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COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

2021
24 | may

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

2,396,604 confirmed cases
221,647 deaths
20.54 vaccines/100 people

COLOMBIA

3,232,456 confirmed cases
84,724 deaths
16.19 vaccines/100 people

ECUADOR

419,198 confirmed cases
20,210 deaths
10.73 vaccines/100 people

BRAZIL

16,083,573 confirmed cases
449,185 deaths
27.17 vaccines/100 people

PERU

1,925,289 confirmed cases
68,053 deaths
9.46 vaccines/100 people

BOLIVIA

349,653 confirmed cases
13,965 deaths
11.75 vaccines/100 people

PARAGUAY

332,971 confirmed cases
8,360 deaths
4.27 vaccines/100 people

CHILE

1,335,261 confirmed cases
28,548 deaths
90.6 vaccines/100 people

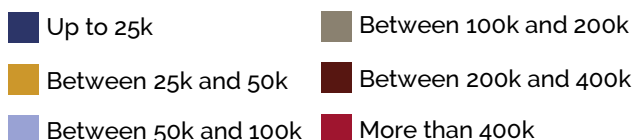
URUGUAY

265,098 confirmed cases
3,871 deaths
73.37 vaccines/100 people

ARGENTINA

3,539,484 confirmed cases
74,063 deaths
24.49 vaccines/100 people

CASES BY COUNTRY



COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

MAY 17 – MAY 24, 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	3,539,484	203,519	8.12%	74,063	3,036	-17.99%	289,410
BOLIVIA	349,653	14,829	-8.5%	13,965	399	18%	117,089
BRAZIL	16,083,573	422,467	-6.35%	449,185	12,323	-9.60%	229,138
CHILE	1,335,261	39,399	-8.5%	28,548	583	-9.9%	747,196
COLOMBIA	3,232,456	101,046	-21.5%	84,724	2,915	-26.2%	318,860
ECUADOR	419,198	7,732	-17.79%	20,210	333	-47.55%	78,213
MEXICO	2,396,604	13,849	-18.25%	221,647	1,158	-23.00%	53,352
PARAGUAY	332,971	17,424	-1.8%	8,360	668	18.86%	171,641
PERU	1,925,289	31,955	-25.76%	68,053	1,582	-33.19%	373,959
URUGUAY	265,098	22,192	-0.13%	3,871	350	-12.28%	606,425

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 24/05/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: President Alberto Fernandez ordered a strict lockdown 9-day to curb the scale of contagion.

Bolivia: Coronavirus confirmed cases hit a record high last week.

Brazil: The Pandemic CPI in the Senate continued to produce negative publicity for Bolsonaro.

Colombia: President Duque shuffles cabinet amid worrying social crisis.

Chile: Mobile vaccination centers to be installed in major cities.

Ecuador: Guillermo Lasso was formally appointed as the new President of Ecuador.

Mexico: President AMLO committed 30% production of the Patria vaccine to Latin America.

Paraguay: The Ministry of Health temporarily suspended the vaccination process.

Peru: The Minister of Health announced the vaccination of patients with rare diseases, severe mental illnesses, and recipients of an organ transplant.

Uruguay: Even with a high rate of vaccination, Uruguay remained the country with the most deaths per million inhabitants for two weeks.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
3,539,484	74,063	3,106,949	1,625	24.49

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During recent days, Argentina ranked among the countries with the highest number of deaths per million inhabitants. A new health platform was presented, which provides access to all COVID19 legislation in the context of the health emergency. President Fernandez attended the G20 Global Health Summit. There, he stressed the need to guarantee equitable access to medicines and vaccines against COVID-19.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first batches of the AZ vaccine produced by Mexico and Argentina will be delivered to the region this week. The Health Minister traveled to Mexico to monitor the process. New batches of the AZ and Sputnik V vaccines are set to be received this week. The government "hopes" to accelerate the pace of vaccination, local press reported. The Health Minister acknowledged difficulties in accessing Sputnik V component II. According to her, it is due to delays in production and because the manufacturing country (Russia) is currently applying them to its population.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of new restrictions, social and business assistance programs were updated. Government inspections were carried out to monitor compliance with the "Supermarket shelves law." Among other purposes, this law seeks to ensure the existence of several suppliers on supermarket shelves.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Alberto Fernandez ordered a 9-day strict lockdown to curb the scale of contagion. Border closures extended until June 11th.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With amendments, the Senate passed the pandemic management bill. It still must go through the Chamber of Deputies. Argentina formally requested Mercosur to increase controls to curb money laundering and smuggling.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
349,653	13,965	282,010	1,182	11.75

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical equipment and supplies were delivered in the city of San Lucas. Coronavirus cases hit a record high last week as more than 3,000 people tested positive on Saturday. Mayor of La Paz, Ivan Arias, called for an urgent meeting after confirmed cases hit record high. Nonetheless, the COVID death toll remains stable.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 300,000 Sinopharm doses arrived in La Paz last week.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 180,000 people benefited from the <i>Bono Contra el Hambre</i> program in the department of Chuquisaca. This fiscal aid has been the cornerstone of President Arce's economic recovery plan. Mexico will help Bolivia in lithium extraction, President Manuel Lopez Obrador announced.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of May 24, the visas for Bolivian citizens to enter Mexican territory are abolished. Minister of Education ruled out the closure of the school agenda as stricter biosecurity measures are expected to be enforced.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 14th Bolivian Economists Annual Meeting was announced for the beginning of October. Bolivia imports 200 tons of mercury, 68 go to gold mining, according to a new report. The country hasn't been able to advance in securing local production as several institutional problems remain without being resolved.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New mobility restrictions announced after a spike of COVID-19 cases was reported last week.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
16,083,573	449,185	14,492,167	2,100	27.17

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former Minister of Health General Eduardo Pazuello is under increased pressure after appearing at a pro-Bolsonaro rally without a mask. The Pandemic CPI in Congress is continuing its work with hearings this week focused on the administration's promotion of chloroquine as a treatment. The Ministry of Health is facing a new investigation into possible counterfeit masks that were distributed to health care workers without safety checks.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health data shows that Brazil has fully vaccinated around 9% of its population, mostly elderly and health care professionals. 400 academics released an open letter to the Biden administration asking the US to consider donating vaccines to Brazil. The Ministry of Health and the Chinese Ambassador to Brazil engaged in a public spat on Twitter over the role China has played in providing Brazil with vaccine inputs.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In preparation for the upcoming elections next year, major candidates for political office have begun moving parties to better position themselves for higher office. Administrative Reform continues to dominate the CCJC in the House, while the Senate is primarily focused on the Pandemic CPI. In the face of widespread pressure and a corruption investigation, Bolsonaro continues to defend Environment Minister Ricardo Salles, a close personal ally.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahead of the 2022 contests, Minister of Economy Paulo Guedes announced an increase in spending on programs including expanding Bolsa Familia, and bonus incentives for education and workforce participation for youth.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,335,261	28,548	1,265,116	1,482	90.6

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health reactivates outpatient surgeries for one month in the integrated health network. More than 18 Chilean ventilators joined the integrated health network to support critical COVID-19 patients. Health Commission voted in favor of suspending the rise of ISAPRES plans amid the pandemic crisis.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government received more than 600,000 doses from Pfizer and AstraZeneca. Mobile vaccination centers are installed in zones with high population density. More than 12 mobile centers are going to begin operating in Santiago, Pudahuel, and Huechuraba to facilitate access to vaccines against COVID-19 for workers over 30 years of age. Vaccine rollout has stagnated not only in younger groups but in older adults, health experts informed. Nonetheless, the country has been able to vaccinate more than 50% of its target population with a second dose.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government launched new program to reinforce women's participation in the construction sector. Ministry of Energy identified challenges and job opportunities in the transmission and distribution sectors to boost economic recovery. Ministry of Housing announced the application process for the middle-class subsidy. Government announced a national agreement to reduce the digital divide.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A law to regulate the use of single-use plastic products was approved at Congress.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Economy detailed the new curfew hours for restaurants and shopping centers. Mobility restriction will start at 10:00 p.m. throughout the country, the government announced last week.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
3,232,456	84,724	3,026,277	1,649	16.19

<div>Government Measures</div> <div>Outlook</div>	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector to start procuring vaccines in June. US representatives asked President Biden to send 5 million vaccines to Colombia.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ximena Lombana will be the new Foreign Trade Ministry after the appointment of Jose Manuel Restrepo as Minister of Finance. President Duque appointed Marta Lucia Ramirez as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Angelica Mayolo appointed as Minister of Culture. President Duque announced a massive plan to create new jobs for the young. The measure will be launched at the beginning of July.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After 3 weeks of national strike, economic losses are estimated at \$10.2 trillion pesos, which is equivalent to 1.02% of GDP for 2020.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universities presented a joint tax proposal to collect 20 billion pesos yearly. The authors have been emphatic that their proposal would not touch VAT or individuals who earn less than \$6 million a month. Changes would also be made to corporate tax regime and include initiatives to reduce evasion. Following the announcement of the downgrade of Standard & Poor's country risk rating, some proposals and strategies to recover investment grade were presented by experts. Colombian companies grew despite the restrictions of the pandemic, according to a report. The sectors that benefited the most were construction, finance, and telecommunications, while the commerce and food sectors were the most affected. According to DANE Business Pulse survey, business confidence fell in April. Standard & Poor lowered the Colombian currency rating. Colombia is preparing for full reopening in second half of 2021, the Minister of Health announced.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
419,198	20,210	366,425	1,130	10.73

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecuador reported its first positive case of the South African variant of COVID-19.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security announced the suspension of the vaccination process on May 24 and 25, as part of the government transition process. A judicial appeal ordered the Ministry of Health to rethink the vaccination plan against COVID-19 due to several failures during the process.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government announced new restrictive measures as the state of exception reached its end.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guillermo Lasso assumed the presidency of Ecuador with the promise to vaccinate 9 million people against COVID-19.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Guillermo Lasso predicted that his administration would focus on oil production, the promotion of mining, and incentives to the private initiative.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social unrest over the lack of medicines continues to grow. Transport and workers unions came together to demand priority access to the vaccine.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,396,604	221,647	1,914,101	1,703	20.54

Government Measures	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO participated at the Global Health Summit, where he called on the UN to correct inequality in international access to vaccines. Also, he committed to give 30% of the production of the Patria vaccine to Latin America. New Pfizer and Sinovac doses arrived in the country. Mexico ranked number 11, above countries such as Spain, Canada, and Japan in vaccine administration. While more than 19% of the target population has been vaccinated, the government is expecting 34 million new vaccine doses by the end of June.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government announced a study to establish policies on the exploitation of lithium. The government might implement a tax reform in 2022, according to the Treasury Secretary.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From May 24 to June 6, no region will be on a red-light level of restrictions. Belize and Mexico to reopen borders for tourism and recreational trips. Mexico and the US extend border closures to non-essential travel until June 21.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government to defend the hydrocarbons law at the Supreme Court, after the bill was rejected in Congress.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexico is expecting to return to face-to-face classes by mid-June, before the end of this school year.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexico received complaints from its partners on agricultural, investment, energy, and mining issues at the first meeting of the USMCA Free Trade Commission. Economic recovery advances as growth projections are being met, according to the government. According to INEGI, the Mexican economy had an historical growth of 20.6% in April, compared to the same period of the previous year.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
332,971	8,360	274,920	1,159	4.27

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health reported that there are 10 variants of COVID-19 circulating in the country. A “zero expense” law for hospitalized patients due to COVID-19 was enacted. The Minister of Health proposed to the WHO the negotiation of a new agreement after the failure of the COVAX mechanism in regards to vaccine access. Pulmonary rehabilitation center for post-COVID patients to be inaugurated.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health suspended the vaccination process in several regions until the arrival of more doses, after reporting that there were only about 26,000 doses available to continue. Health Ministry urged citizens to go get their second dose of the coronavirus vaccine. The government reported that they are negotiating for the donation of vaccines from the United States. <i>Laboratorios Lasca</i> presented a COVID-19 vaccine fractionation project to the Ministers of Industry and Commerce; Public Health; and Foreign Relations.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Labor announced they are studying a possible readjustment of the minimum wage.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitary measures for the prevention of COVID-19 extended until June. The General Directorate of Migration denied entry to foreigners lacking a COVID-19 test.
Outlook	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health workers protested to demand more medicines, supplies and the hiring of personnel due to the high number of coronavirus patients.

PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,925,289	68,053	1,720,665	2,039	9.46

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EsSalud warned of a possible third wave of COVID-19 between August and September. The OpenCovid-Peru platform launched an interactive map to find the availability of ICU beds and points of medical oxygen recharge.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Health announced the vaccination of patients with rare diseases, severe mental illnesses, and recipients of an organ transplant. The governments of Peru and Bolivia launched a binational vaccination campaign against COVID-19 at the border. The government will double vaccinations to reach 50,000 daily doses. The government reserved the information related to the negotiation, contracting, and execution of the COVID-19 vaccine purchases. Vaccination of Sinopharm clinical trial volunteers to begin this week; while the vaccination of people over 65 years of age already began. The Minister of Culture received 395,460 doses of Pfizer vaccines.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of economic reactivation programs focused towards people who suffered the most from the pandemic to be announced soon by President Sagasti.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Prosecutor's Office filed a complaint for embezzlement against former President Vizcarra.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country's economy grew 3.8% during the first quarter of 2021, compared to the same period last year, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI).

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
265,098	3,871	227,531	1,111	73.37

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uruguay ranked first in COVID-19 deaths relative to its population during the last two weeks, local press reported. A new record number of COVID-19 cases has been recorded. U.S. donated personal protective equipment to the Uruguayan public system.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With 2.4 million doses administered in total, Uruguay has distributed 70 vaccines per 100 inhabitants, local press reported. This places the country in 15th place worldwide. The vaccination plan "Town to Town" for the interior of Uruguay has started. It seeks to reach the most remote areas of the country.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government announced an agreement with Maldonado Municipality to carry out works in the port of Punta del Este.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government analyzes the creation of a "green passport" to enter public shows. Uruguayans and residents will be released from quarantine if they have both vaccine doses and negative PCR, local press remarked. Gyms, sports clubs, and border free shops reopened this week.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to a regional study, Uruguay's economic climate worsened in the second quarter of 2021. The pandemic is one of the factors behind the deterioration.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interior Minister Jorge Larrañaga passed away as a result of a heart attack. A replacement was appointed on an interim basis. Government enacted regulations for the air quality law.



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