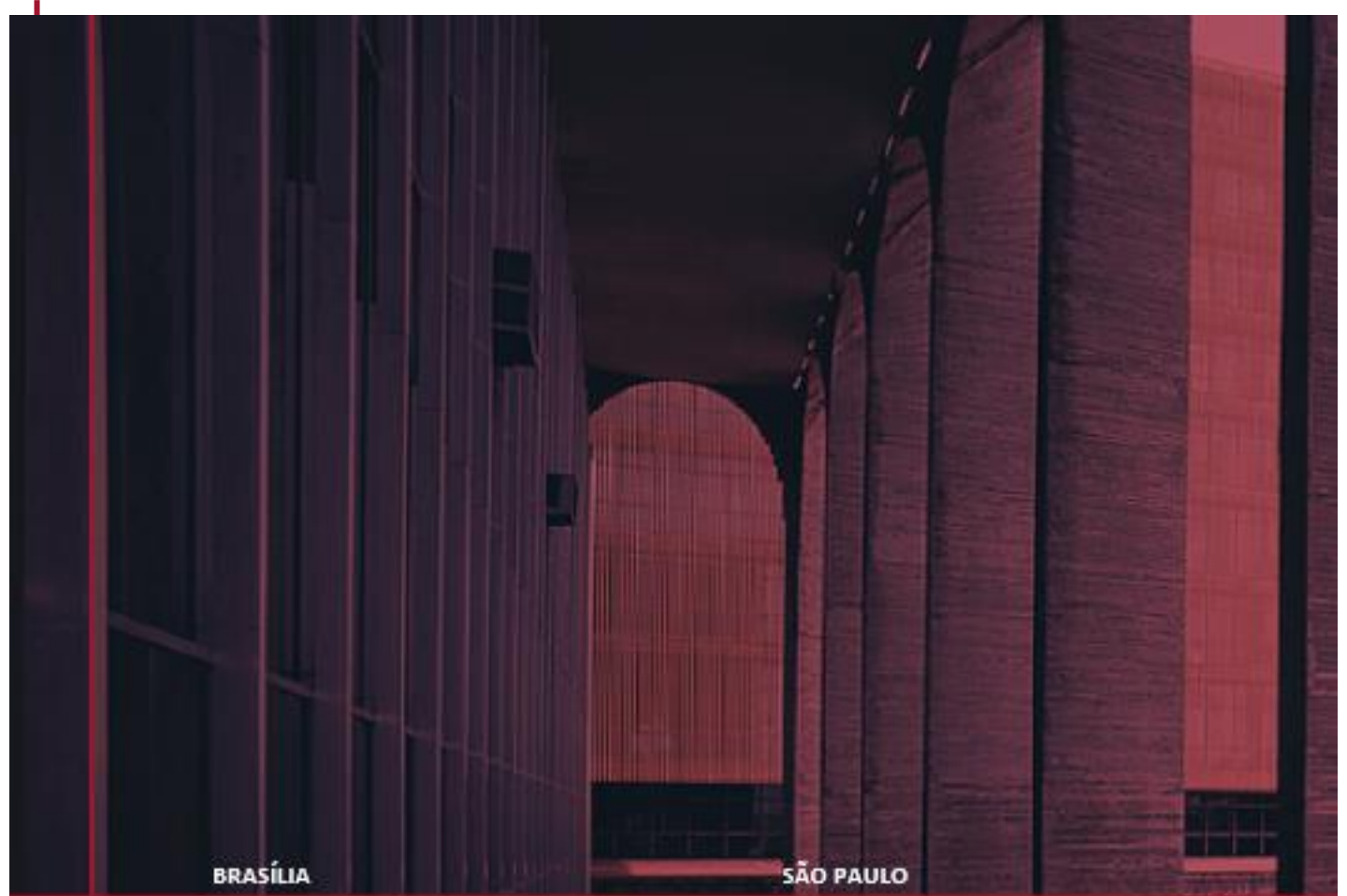
TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,893,334	66,471	1,720,665	1,992	7.73

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of deaths rises again after 16 days of decline. MOH delivered 541 tons of medical supplies throughout the country during the last few days. The supplies were mostly personal protective equipment. Health Ministry and Public Prosecutor's Office coordinate actions to strengthen surveillance in the vaccination process, local press reported.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government set restrictions on the use of Sinopharm and AstraZeneca vaccines on people with certain pre-existing conditions. According to the Health Minister, vaccination for people over 60 years of age will begin before the end of the month. A batch of Pfizer's 700,000 vaccines has been received. In total, more than 2,400,000 vaccines have already been provided to the country.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Education confirmed that on-site classes will not be resumed in urban areas regardless the reduction in the number of cases, local press reported.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidential candidates Castillo and Fujimori signed the "Citizens' Proclamation - Oath for Democracy" where they committed themselves to accomplish twelve points associated to democratic practices.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
242,906	3,521	212,051	1,011	67.61

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of hospitalizations and admissions to intensive care for COVID-19 has decreased during the last two weeks, Uruguayan society of intensive care medicine reported. However, the lethality of the virus has not decreased. New intensive care beds were added to the public system. As a result, the state health administration (ASSE) constitutes itself as the main service provider against COVID-19, presidential portal reported.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Mobile Vaccination Unit will reach more than 300 villages enabling the vaccination of more than 150,000 people, local press reported. Health Ministry asked a scientific commission to evaluate three anti-COVID19 vaccines -Sinopharm, Covaxine and Johnson & Johnson's vaccine- to study their further purchase, local press reported. Car vaccination center to be opened this week. Priority will be given to those over 70 years of age and people who are not self-sufficient.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uruguay issued debt in local currency at the lowest interest rate in its history. Government launched funds to mitigate effects of pandemic in the tourism sector. Uruguay created a specialized team, formed by the ministries of environment and livestock, to reduce the environmental effects of livestock farming.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site attendance is resumed in some levels of rural schools and in special education. Direct flights between Montevideo and Miami will return as of June 25th.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade union movement (PIT-CNT) announced a general work strike "against hunger and inequality" on June 17th.



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