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2021
27|Dec

COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

3,990,587 confirmed cases
299,544 deaths
55.92% fully vaccinated

COLOMBIA

5,181,173 confirmed cases
130,026 deaths
55.20% fully vaccinated

ECUADOR

549,418 confirmed cases
33,681 deaths
70.27% fully vaccinated

BRAZIL

22,292,228 confirmed cases
619,171 deaths
67.04% fully vaccinated

PERU

2,301,177 confirmed cases
202,741 deaths
63.94% fully vaccinated

PARAGUAY

468,993 confirmed cases
16,637 deaths
40.83% fully vaccinated

BOLIVIA

611,031 confirmed cases
19,722 deaths
38.74% fully vaccinated

URUGUAY

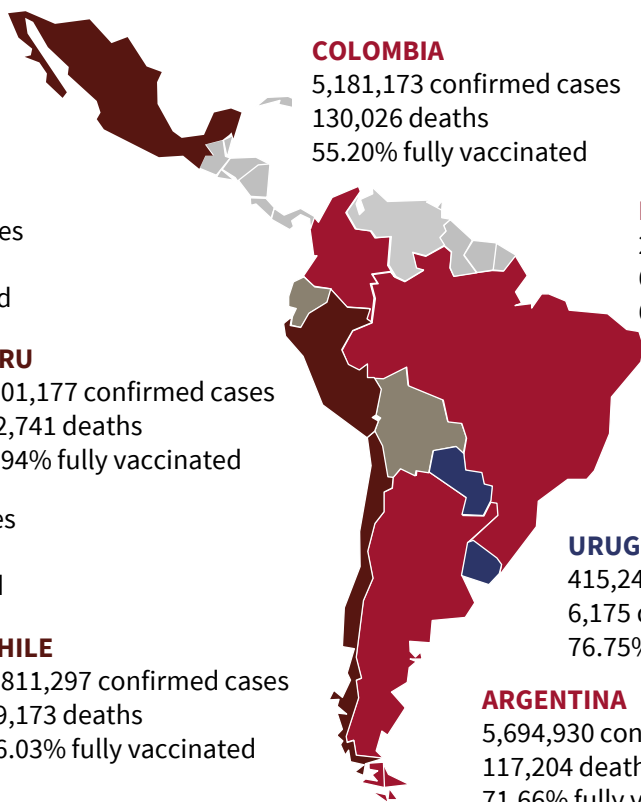
415,249 confirmed cases
6,175 deaths
76.75% fully vaccinated

CHILE

1,811,297 confirmed cases
39,173 deaths
86.03% fully vaccinated

ARGENTINA

5,694,930 confirmed cases
117,204 deaths
71.66% fully vaccinated



CASES BY COUNTRY

Between 100K and 500K	Between 1M and 5M
Between 500k and 1M	More than 5M

COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

DECEMBER 27, 2021- JANUARY 03, 2022

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	5,694,930	54,888	-78.1%	117,204	169	28%	616,080
BOLIVIA	611,031	34,429	190.4%	19,722	176	66%	221,116
BRAZIL	22,292,228	52,626	103.7%	619,171	687	6%	296,869
CHILE	1,811,297	10,264	26.2%	39,173	117	-32%	1,420,840
COLOMBIA	5,181,173	56,483	225.2%	130,026	265	-13%	575,736
ECUADOR	549,418	9,296	132.8%	33,681	40	-17%	118,369
MEXICO	3,990,587	39,584	124.7%	299,544	767	-17%	94,816
PARAGUAY	468,993	3,655	245.5%	16,637	36	-45%	281,607
PERU	2,301,177	21,878	56.5%	202,741	217	-27%	648,920
URUGUAY	415,249	7,868	169.4%	6,175	12	50%	1,269,413

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 03/01/2022 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: The Federal Health Council decided to modify isolation protocols for COVID-19 cases based on the patient's vaccination scheme.

Bolivia: National Health Emergency extended amid COVID-19 outbreak.

Brazil: Pediatric vaccination against COVID-19 in the spotlight as Omicron variant increases.

Colombia: Ministry of Health urged to redouble vaccination efforts against Omicron.

Chile: Government delays border opening on five different points around the country.

Ecuador: The Ministry of Health reported 24 cases of the Omicron variant and confirmed that contagion is communitarian.

Mexico: COFEPRIS authorized the Abdala vaccine for emergency use.

Paraguay: Dinavisa approved Coronavac vaccine to immunize children 5 years and older.

Peru: Government explores possibility of donating COVID-19 vaccines.

Uruguay: Pediatric vaccination against COVID-19 begins

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
5,594,930	117,204	5,336,023	2,558	71.66%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new record number of daily cases of COVID-19 was recorded. The figure is the highest since the beginning of the pandemic. The Federal Health Council decided to modify isolation protocols for COVID-19 cases. Isolation days are reduced if the patient has a complete vaccination schedule. Authorities from the Ministry of Health and the National General Audit Office (SIGEN) met to work on transparency policies in the purchase of health supplies. After reaching an agreement with the Ministry of Health, co-payment charges announced by private health care companies are no longer in effect.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health pass went into effect nationwide. A complete vaccination schedule will be required for high epidemiological risk activities such as going to nightclubs, group trips and mass events.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government bans meat exports of seven of the most consumed meat cuts in the local market until 2023 to contain price increases in the domestic market. Government authorized a 20% increase in electricity and gas rates in the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires. In addition, according to a segmentation scheme. As of January 2022, 500,000 users in the area will start paying tariffs without subsidies.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina is a strong candidate to lead ECLAC during 2022. Definitions will be made this week. In the absence of a 2022 Budget, the Chief of Staff started working on “reallocations” to keep the government running.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
611,031	19,722	530,750	1,656	38.74%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extension of the National Health Emergency was announced by the government after a new COVID-19 outbreak hit the country. The measure includes, among other extraordinary policies, the possibility for local governments to buy direct goods and services nationally and internationally as well as customs clearance to be carried out within a maximum period of 24 hours for COVID-19 related supplies.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On January 1, a donation from Germany and Spain with around 1.9 million Moderna vaccines arrived in the country. In 2021 the government acquired over 20,539,500 vaccines against COVID-19. While only 9,556,929 doses have already been applied, the country has secured vaccines for every Bolivian citizen according to the government. Over 3 million Sinopharm doses arrived in the country as a donation of China.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Economy announced a growth of close to 6% and exports reaching USD \$10 billion on 2021.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luis Arce congratulated Chile's President-elect Gabriel Boric after winning the general elections and discussed the need to deepen the bilateral agenda.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bolivian exports surpassed USD \$9.9 billion as of November 2021, the highest in three years according to the government. Unemployment rate decreased from levels close to 12% in July 2020, to 5.2% in October of this year. Bolivian urea sales exceed USD \$50 million in three months, local press declared.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
22,292,228	619,171	21,567,845	2,882	67.04%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Omicron variant of COVID-19 is expected to become the dominant strain in Brazil by mid-January. ANVISA fixed the Traveler's Health Declaration form after a server issue resulted in some forms not being confirmed by the health agency. ANVISA recommended that cruises be cancelled, and ships docked after three ships landed with confirmed cases of COVID-19.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health will hold a hearing on January 4th to officially decide on the approval of vaccines for children between the ages of 5 and 11. Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga announced that he expects childhood vaccination to begin during the second half of January.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major legislative activity is unlikely to occur in January, with Congress on break until February. Political focus will instead shift to negotiations for electoral tickets and party alliances ahead of the April deadline for party affiliation for the 2022 elections. Given the legislative gridlock that dominates Congress ahead of elections, the major reforms likely to pass in 2022 are those that have already been introduced – the Tax Reform and the Administrative Reform.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite the approval of the new budget without salary increases for civil servants, 2022 will start with pressure from these workers for increased wages, including the possibility of strikes in multiple states. According to the Central Bank's latest Focus bulletin, the Brazilian economy is only expected to grow 0.4% in 2022, after growing 4.5% in 2021.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
1,811,297	39,173	1,731,458	2,023	86.03%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former undersecretary of health Paula Daza returned to the Government months before President Piñera leaves office. Daza will be in charge of the COVID-19 transition plan.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government delays border opening on five different points around the country.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chile receives the last Sinovac shipment of the year, reaching a total of 25 million vaccine doses delivered since the sanitary crisis started. Around 10 million people have gotten a booster dose in the country, MoH informed.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chile awards USD \$ 50 million for green hydrogen projects. Government extended the “Protege Subsidy” plan – a monetary aid program for vulnerable workers – until March 31, 2022.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joe Biden congratulated President-elect Gabriel Boric and discussed their shared commitment to crucial topics such as justice, democracy, human rights, and inclusive growth. Universal Pension Bill (PGU) to be approved in the first weeks of January. National Assembly announced voting dates to approve norms of the new Constitution. Concerns over wildfires rises as several emergency alerts have been enforced in rural zones.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High inflation levels have already modified habit consumption of Chileans, analysts highlighted. The Constitutional Assembly began discussions over possible modifications to the Central Bank. Consumer confidence rebounds slightly at the end of the year.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
5,181,173	130,026	4,977,885	2,515	55.20%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health defined an increase in the UPC of 5.42% and 6.33% in the contributory and subsidized plans respectively. Government announced an update of the Benefit Health Plan for 2022.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health urged to redouble efforts in vaccine rollout against the Omicron variant. New vaccine shipments arrived during the last week of 2021 in the country, among them, the largest batch was Sinovac's 2.1 million doses. Colombia ends 2021 with more than 10,000 daily covid infections
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of this week, a full vaccination proof will be required for those over 12 years old to enter public events.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government approved a public policy document of Science, Technology, and Innovation. President Duque sanctioned the Climate Action Bill. Ministry of Economy completes approval of nine fifth generation infrastructure megaprojects.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Duque pointed out the main achievements made by the government throughout 2021 and the upcoming challenges for the next year.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National economy grew by 9.7% according to the government. Unemployment rate reached 10.8% in November, presenting an annual reduction of 2.5 percentage points. According to the government, over 85% of the jobs lost due to the pandemic have been recovered. Oil production increased slightly by 0.89% in November. Value of Colombian exports to China increased 56.7% according to a report developed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
549,418	33,681	443,880	1,866	70.27%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health reported 24 cases of the Omicron variant and confirmed that contagion is communitarian. Approximately 19.7 million units of medicines were delivered as part of the immediate purchase of medicines. The National Institute for Public Health Research (INSPI) announced the purchase of new sequencers that will allow a more specific identification of SARS-COV-2 variants. The Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS) will have a 18% more budget than in 2021. The Ministry of Health received a donation of 462,500 surgical masks from the German embassy, with the support of the PAHO.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of January 3, 2022, the application of the reinforcement vaccine against COVID-19 will begin to the population between 50 and 59 years old. The Ministry of Health filed a formal complaint with the State Attorney General's Office for alleged falsification of vaccination certificates.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The merger process between the National Finance Corporation (CFN) and BanEcuador will begin in February 2022.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In upcoming weeks, a bill to promote investment is expected to be presented to the National Assembly. The company OCP Ecuador restarted oil transportation operations. Ecuador's exports reached 31% more compared to 2020. Ítalo Cedeño was appointed as the new manager of PetroEcuador. President Lasso denied that he is going to present any project to raise the price of fuel.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
3,990,587	299,544	3,312,233	2,287	55.92%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are seven states that so far have not joined the strategy to achieve the supply of medicines through the Armed Forces. The recollection of employer-employee fees at the IMSS reached its highest point.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) authorized for emergency use the Abdala vaccine. Health sector personnel received booster doses against COVID-19.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEMEX plans to end crude exports in 2023 as part of a strategy to achieve self-sufficiency in the local fuel market. The transaction for the purchase of the Deer Park refinery in Houston by PEMEX will be settled in January.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court of Justice admitted the constitutional controversy presented by the president's legal team against the National Electoral Institute (INE) for the temporary suspension of the mandate revocation consultation. The technical secretary of the Political Coordination Board in the Senate is being investigated for the crime of homicide against a candidate for a municipal presidency. President AMLO reiterated an asylum offering in Mexico for Julian Assange.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO signed a decree that abolishes the National Institute for Social Development (INDESOL) and creates the General Directorate of Welfare and Social Cohesion. President AMLO announced that after the start of the special security strategy for nine states the homicide rates have fallen. Businessman Claudio X. González announced he is preparing the nation's "alternative plan" for 2024.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mexican government announced that by 2024 the Bank of Mexico (Banxico) will have its own digital currency. President AMLO met with businessman Carlos Slim.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
468,993	16,637	448,282	2,290	40.83%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first cases of the Ómicron variant were confirmed in Paraguay. Rise in dengue cases concerns authorities in San Lorenzo, Capiatá and Itauguá. Dinavisa approved Coronavac to immunize children 5 years and older.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health authorities fail to achieve goal of vaccinating 80% of the target population by 2021. President asks citizens to get vaccinated before circulation of omicron. Paraguay will receive as a donation 500,000 COVID-19 doses for children.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite the omicron variant, the ministry of health does not contemplate returning to complete restrictions in the country.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jorge Adalberto Delgado is appointed as General Director of Retirements and Pensions. Attorney General's Office analyzes action against Covax for not delivering anti-covid vaccines on time. President Benítez, pointed out his asphalted roads records and the attempts at political trials against him during his term.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paraguayan economy ranks among the best prepared for 2022, above all Mercosur countries. Minister of Industry and Trade announces 14 investment projects for US\$ 26 Million. Economic indicators with positive numbers and deficits on track for sustainable levels

PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
2,301,177	202,741	-	6,023	63.94%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digemid destroys six tons of expired medicines seized in operations. • Health Ministry and LATAM Airlines sign agreement to facilitate the transport of health professionals in charge of organ removal. • Health Minister warns of high likelihood of a new coronavirus wave in the short term.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health conducts "VacunaFest" to promote vaccination in different territories in the country. • Peru will seek to donate batches of vaccines to countries in precarious situations • Health Ministry is evaluating a fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Health approves directive for the use of public and private swimming pools for this summer
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Pedro Castillo swore in the new Minister of Education: Rosendo Leoncio Serna Román. • Premier Mirtha Vásquez highlights Citizen Security Strategy for 2022-I • President Pedro Castillo evaluates changing the Minister of Economy, Pedro Francke
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peru's central bank reported that 2021 inflation closed at 6.43%, the highest in 13 years • Ministry of Economy made official that the UIT Tax Unit will be 4,600 PEN by 2022. • Peruvian economy is positioned as one of the most solid among countries in LATAM according to bloomerang economics.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	FULLY VACCINATED
415,249	6,175	399,782	1,768	76.75%

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the last days of the year the positivity rate for COVID-19 tests was 12.69%, the highest since June 2021, local press reported. Health Ministry confirmed presence of the Omicron strain in the country. Some 44 cases have been reported with over half of them coming from abroad, local press reported.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Public Health advances period for third dose for adults from 6 to 4 months. First 50,000 doses for children between 5 and 11 years of age have arrived in Uruguay. The schedule of appointments is already open.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government declared agricultural emergency for drought in five Departments of the country. Ministry of Economy decided not to increase fuel and telecommunication tariffs in January.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 95,000 tourists entered Uruguay in the last two weeks. The National Director of Tourism highlighted an increase in inbound tourism.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Long-Term Climate Strategy was introduced. It foresees that vehicles will be zero-emission by 2035. Within this framework, the National Waste Management Plan was also introduced, local press reported. Government increased the National Minimum Wage based on the consumer price increase registered by INE. Parliament failed to get the necessary votes to remove the President's veto on the Forestry Bill.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the latest INE measurement, unemployment fell to 7.4%.

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