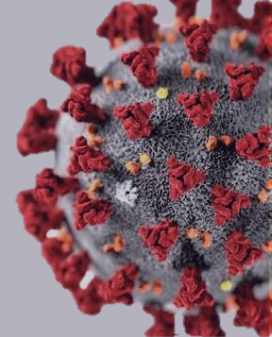
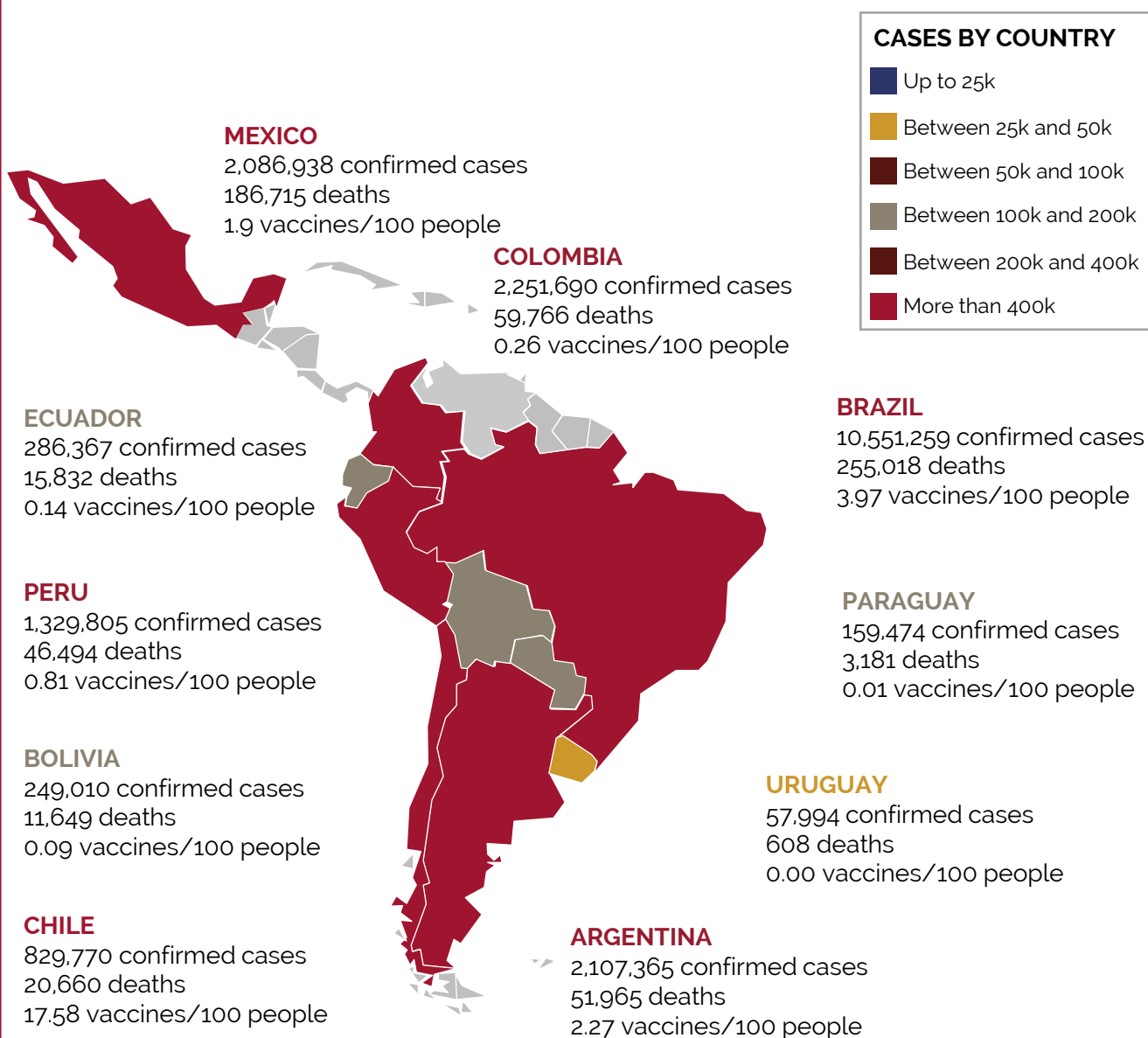


PROSPECTIVA | LATAM COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

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SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA



Source: Prospectiva. At 4pm, 01/03/21

COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 22- MARCH 1, 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	2,107,365	37,614	-14.4%	51,965	1,143	-46%	163,554
BOLIVIA	249,010	6,718	20.8%	11,649	989	-13%	61,188
BRAZIL	10,551,259	356,099	0.3%	255,018	1,194	1%	133,920
CHILE	829,770	26,761	14.0%	20,660	1,075	6%	490,180
COLOMBIA	2,251,690	22,027	-36.4%	59,766	1,166	-42%	233,627
ECUADOR	286,367	11,399	56.9%	15,832	888	48%	56,749
MEXICO	2,086,938	45,558	-6.2%	185,715	1,430	-5%	42,004
PARAGUAY	159,474	7,756	1.0%	3,181	442	-10%	104,526
PERU	1,329,805	46,496	-3.2%	46,494	1,397	0%	227,941
URUGUAY	57,994	5,179	32.6%	608	175	-13%	292,337

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 01/03/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: While the new structure of the health portfolio is being defined, new shipments of vaccines are arriving.

Bolivia: National health extended for 15 more days.

Brazil: Senate approves purchase of COVID-19 vaccines by state governments, while eight states enact lockdown measures.

Colombia: President Duque announced the arrival of 2M Sinovac doses for March 7th

Chile: More than 3.3 M vaccinated amid new wave of violence in Araucania.

Ecuador: Minister and Vice Minister of Health resigned due to vaccination scandal.

Mexico: The Health Secretariat confirmed that Migrants in Mexican territory will also receive COVID-19 vaccine.

Paraguay: Government expecting arrival of new shipments of COVID-19 vaccines.

Peru: The first shipments of medicinal oxygen from Chile and Ecuador received.

Uruguay: COVID-19 vaccination campaign began after the arrival of 192,000 Sinovac doses.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,107,365	51,965	1,905,021	1,143	2.27

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Health and the Chief of Cabinet met with provincial health ministers within the framework of <u>COFESA</u>. Health Minister Carla Vizzotti <u>tested positive</u> for COVID-19. New appointments to the health portfolio are being defined, local press <u>remarked</u>. Sonia Tarragona would be the new Health <u>Chief of Cabinet</u>.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the scandal, resolution defining the <u>criteria</u> for receiving COVID-19 vaccines was enacted. Arrival of <u>one million doses</u> of Sinopharm vaccines that had been previously agreed was completed. A total of one million doses of Sputnik V <u>expected to arrive</u> in the upcoming days in two separate shipments. Argentine laboratory will produce Spunik V vaccines locally, local press <u>reported</u>.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following presidential bilateral visit, Mexico reopens <u>meat market</u> to Argentina. Government agreed with teachers' unions on a 34.5% <u>salary increase</u> to be implemented in stages.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government <u>extended</u> “social distancing” until March 12th. Borders will be <u>closed</u> to tourism until the same date. Thirteen provinces began the school year with <u>mixed modalities</u>, both on-site and virtual.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Fernandez inaugurated ordinary sessions in Congress. During his speech, one of the main criticisms was towards the justice sector, local press <u>remarked</u>. President Fernandez <u>called</u> for a legal accusation against the former administration for the debt with the IMF. Businessman linked to Kirchnerism convicted to 12 years in prison for money laundering, local press <u>reported</u>.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protests called by the opposition against the <u>VIP vaccination scandal</u> were held throughout the country.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
249,010	11,649	193,032	989	0.09

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced the purchase of more than 23 tons of medicines to tackle COVID-19. This will be the second massive purchase prompted by national authorities in the last month. While vaccine rollout moves on, health authorities announced a rise in COVID-19 infections. Concerns rises over purchase of medicines and healthcare supplies in Santa Cruz city.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government delivered a package of fiscal aids and special credits for Santa Cruz's productive sector.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> La Paz will continue massive vaccination after the arrival of Sinopharm doses. The National Vaccination Plan began in the country days after healthcare workers received first vaccine doses. More than half of healthcare workers have received a Sputnik V second dose, according to local press. Around 5,400 doses are left until all healthcare workers are vaccinated in the country. Health authorities enable an electronic registry to vaccinate health personnel.
Outlook	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns increases as COVID-19 infections amongst teachers in Cochabamba growths.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National legislators requests foreign debt forgiveness amid a critical economic situation. Negotiations move forward with soy producers to find solutions amid the economic crisis.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Arce requested health associations to stop the national strike and resume work duties. More than 150 career diplomats have been laid-off since the arrival of Arce to power. A first technical meeting was made to discuss the migratory situation between Bolivia and Chile. Former President Jeanine Añez declared herself under threat amid her intentions to become Beni's next governor.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATIONS PER 100
10,551,259	255,018	9,411,033	1,194	3.97

Government Measures	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Senate approved PL 534/2021, allowing the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines by state governments and the private sector. The bill now heads to the House. On the legislative agenda this week are MP 1004/2020 (House), to provide extraordinary credit for the COVAX consortium vaccine acquisition, and MP 1026/2021 (Senate) to require the vaccine distribution to follow the National Immunization Plan.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The expectation for the emergency aid included in the emergency constitutional amendment has settled at four payments of BRL 250. President Bolsonaro criticized new lockdowns, stating that governors who close their states will have to bear the costs of further emergency aid from state budgets.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brasília, along with eight other states, have entered new lockdowns, as the pace of vaccination has not been quick enough to slow rising case numbers.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still dominating the Congressional agenda are the 2021 Budget Law and the Emergency Constitutional Amendment, which will now include the extension of emergency aid. The House will be forming and installing the members of permanent committees over the next week.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the face of worry from investors over intervention at state-owned companies, Bolsonaro submitted bills on the framework to privatize Eletrobras and the Postal Service, although the bills are unlikely to advance quickly. Economy Minister Paulo Guedes has seen reduced influence ahead of the 2022 elections, with Bolsonaro likely to leave unpopular economic reforms for a second term.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
829,770	20,660	784,213	1,075	15.12

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROSUR to support Chile's initiative to promote a global treaty against pandemics.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2M Sinovac vaccine batch arrived to reinforce the national vaccination plan. According to local press, with this new shipment the government will manage to vaccinate the critical population in the first trimester of 2021. The MoH announced that the vaccine rollout speed will recover from next week as new doses continues to arrive. As vaccine rollout moves along, experts debate on the efficiency of curfews and quarantine measures to contain infections. Minister Paris announced the beginning of vaccination for dialyzed people.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government announced new measures to control the Araucania's new wave of violence. The government extended the Family Emergency Income (IFE) and announced new measures to boost employment and help SMEs.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition groups were against the idea of declaring a state of emergency in the Araucania region after the reappearance of violence.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experts consider that copper price will continue to rise amid favorable conditions. Investment banks improve outlook for Chile's 2021 GDP. Vaccination and the rise of copper price produced an unprecedented reduction of economic uncertainty. The National Statistic Institute (INE) launched the latest unemployment figures for January. According to the report, during the quarter November 2020-January 2021, unemployment rate in Chile was 10,2%. Rise in copper could boost the construction, metallurgy and automotive sectors, experts said.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,251,690	59,766	2,148,249	1,166	0.26

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INVIMA approves Oxford / AstraZeneca vaccine against COVID-19. The MoH published a draft decree to restructure the National Superintendency of Health. Sanitary emergency extended until the end of May. Government enacts temporary decree to allow the entry of essential, unavailable, or under shortages, health supplies and drugs by sea.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medellin finished immunizing with the first vaccine doses that arrived at the end of February. The government announced that there are more vaccinated people than COVID-19 confirmed cases. Governor of Cundinamarca asks mayors and citizens not to jump the vaccine line. Complaints about alleged line jumping and lost vaccines are starting to rise. Concerns rise after several municipalities warned not having ultracold freezers to store vaccines. President Duque announced the arrival of 2 million new Sinovac vaccine doses in March 7.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eje Cafetero region to ease lockdown measures. Cali requests Ministry of Health authorization to modify protocols for shopping centers. On-site schooling resumes in public schools in Cali and Bogota. With the latter expecting a full reopening by April.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial and industrial confidence improved in January according to the latest Industrial-Confidence Index. National Business Association (ANDI) president, Bruce Mac Master, discussed on the possibility to allow companies procure COVID-19 vaccines.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International support towards granting special legal status for Venezuelan migrants increases. UN raises concerns over the expansion of armed groups in rural areas. Alejandro Gaviria rules out the possibility of a presidential campaign in 2022.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
286,367	15,832	247,898	888	0.14

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government expressed its intention to adhere to the Convention on Counterfeiting of Drugs and Similar Crimes (Medicrime).
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ecuadorian Public Health Society asked to expand the possibilities of acquiring vaccines to those manufactured in Russia and China. The government detailed which will be the six groups that will receive the vaccine as a priority from March; meanwhile two million doses of Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine are expected after signing of agreement. President Moreno announced they will allow municipalities and private institutions to import COVID-19 vaccines. The private sector proposed the creation of a trust fund for private companies to acquire vaccines.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Emergency Operations Committee (COE) announced it will reactivate the return-to-school pilot plans in 77 educational institutions
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One day after resigning due to the vaccination scandal, the former Minister of Health left the country; Vice-Minister of Health also resigned.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three simultaneous riots in prisons left at least 79 people dead. The Confederation of Peoples of the Kichwa Nationality of Ecuador (Ecuadorunari) called for a progressive national strike. The government launched its National Climate Financing Strategy 2020-2030 for sustainable projects.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Moreno sent the bill for the Defense of Dollarization to the National Assembly again. The International Labor Organization expects that poverty in Ecuador will rise to 32%.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,086,938	187,715	1,633,900	1,430	1.9

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Health Secretariat reported that coronavirus cases have shown a decrease at a national level during the past six weeks. The Institute of Respiratory Diseases (INER) anticipates a new wave of COVID-19 in March due to holidays.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migrants in Mexican territory will also receive COVID-19 vaccine. The government received the first 200 thousand Sputnik V vaccines. The Health Secretariat reported that so far, the government has received almost four million doses of COVID-19 vaccines; they also presented the schedule for the arrival of more vaccines in the upcoming months, 107 million people are expected to be inoculated this year. Sinovac's vaccine will be sent to rural areas while Pfizer's will be destined to cities.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tax Administration Service (SAT) announced its "Master Plan" to collect more taxes in 2021.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presidents of Mexico and Argentina agreed to strengthen their strategic alliance to address the COVID-19 crisis. The Finance Secretariat announced they will pay special attention to money laundering in elections. Several governors joined President AMLO's agreement on clean elections.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UN approved the resolution that Mexico promoted regarding equitable access to coronavirus vaccines.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Institute of Statistics and Geography confirmed that the pandemic resulted in an 8.5% decrease in the country's economy. Moody's expects a 5.5% growth in 2021.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
159,474	3,181	133,435	442	0.01

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through cooperation agreement with PAHO, government strengthens services for neonatal care. Government calls to look out for community contagion of COVID-19 as 30% of tests deliver positive results. Ministry of Health inaugurates molecular biology lab to increase COVID-19 testing capacity. Second round of seroprevalence studies in Central completed.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health expects 304,800 COVID-19 vaccines to arrive between March and May. Health workers in Guaira and Caaguazu receive COVID-19 shot.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Abdo announces historic investment in Itaipú to boost electrical grid. Ministry of Finance announces 6% surplus of fiscal revenue for February.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite tensions with teacher's guilds, Minister of Education states that on-site school sessions will resume on March 2nd.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Abdo joined PROSUR presidential summit. Authorities sign agreement on control mechanism for political funding. Congress representative calls to create a national registry of people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 to avoid "VIP vaccinations".
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural products entailed over 40% of exports in 2020.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal workers in Encarnacion held a protest against the authorized government subsidies. 77% of educational facilities would be ready to resume on-site attendance.

PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,329,805	46,494	1,232,528	1,397	0.81

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government received the first shipments of medicinal oxygen from Chile and Ecuador to supply its hospitals, due to national shortages.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government launched a National Open Data Platform on the COVID-19 vaccination process. The Minister of Health reported that they are negotiating the purchase of the Sputnik V vaccine.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Economy extended for the seventh time the validity of the Multisectoral Group for Economic Reactivation. The Ministry of Production plans to extend the <i>Reactiva Peru</i> program.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state of national emergency was extended for 31 more days. Suspension of flights from Europe and Brazil extended until March 14.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Respira Peru</i> initiative delivered 13 oxygen plants.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government might assume about USD 2.2 billion of debts from companies that were affected by the pandemic, according to the Minister of Economy. Association of SMEs will request an economic injection from the Government.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
57,994	608	50,039	175	0

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New national health insurance enrollment scheme launched. While first cases of reinfection are being recorded, COVID19 cases have been on the rise in recent weeks, local press reported.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 196,000 doses of Sinovac vaccines arrived and began to be distributed throughout the country. Prior to the official launch of the campaign, health personnel who will administer the vaccines began to be inoculated. Vaccination campaign against COVID-19 began. At this stage, educational, police, military and firefighters personnel will be vaccinated with Sinovac. Pfizer vaccines, expected next week, will be for healthcare workers, local press reported.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uruguay exports 36,000 tons of barley to China for the first time, presidency portal announced. President Lacalle Pou led the inauguration of the first wholesale logistics platform in the country.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lacalle Pou to inaugurate his second year in office with announcements, local press highlighted.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government is considering allowing foreigners vaccinated against COVID 19 to enter the country, local press reported.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Frente Amplio</i> criticized the government for science budget cuts, local press remarked.

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