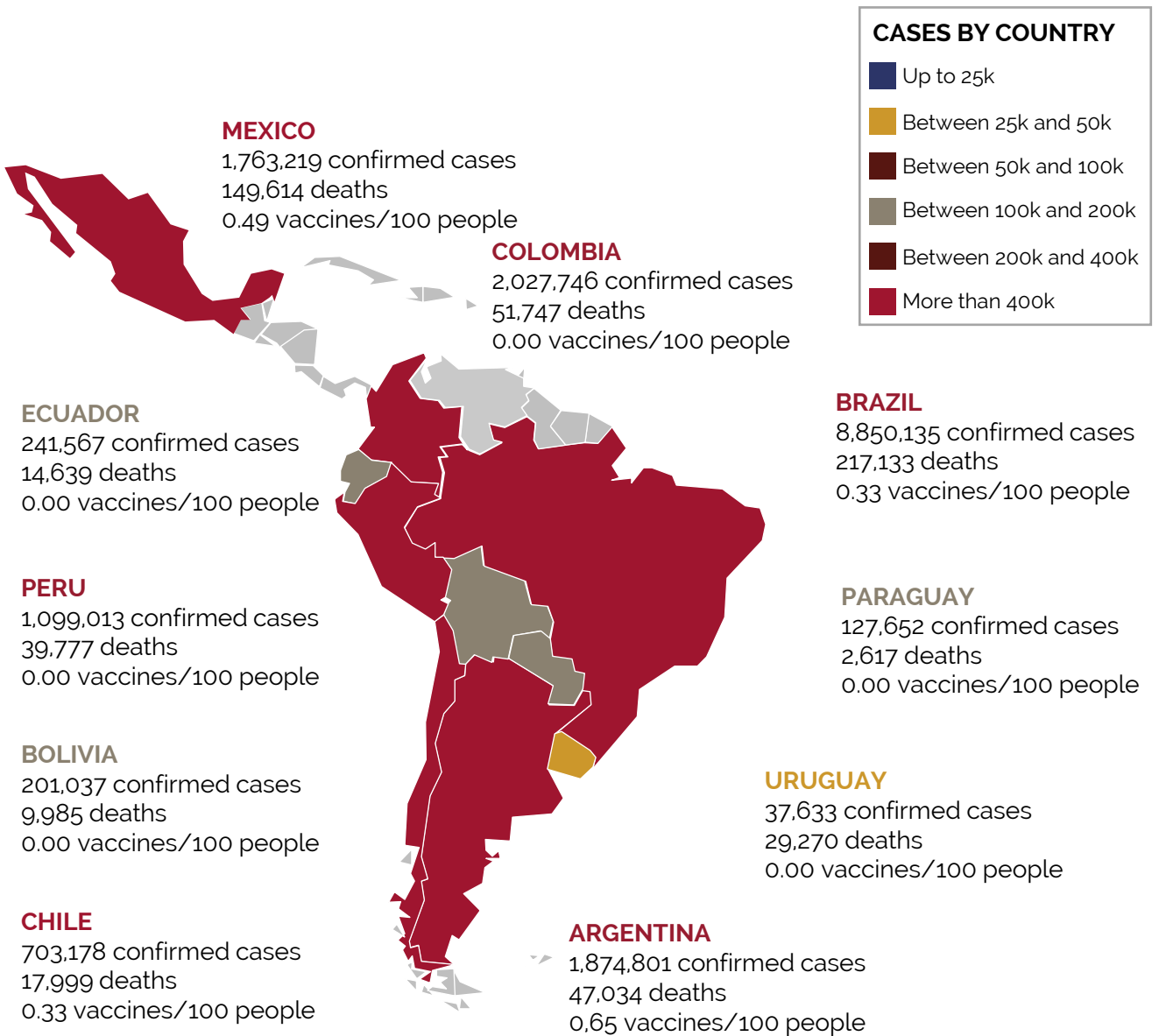


SPREAD OF COVID-19-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA



COVID-19-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

JANUARY 18-25, 2021

COVID-19-19 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	1,874,801	75,558	38.5%	47,034	1,627	191%	130,605
BOLIVIA	201,037	13,854	16.5%	9,985	349	58%	43,933
BRAZIL	8,850,135	338,365	7.0%	217,133	6,834	23%	134,011
CHILE	703,178	29,428	19.6%	17,999	452	24%	401,221
COLOMBIA	2,027,746	119,333	29.2%	51,747	3,116	69%	189,243
ECUADOR	241,567	9,923	9.3%	14,639	317	152%	47,634
MEXICO	1,763,219	121,791	22.0%	149,614	8,910	41%	34,130
PARAGUAY	127,652	5,492	20.2%	2,617	112	65%	87,779
PERU	1,099,013	34,104	38.2%	39,777	906	92%	183,366
URUGUAY	37,633	5,255	16.0%	376	65	55%	230,275

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 25/1/2021 | 16:00 EST).
Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: ANMAT recommended the use of Sputnik V vaccine in people over 60 years old.

Bolivia: President Arce announced the arrival of vaccines by the end of January.

Brazil: Foreign Affairs Minister under pressure.

Colombia: Attention placed on the rise of legal actions to access COVID-19 vaccines.

Chile: The Public Health Institution (ISP) approved the Sinovac vaccine for emergency use.

Ecuador: The government kickstarted the vaccination campaign pilot plan.

Mexico: President AMLO tested positive for COVID-19.

Paraguay: Government closes deals to secure access to COVID-19 vaccines beyond COVAX mechanism.

Peru: The Foreign Affairs Ministry assured that the country has secured a total of 28 million doses of vaccines from COVAX and Sinopharm.

Uruguay: The President announced purchase agreements for Pfizer and Sinovac vaccines.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,874,801	47,034	1,66,527	1,035	0.65

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legal and voluntary interruption of pregnancy became effective in Argentina. Officials stated that the health system reform project, promoted by hard-line Kirchnerism, is "unfeasible", local press reported.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANMAT recommended the use of Sputnik V vaccine in people over 60 years old. The President and the Minister of Health received the first dose of Sputnik V vaccine. The Vice President, Cristina Fernandez, also received it. Another flight departed to bring 600 thousand doses of Sputnik V from Moscow. Governor of Buenos Aires announced that vaccination of teachers with risk factors will begin next week in Buenos Aires Province.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced both the extension of the rule prohibiting dismissals -for 90 days more- and the extension of the mandatory payment of double severance -for the whole year.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government of the city of Buenos Aires confirmed the return to on-site classes on February 17th. Teachers' unions of the city oppose this return arguing that "the conditions are not adequate". The unions said that there could be measures of force.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-organized transporters demand tariff updates and block routes in the center of the country. A meeting with government authorities is scheduled for Tuesday 26th.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten provinces again asked the President to suspend primary elections (PASO).

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
201,037	9,985	150,439	849	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former president Evo Morales stated that until vaccines reach to all Bolivians, COVID-19 medicines should not pay customs taxes. As the government has not announced any measure related to this, discussions regarding price controls in essential medicines has increased. Ministry of Health agrees on permanent coordination with local governments. The government launched a new COVID-19 index to track the increase of cases in the country. Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca are the most affected regions. Distribution of nasal antigen tests begins for 89 health centers. Decree authorizes local governments to hire more healthcare workers amid pandemic. Government to launch new digital applications regarding COVID-19 information.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government signed agreement with Astrazeneca to access more than 5 million doses. Vaccines are expected to arrive in April to the country. President Arce announced that vaccines will start arriving to the country at the end of January.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Education explained procedure for return to virtual classes. The school year is expected to begin in the first week of February. Santa Cruz announced new measures to control the expansion of the virus.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Drivers Confederation broke the dialogue with the government after failing to reach an agreement
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Health will publish a sanitary report explaining the situation of the country to decide whether or not to postpone local elections. It is important to note that the TSE has already reconfirmed the electoral date for March 7. More resources for local governments are expected to be distributed and authorized. Government presented a bill at Congress to allow pensions withdrawal amid the pandemic.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
8,850,135	217,133	7,653,770	1,017	0.33

Government Measures	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinations are being delayed by an import bottleneck on inputs from China, leading to meetings between Rodrigo Maia (DEM) and Executive ministers to meet with Chinese Ambassador Yang Wanming. In response to a potential truck drivers' strike in the coming months, the government added truck drivers to the priority group for vaccination. Two million doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine produced in India were delivered to Brazil on Friday (22), boosting the government's vaccine efforts.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COPOM maintained the interest rate at the historic low of 2% but withdrew its "forward guidance," indicating interest rates may increase at future meetings.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United States President Biden implemented new travel restrictions on Brazil, following Trump's rescinding of those restrictions during his final days in office.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The House of Representatives has officially set the date for the election of the new Speaker on February 1st. The in-person vote will feature Arthur Lira (PP) and Baleia Rossi (MDB), with no clear frontrunner. Issues with vaccine negotiations with India led to Foreign Affairs Minister Ernesto Araújo being left out of negotiations with China and increased pressure on his tenure at the ministry.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Bank officials are expressing worry that the bill on the bank's autonomy may not pass Congress after the election of a new speaker, as neither candidate seems committed. While the bill is important, the main purpose is to defend the bank's already autonomous operations.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
703,178	17,999	658,324	937	0.33

<h2>Government Measures</h2>	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Health and health organization Confusam signed an act of compliance to implement the “Ley de Alivio”, which will benefit more than 17 thousand healthcare workers in the country. It is important to note that this measure moved forward after intense protests and demands from health and social collectives.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Piñera presented the main advances of the Vaccination Plan. According to the president more than 4 million Sinovac doses will be arriving to the country by the end of January. Minister of Health Enrique Paris celebrated the approval of Sinovac vaccine. The country is expecting more than 10 million doses. The vaccine was validated by the ISP for emergency use. According to the government the Sinovac vaccine will be used in people from 18 to 59 years old. New package of more than 43,000 Pfizer vaccines arrived in the country at the beginning of last week. The doses received correspond to the fourth shipment totaling more than 154,000 doses. More than 8,300 healthcare workers have completed their vaccination process. These are workers who received their first and second doses of the vaccine.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government enacted the pension withdrawal bill for people with terminal illnesses. The government launched a special subsidy that will help more than 35 thousand workers in the country. The subsidy consists in granting around USD \$200 for every child under two years of age with a working mother. Government announces extension of the employment subsidy and enters project that seeks to extend Employment Protection Law.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite vaccine rollouts, different communes return to stricter lockdowns as the national positivity rate remains at 7%.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,027,746	51,747	1,849,194	1,011	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultra-cold freezers began to arrive in the country's main cities. Colombia exceeded the barrier of 49,000 COVID-19 deaths as curfews remain to be enforced in main cities of the country.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government will provide details and information about the vaccination plan before Congress amid doubts in the vaccine rollout schedule. More than, 72,000 people were trained for vaccination rollout against COVID-19. President Duque met with Constitutional Court members to discuss the possibility of legal actions for vaccine access.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor Claudia Lopez announced new restrictions in Bogotá.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Defense, Carlos Holmes Trujillo in critical care after being infected with COVID-19. President Duque appointed the Commander General of the Military Forces, as head of the Defense portfolio.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COVID-19 observatory, integrated by different private corporations, reported that the curfews and lockdown measures prompted in Bogota have caused historical economic impacts. According to the report, Bogota reduced in 12% its active companies, which means around 53,000 fewer companies compared to last year. Despite the pandemic, 26.5% of businessmen in Colombia saw higher sales during 2020, report concluded.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
241,567	14,639	204,071	823	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vice president inaugurated a health center in the Amazon within the framework of a campaign to combat chronic child malnutrition. Intensive care areas for coronavirus in hospitals have an 85% occupancy rate nationwide.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vaccination Campaign began in hospitals in Quito; later on, the plan was readjusted after receiving complaints from intensive care doctors that had not been considered. Regulating agency, ARCSA, approved use of AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine, while the president announced 5 million of its doses will soon be imported. Police officers are being trained to detect fake COVID-19 vaccines.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipalities agreed on a payment plan with the Ministry of Economy.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorities of the capital, Quito, determined to tighten restrictive measures upon contagions increase.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Moreno traveled to the USA to engage in high-level meetings. The OAS will send an electoral mission to Ecuador. The Ministry of Health has criticized electoral promises related to the purchase of a coronavirus vaccine. The government evaluated its upcoming electoral process through a simulation.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IDB approved a 45 million USD loan to be oriented towards the judiciary sector.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,763,219	149,614	1,320,448	1,154	0.49

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO tested positive for COVID-19. Miriam Veras Godoy, head of the Universal Vaccination Program and director of the National Health Center for Children, resigned. According to the Secretary of the Treasury, Mexico has 4 billion USD in reserve for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines and medicines
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina sent active ingredient to Mexico for preparation of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. President AMLO announced that companies and local governments will now have permission to acquire the coronavirus vaccine. The Employers' Confederation offered to help vaccinate up to 11 million people per month. Vaccines developed by Curevac and Novavax will soon begin their phase 3 trials in Mexico. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that between January and March, the government will have 7.4 million doses of the Sputnik V Vaccine
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO assured that Mexico and the US will work together to promote an immigration reform and recover the economy.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexico and the US are working out the new provisions for travelers announced by President Biden.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposing congressmen denounced President AMLO before the Attorney General's Office for the electoral use of the coronavirus vaccination process.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fake vaccination campaigns continue to surge throughout the country.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country registered an 8% drop in the arrival of Foreign Direct Investment during 2020, reported the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. AMLO estimates that Mexico's economy will grow up to 5% in 2021. 2020 ended with an unemployment rate of 4.4% for the country.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
127,652	2,617	103,083	364	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Integrated System fully operational. • Ministry of Health delivers new equipment and beds to ICU's across the country. • Concerns amid health authorities over Dengue cases.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister of Health announces deals to procure 3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Rollout is expected to begin in February. • Minister of Health confirms access to 4,3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines through COVAX mechanism.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Abdo signs reglementary decree for 2021 National Budget.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Abdo reshuffles cabinet once more.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Education is preparing a protocol to resume face-to-face classes. Ministry of Health will have final approval. • Government updates requirements to enter the country.

PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,099,013	39,777	1,012,450	1,197	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EsSalud warned that COVID-19 infections in adolescents increased by 59%. The Ministry of Health has confirmed the finding of three cases of the British variant of the coronavirus. The Ombudsman's Office reported that there are no beds left for intensive care in Lima and Callao. China donated thousands of COVID-19 protection equipment to the Ministry of Health. A molecular test for the diagnosis of the coronavirus is already being manufactured and commercialized in Peru. The Government decreed the production of medicinal oxygen for the country's health facilities as a priority.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Foreign Affairs Ministry guaranteed that the country has insured a total of 28 million doses of vaccines, with Sinopharm's vaccine close to arrival. The private sector will finance transfer of first million Sinopharm vaccines to Peru. The Ministry of Health acquired 10,339 refrigeration equipments through UNICEF. 48% of Peruvians do not plan to get vaccinated against COVID-19, according to an IPSOS survey
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Sagasti ratified election date despite COVID-19. Several unions have requested the resignation of the Minister of Health for the management of the pandemic. The Council of State agreed to establish a sanitary protocol for the development of the electoral campaigns.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The president of the National Chamber of Commerce, Production, Tourism and Services stated that Peru has great capacity to grow 10% in 2021
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group of doctors went on a hunger strike demanding more investment in the health sector and rejecting the handling of the pandemic. Health sector federations and unions announced three national strikes.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
37,633	376	29,270	108	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Health announced the creation of a “National Coordinating Board” to manage and organize the country's intensive care beds. Report of the Honorary Scientific Advisory Group (GACH) stated that the rate of growth of the number of cases went from exponential (up to January 15th) to “sustained”. However, they warned that that the current level of testing does not ensure “the same reliability” as before.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President announced purchase agreements for Pfizer (2 million doses) and Sinovac (1,700 million doses) vaccines. These would arrive in March. According to official sources, the first to be vaccinated will be health personnel, senior citizens residing in homes and teachers and workers of the educational system.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government announced a change in the personal income tax (IRPF) adjustment criteria. After the suspension of Carnival, Montevideo’s Mayor announced financial aid to festival workers.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Transportation enabled two new Buquebus frequencies to travel to Buenos Aires from Montevideo.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criticism against the government for the change of criteria to adjust personal income taxes (IRPF).
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2020 Uruguay “lost” USD \$ 1,100 in inbound tourism, according to local media.

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