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2021
06|sept

COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

3,428,484 confirmed cases
263,140 deaths
66.63 vaccines/100 people

COLOMBIA

4,918,649 confirmed cases
125,278 deaths
70.4 vaccines/100 people

ECUADOR

503,767 confirmed cases
32,351 deaths
111.60 vaccines/100 people

BRAZIL

20,890,779 cases
583,628 deaths
93.79 vaccines/100 people

PERU

2,155,034 confirmed cases
198,488 deaths
58.04 vaccines/100 people

BOLIVIA

492,680 confirmed cases
18,512 deaths
51.76 vaccines/100 people

PARAGUAY

458,884 confirmed cases
15,875 deaths
56.73 vaccines/100 people

CHILE

1,641,526 confirmed cases
37,108 deaths
153.23 vaccines/100 people

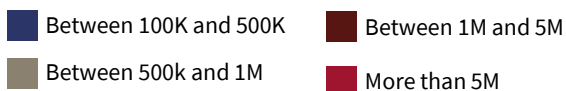
URUGUAY

385,660 confirmed cases
6,034 deaths
164.74 vaccines/100 people

ARGENTINA

5,203,802 confirmed cases
112,511 deaths
97.37 vaccines/100 people

CASES BY COUNTRY



COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: WEEKLY UPDATE

AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 6, 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	5,203,802	24,913	-44.7%	112,511	904	-28%	492,418
BOLIVIA	492,680	1,724	-60.0%	18,512	101	-7%	195,356
BRAZIL	20,890,779	138,498	-23.6%	583,628	4,054	-19%	265,455
CHILE	1,641,526	3,196	-18.8%	37,108	185	-21%	1,067,121
COLOMBIA	4,918,649	11,385	-35.8%	125,278	395	-41%	473,780
ECUADOR	503,767	2,627	-56.4%	32,351	119	-52%	99,281
MEXICO	3,428,384	92,684	-16.2%	263,140	4,975	-1%	76,302
PARAGUAY	458,884	550	-9.7%	15,875	152	0%	247,100
PERU	2,155,034	5,807	-17.9%	198,488	279	-15%	506,327
URUGUAY	385,660	882	28.9%	6,034	5	-62%	970,902

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 06/09/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: The mid-term primary legislative elections will be held next Sunday.

Bolivia: Ministry of Health presents vaccination coverage map to facilitate public policy decision-making.

Brazil: As COVID cases drop, attention turns to political demonstrations on Independence Day.

Colombia: Digital vaccination certificate was launched by the government.

Chile: Lowest positivity rate registered since the pandemic started.

Ecuador: The Ministry of Health began the countdown to meet the goal of the 9/100 Vaccination Plan.

Mexico: President AMLO presented his third yearly government report.

Paraguay: Clinical trial for Taiwanese COVID-19 vaccine to take place in the country.

Peru: The National Institute of Health (INS) reported that the country registers 86 cases of the 'Mu' variant.

Uruguay: President met with Ministers to analyze strategies in defense of the Urgent Consideration Law (LUC) since it may be submitted to referendum.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
5,203,802	112,511	4,901,031	2,463	97.37

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the G20 Health Ministers' meeting, the Argentine Health Minister highlighted the challenge of strengthening a “coordinated and equitable” global response to future pandemics. President Fernandez promised the General Workers' Central (CGT) extra assistance for Social Works before the end of the year.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina received in total more than 57 million vaccines against COVID-19. Government surpassed its self-imposed goal of applying 7 million second doses during August. Vaccination schedules have been completed for 70% of the population over 50 years of age.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government extended meat export ban until the end of October.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As from September 6th and until October 1st, the quota of Argentine and resident passengers allowed to return (via planes) to the country will be increased to 2,300 per day, local press reported.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mid-term legislative elections will be held next Sunday. As these are primaries, they serve to define which forces can compete in the general elections and which candidates will compete within each force. Campaign closings of the main political forces are scheduled for next Thursday. While the Front for all (ruling party) will close the campaign in La Plata (BA provinces) with the President's presence, Together (opposition) has not yet defined the venue, local press reported.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to private consulting firms, August inflation would be around 2.7%. It would be the first time in ten months that inflation would be below 3%.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
492,680	18,512	440,088	1,561	51.76

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health enables free health care registration for migrants living in Bolivia.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new shipment of 30,000 Sputnik doses arrived in the country last week. President Arce confirmed that more doses will land in the upcoming days. President Arce announced that Bolivia will receive 3.3 million Sinopharm doses allowing full vaccine access for over 86% of people. Nonetheless, in this moment Bolivia has only fully vaccinated over 25% of their eligible population. While Bolivia managed to decrease COVID-19 cases by 21%, young adults (18 to 29 years old) are the ones that attend the least to get inoculated. La Paz amongst the departments with less progress in rural vaccination. Ministry of Health presents a vaccination coverage map to facilitate monitoring and public policy decision-making.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government enacted Law No. 1391 on tax incentives to support and promote productive activity amid the economic recovery. The measure reduces to 0% the rate of the Value Added Tax (VAT) for importing capital goods, industrial plants, machinery, and equipment for agriculture, industry, construction and mining, establishing as well a zero-rate regime for domestic capital goods, machinery, and equipment.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 95% of the wildfires in the eastern part of the country were controlled by the government and local authorities. The country has faced outstanding problems amid a strong summer season that has triggered forest fires and consume vast areas. While the most affected areas border Brazil, this year forest fires have consumed more than 147,000 hectares in Bolivia's eastern Santa Cruz department.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bolivian economy grows 8.7% as of June 2021.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
20,890,779	583,621	19,862,438	2,723	93.79

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The weekly average of deaths from COVID-19 in Brazil is at its lowest level since December of 2020, reflecting the success of the vaccination campaign and health measures. The Ministry of Health and ANVISA suspended the Brazil-Argentina soccer match due to non-compliance with sanitary measures, which will be investigated by the Pandemic CPI.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brazil has distributed more than 200 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, with 31.1% of the population fully vaccinated and an additional 33.7% partially vaccinated. The distribution of booster doses to the elderly and immunocompromised has begun in state capitals including Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brazilian Independence Day, on September 7th, will delay the work week in Congress until Wednesday, when the House will discuss changes to the Electoral Code and the Senate will consider the Industrialized Products Tax Law. Protests scheduled for the holiday in support of President Bolsonaro's Paper Ballot amendment and against the ministers of the Supreme Federal Tribunal will demonstrate Bolsonaro's ability to mobilize his base.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brazil's GDP fell 0.1% in the second quarter, due to declines in agriculture and industry, leading to fears of a "sideways recovery" where vaccination leads to shifts in consumption from goods to services rather than growth in the overall economy. The release of the IPCA inflation data on September 9th and retail data on the 10th will provide a deeper look into Brazil's economic recovery.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,641,526	37,108	1,598,800	1,922	153.23

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health launches National Health Plan for the Elderly (2020-2030). CONFUSAM announced a national strike due to the delays of the commitments announced by the Ministry of Health at the beginning of the year. While protests are still not a major risk, demands may intensify months before elections.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new vaccine shipments arrived in the country adding more than 720,000 doses.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced the National Mining Policy 2050 that seeks to generate a more sustainable model for the Chilean industry. Over 3,500 representatives of the sector, NGOs, union groups, and academic leaders participated throughout the drafting process.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Piñera signs a decree that creates the Ministry of Public Security. The new office will restructure the current functions of the Ministry of the Interior granting urban security a priority within the agenda.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education launches digital platform to grant information of every educational establishment around the country, in order to provide clear and useful information for policymakers. The government launched an overarching plan to prevent and fight forest fires amid a complex water crisis.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The latest economic data provided by the National Statistical Center (INE) confirms a positive outlook one year after the government launched the economic recovery plan. The unemployment rate reached 8.9% representing a 4.2 points drop compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Meanwhile, in July the economic activity grew 18.1% compared to the same month of the previous year, a number above projections.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
4,918,649	125,278	4,750,020	2,432	70.4

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Superintendency to participate along the monitoring process of the Ten-Year Health Plan goals, Ministry of Health announced. New guidelines for HIV / AIDS care launched. Director of National Health Institute established that following a seroprevalence study carried out in 12 cities, 89% of the population has already had COVID-19. Minister of Health delivers information of COVID-19 variants within the country's epidemiological specter.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital vaccination certificate was launched by the government to facilitate the registration and monitoring of those fully vaccinated in the country.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Duque celebrated the appointment of Sergio Diaz-Granados as the new executive president of the Latin America Development Bank (CAF). Diaz-Granados would be the first Colombian to occupy this position. Government released a new administrative procedure code, which improves public instruments providing tools and simplifying executive procedures in public offices. Minister of Technology Karen Abudinen will remain in her post after an accountability session failed to endorse the minister's resignation. Right-wing sectors, Cambio Radical, Partido de la U, and some representatives from the Liberal Party backed Abudinen amid alleged funds misuse by government contractors. Gustavo Petro's political platform will become an official party after the Constitutional Court granted legal status to <i>Colombia Humana</i>. This is a key announcement amid the presidential campaign as greater benefits are going to be arranged for the left-wing movement.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment rate in July decreased to 14.3% according to the National Department of Statistics (DANE). While July's numbers were below those registered in the same period of 2020, in the previous month, almost 3 million Colombians have recovered their jobs.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
503,767	32,351	443,880	1,801	111.60

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Agency for Health Regulation, Control and Surveillance (ARCSA) announced the digitization of 42 institutional procedures. The Minister of Health participated in the signing of a cooperation agreement between the National Institute for Donation and Transplantation of Organs, Tissues and Cells (INDOT) and LATAM airlines. During the month of September, the supply of medicines to the certain health units will begin as part of the focalized emergency. The Ministry of Health has guaranteed the supply of medicines for patients with Hemophilia. The WHO named variant B.1.621 as Mu and classified it as "of interest", with a significant prevalence in Ecuador.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health began the countdown to meet the goal of the 9/100 Vaccination Plan of inoculating 9 million people in 100 days. The Government emphasized that it will continue to vaccinate with the same intensity until reaching 85% of the population.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British Embassy and ARCSA will sign a memorandum of understanding.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lasso marked the first 100 days of his government. Different legislative benches have announced their rejection to the general state budget presented to the National Assembly.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) estimated a growth of 3% for the Ecuadorian economy.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecuador has sent a shipment of humanitarian aid to Haiti that included 300,000 tablets of hydroxychloroquine. Associations of patients with rare diseases requested the government access to medicines. President Lasso met with the new president of the CAF to promote social development projects.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
3,428,384	263,140	2,768,946	2,016	66.63

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretary of Health reported that up to date they have acquired 390 million pieces of medicines and supplies for federal hospitals, national health institutes, INSABI and IMSS. The Health Institute for Wellbeing (Insabi) delivered high-tech equipment for diagnostic imaging to hospitals in three states. Authorities from the INSABI led the twelfth meeting with parents of children with cancer. INSABI and UNOPS reported that until August 140 million pieces of health supplies have been delivered.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) released six batches of the AstraZeneca vaccine packaged in Mexico. The Committee on New Molecules gave a favorable opinion for the emergency use of the Abdala vaccine. President AMLO reaffirmed the government has no intention to vaccinate minors.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economy Secretariat participated in in the fifth meeting of the Commission of the Comprehensive and Progressive Treaty of Trans-Pacific Partnership. The High-Level Economic Dialogue between Mexico and the United States to be reactivated in September. The Labor Secretariat celebrated that the reform in terms of subcontracting represents a paradigm shift.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO presented his third yearly government report, where he emphasized that they had been able to lay the foundations for the transformation. President AMLO announced the departure of the head of the Legal Counsel of the Presidency. The Senate approved the Mandate Revocation Law.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President AMLO launched the start of the 2021 National Collection of the Mexican Red Cross.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
458,884	15,875	438,600	2,194	56.73

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health calls to get vaccine against measles.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50,000 doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines were received. Paraguay to join clinical trial of Mediwen Vaccine Biologics Corporation's clinical trials for a COVID-19 vaccine. First half of the week to focus on applying first-doses against COVID-19.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government submits 2022 National Budget bill. Secretariat for Consumer's Defense continues to monitor prices of basic goods and medicines used for treating COVID-19.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education highlights compliance level of 97% in return to on-site schooling from teachers.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GALIFAT concludes first country visit to Paraguay, with specific recommendations to be worked on before next year.

PERU

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,155,034	198,488	-	5,923	58.04

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Institute of Health (INS) reported that the country registers 86 cases of the 'Mu' variant. The Ministry of Health trained health professionals in molecular testing for COVID-19 in the event of a third wave. The creation of the National Network of Communicators (RNC) which will serve as an articulated space to establish health policies was announced. President Castillo carried out an unexpected inspection today at the National Institute of Child Health.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health approved the protocol for the vaccination against COVID-19 of pregnant women from 12 weeks of pregnancy, including adolescents. The Ministry of Health started the vaccination process for teachers in urban areas. The Minister of Health reported that thanks to the availability of vaccines, new vaccination strategies will be worked on to protect half of the target population.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government lifted the suspension of flights from Brazil and India and extended the ban on flights from South Africa.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government detailed the draft Budget for 2022 before the Congress. The Ministry of Economy modified the guidelines of the national government guarantee program for companies in the financial system.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Castillo announced that his government will empower women and that there will be a greater female presence in the Executive branch.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moody's adjusted the country's credit rating to Baa1 and changed the economic growth projection to 12% for 2021. The Economy Minister revealed that they are evaluating a possible tax collection on digital platforms.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Union of Trade Unions of Peru" urged the President to prioritize the generation of decent employment.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
385,660	6,034	378,241	1,730	164.74

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Uruguayan Society of Intensive Care Medicine (SUMI) will no longer publish its daily report due to the stability of the national health situation. Ministry of Health issued a document detailing the registration process of the three vaccines applied in the territory (Sinovac, Pfizer & AstraZeneca).
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 241,000 doses of Pfizer vaccines arrived. They are intended for third doses, local press remarked. Uruguay will donate 48,000 AstraZeneca doses to Paraguay, local press reported.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Labor extended partial unemployment insurance for sectors affected by pandemic until March 2022. Government announced a drop in fuel prices as of September 1st.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government authorized public admission and commercial reactivation in football tournaments. Capacity will be 40%.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lacalle Pou participated in the Global Summit on Trade in Services. Minister of Economy traveled to meet with her Brazilian counterpart to discuss MERCOSUR's flexibilization. The President met with Ministers to analyze strategies in defense of the Urgent Consideration Law (LUC). Meanwhile, political parties have already launched their campaigns for a "yes" or "no" vote in the referendum against the LUC.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pepsico will invest US\$64 million to expand production capacity in Colonia free trade zone



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