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COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

2021
27|sept

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

3,632,800 confirmed cases
275,446 deaths
76.14 vaccines/100 people

COLOMBIA

4,951,675 confirmed cases
126,145 deaths
76.6 vaccines/100 people

ECUADOR

507,858 confirmed cases
32,720 deaths
76.6 vaccines/100 people

BRAZIL

21,351,972 cases
594,484 deaths
108.34 vaccines/100 people

PERU

2,173,034 confirmed cases
199,292 deaths
75.53 vaccines/100 people

PARAGUAY

459,828 confirmed cases
16,143 deaths
62.17 vaccines/100 people

BOLIVIA

498,895 confirmed cases
18,700 deaths
54.45 vaccines/100 people

URUGUAY

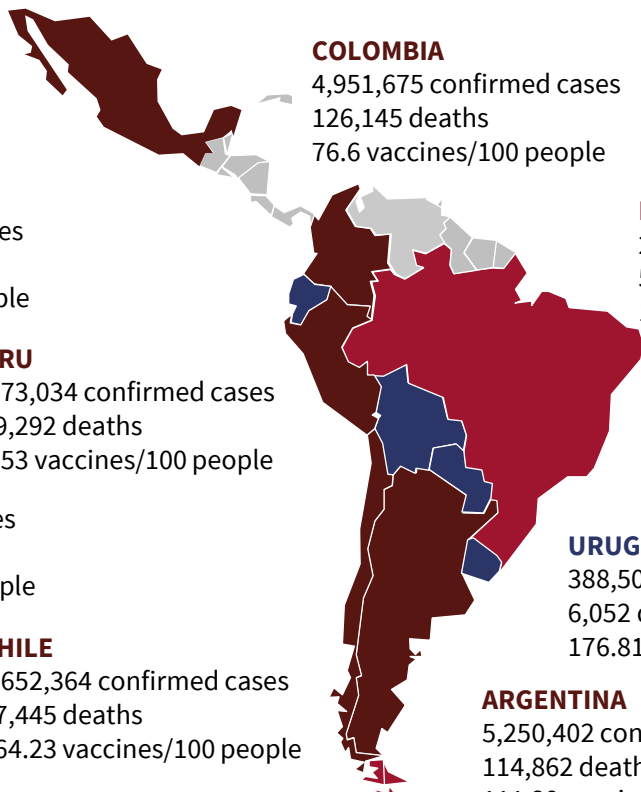
388,502 confirmed cases
6,052 deaths
176.81 vaccines/100 people

CHILE

1,652,364 confirmed cases
37,445 deaths
164.23 vaccines/100 people

ARGENTINA

5,250,402 confirmed cases
114,862 deaths
111.29 vaccines/100 people



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

SEPTEMBER 20 - 27, 2021

COVID-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	5,250,402	9,008	-46.6%	114,862	344	-69%	530,606
BOLIVIA	498,895	1,795	-13.1%	18,700	41	-43%	201,101
BRAZIL	21,351,972	104,305	-56.8%	594,484	3,529	-9%	267,144
CHILE	1,652,364	4,618	44.0%	37,445	78	-32%	1,121,352
COLOMBIA	4,951,675	126,145	1066.4%	126,145	250	1%	492,201
ECUADOR	507,858	855	-50.4%	32,720	59	-72%	101,353
MEXICO	3,632,800	63,123	9.2%	275,446	3,943	5%	80,851
PARAGUAY	459,828	178	-50.4%	16,143	15	-42%	252,938
PERU	2,173,034	6,026	1.8%	199,292	286	18%	529,704
URUGUAY	388,502	875	-5.5%	6,052	4	-50%	1,018,591

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 27/09/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: Government started to implement income reactivation measures. Minimum wage was increased and the non-taxable minimum for income taxpayers was raised.

Bolivia: Economic reactivation gained force pushed by the mining sector.

Brazil: Final report of the Pandemic CPI on its final stretch.

Colombia: Government prepares strategies before a possible COVID-19 outbreak takes place.

Chile: Amid fiscal constraints, the 2022 general budget was presented.

Ecuador: The government is negotiating the establishment of a Sputnik laboratory in the country.

Mexico: The government received the latest shipment of 1.75 million Modern doses donated by the USA.

Paraguay: INCAN repurposes COVID-19 hospital to treat other diseases.

Peru: The National Health Institute (INS) identified a sub-lineage of the Gamma variant.

Uruguay: The Electoral Court has already approved half of the signatures required to call for a referendum against the Urgent Consideration Law.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
5,250,402	114,862	5,111,596	2,513	111.29

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sustained drop in the number of COVID-19 cases for four months has decompressed intensive therapies in the country. The city of Buenos Aires reported no COVID-19 deaths for two consecutive days. Argentina assumed the Presidency of PAHO Executive Committee. The new National Quality Plan for the health system has been approved.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina has been selected by the WHO to develop and produce vaccines against COVID-19. Brazil is the other development center in the region. It is to expand access to vaccines in the Americas. Argentina has already received more than 67 million vaccines after receiving a new batch of 200,000 doses of CanSino's vaccines.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After electoral defeat, government increased the minimum salary by 52%. In addition, it raised the non-taxable minimum wage from which workers' pay income tax. Government launched a plan providing incentives for registering domestic service workers.
Outlook	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced the biggest relaxations since the beginning of the pandemic.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced that withholding taxes on service exports will be eliminated as from January 1st, 2022. Activities based on the Knowledge Economy (especially software), among others, will no longer be subject to 5% export duties. New Chief of Cabinet and Minister of Agriculture met to address the restriction on meat exports. They would seek to unblock and/or make the measure more flexible, local press reported. Government and opposition meet in person to discuss the agenda to be discussed in Congress in the coming weeks, local press reported.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
498,895	18,700	457,516	1,575	54.45

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2,000 migrants living in Bolivia will be able to access free health care through their SUS, Ministry of Health announced.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2025 more than 70% of electricity in Bolivia will be generated by renewable energy sources, President Arce declared. In a meeting with BID's president Mauricio Claver-Carone, several issues regarding financial support in favor of Bolivia were discussed.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Arce gathered with the 76th UNGA president Abdulla Shahid as both leaders agreed on crucial issues such as the importance of equitable vaccine access and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Also, Arce met with Achim Steiner, director of the United Nations Development Program discussing obstacles on vaccine distribution throughout Latam. Luis Arce spoke at the United Nations General Assembly focusing on multilateralism as the best way of cooperation, eradicating all forms of racism and discrimination, as well as explaining his view on the 2019 social backlash, among other topics. Hours before his intervention, Arce met with Secretary General Antonio Guterres coinciding in programmatic actions to be implemented.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bolivia's Ammonia and Urea plant produced 6,000 tons representing more than USD \$ 3 million and exceeding expectations for the month of November. In the first semester of 2021, the mining sector registered a growth of 52.4% and the production of minerals increased by 54.5%. Only in July, mineral exports reached USD \$ 438 million, according to official records.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
21,351,972	594,484	20,340,373	2,772	108.34

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report by the Federal Comptroller General found numerous cases of waste of public money at the Ministry of Health throughout 2020. The Pandemic CPI will meet this week to define the last stretch of its investigations before producing a final report.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 40% of the population is now fully vaccinated, with nearly 70% having received a first dose. During the last quarter of the year, Brazil should receive 226 million doses from various suppliers, which will be used to complete vaccine schedules and as boosters. Health Minister Marcelo Quiroga announced that health care professionals will be eligible for booster shots, in addition to the elderly and immunocompromised.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presidential primary for the PSDB has reignited conversations about a third-way candidacy for the 2022 elections, which remain polarized between President Bolsonaro and former President Lula da Silva. President Bolsonaro just reached his 1000th day in office, which was marked by the launch of a country-wide tour to inaugurate new public works and other symbolic government demonstrations. In Congress, the week will be marked by a joint session to consider presidential vetoes and budgetary laws.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central Bank raised the SELIC interest rate by 1 p.p. and announced new foreign exchange swap auctions amounting to USD 18 billion, to control inflation and avoid further currency devaluation. The possible slowdown of the Chinese economy resulted in negative outlooks for Brazilian economic growth in 2022. Economic indicators continue to demonstrate the role of vaccinations in the economic recovery, with services growing 1.1% in July data, ahead of Brazilian monthly GDP growth of 0.6%.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,652,364	37,445	1,607,496	1,938	164.23

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Health Enrique Paris participated in the 59th Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). In his intervention the minister explained the strategies enforced by the government amid the pandemic and how Chile is dealing with other health challenges.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Pfizer shipment with over 299,000 doses arrived in the country last week.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced connectivity to high-speed networks in more than 10,000 schools throughout the country. Around 5,000 of the selected schools are located in rural areas. Amid fiscal constraints, the government presented the 2022 general budget. This year's budget grew 3.7% compared to the 2021 proposal. SMEs project to boost the use of solar energy, thermal conditioning projects and energy efficiency. New pension bill was sanctioned by the government amid discussions to reform the system. The initiative expands the coverage of the basic solidarity pension for the most vulnerable population benefiting over 500,000 people.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Piñera began his diplomatic tour throughout Latin America after his visit to Colombia. Other visits to Uruguay and Paraguay are scheduled for the upcoming weeks. Piñera attended the United Nations General Assembly framing his discourse on how the Chilean government has been dealing with the pandemic and the climate change. Ministry of Justice and members of the Constitutional Convention creates a working group to allow prisoners participate within the constitutional process.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Bank announces working table for a possible <i>digital peso</i> issuance.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
4,951,675	126,145	4,791,715	2,447	76.6

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government to prioritize three strategies before a fourth COVID-19 outbreak takes place at the end of October.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 1.5 million Janssen vaccines, 480,000 AstraZeneca, and 300,000 Pfizer doses arrived in the country last week. Over 50% of people have received at least one shot.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The European Union and Colombia agreed on a “Memorandum of Understanding” to enhance political and sectoral dialogue and cooperation for the upcoming years.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several agreements were signed at the official meeting between Chilean Sebastian Piñera and Ivan Duque covering issues on vaccine rollout, economic reactivation, peacebuilding, and environmental issues. In his visit to United States, President Duque met with United Nations special envoy Mike Bloomberg to discuss Colombia’s actions to mitigate deforestation and the effort to consolidate the country as a regional leader in energy transition. Setting long term goals to tackle climate change as well as expanding environmental protected areas among the subjects discussed at the meeting between Prime minister Boris Johnson and President Duque. The Colombian leader also had meetings with the European Union Council. The United States government assigned fiscal aid for USD \$336 million to serve the Venezuelan migrant population in the region.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government met with representatives from rating agencies as well as private investors, calling not to evaluate countries with pre-pandemic criteria and rethinking the mechanisms to assess economic risk.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
507,858	32,720	443,880	1,820	115

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Public Health announced that an Intervention Plan for ambulances will be implemented. The Ministry of Public Health stated that the focalized emergency process for the supply of medicines encourages fair prices while defending the interests of patients. The National Undersecretary of Quality Assurance of Health Services continued his tour for the evaluation of hospitals. The Ministry of Public Health announced the "Program to Support the Strategy for the Reduction of Child Malnutrition in Ecuador". 256,000 doses against Rotavirus arrived in the country to vaccinate children under one year of age.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 216,450 doses of Pfizer's vaccine arrived in Ecuador in order to continue with the Vaccination Plan. The Ministries of Health and Education vaccinated about 200 thousand adolescents against COVID-19 in one week. During an interview, the Health Minister announced they are planning to vaccinate children over 5 years during October. The government is negotiating the establishment of a Sputnik production plant in the country.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministries of Health and Education will maintain the protocol for the gradual return to classrooms.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lasso delivered the draft "Law for the Creation of Opportunities" to the National Assembly, on an economic - urgent basis.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lasso asked the National Assembly to "fight together" against the economic crisis. A new Vice Minister of Economy was appointed.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lasso met with the United States Special Envoy for Climate Change.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
3,632,800	275,446	2,984,461	2,109	76.14

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) continues to advance in the process of convergence and regulatory recognition. The National University (UNAM) and COFEPRIS are promoting a program for Specialization in Health Law. The Institute of Health for Wellbeing (INSABI) is supervising the reception of medicines in state warehouses from the UNOPS purchase. The Health Secretariat warned about the presence of the Candida auris fungus in Mexico. BBVA and Sanitas launched the first digital health insurance in Mexico. According to the Health Secretariat, the COVID-19 epidemic curve had a reduction of 26% last week.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government received the latest shipment of 1.75 million Modern doses donated by the USA. Mexico exceeded the 112 million vaccines against COVID-19, both received and produced. Vaccination against COVID-19 for children and adolescents with chronic diseases will being in October.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economy Secretariat and Mastercard signed an agreement with the aim of promoting the digitization of payments and financial inclusion.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretary of Foreign Relations met with with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bank of Mexico might raise the benchmark interest rate. The OECD improved its economic growth expectations for this year and for 2022 for Mexico.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Labour Secretariat and the National Association of Agrifood Councils agreed on a roadmap to dignify rural work.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
459,828	16,143	442,745	2,229	62.17

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the United Nation’s General Assembly, President Abdo expressed his disappointment with the COVAX mechanism. • Representatives from the Ministries of Finance and Health met with Congress representatives to discuss budget options for expanding health programs under a recently approved CAF loan and the 2022 Budget. • INCAN opens a new ward for oncological patients. • Paraguay reported zero deaths related to COVID-19 for the first time in 18 months. • IPS hospital to repurpose COVID-19 ward to treat other pathologies. • Top researcher from Asuncion’s National University positions interest from the public sector to participate in vaccine production.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines are expected to arrive in November through the COVAX mechanism. • Registration to participate in Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp’s clinical trial for a COVID-19 opened. • 316,800 doses of the AstraZenca and other 107,000 doses of Sputnik’s V vaccine were received.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 97% of districts report low transmission of COVID-19. • Land border opening with Argentina announced for October.
Outlook	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paraguay participates in joint meeting of the MERCOSUR’s Market Group. • Tariff increase to bus tickets in Asunción postponed for 15 days after no agreement was reached between the transport guild and local authorities.

PERU

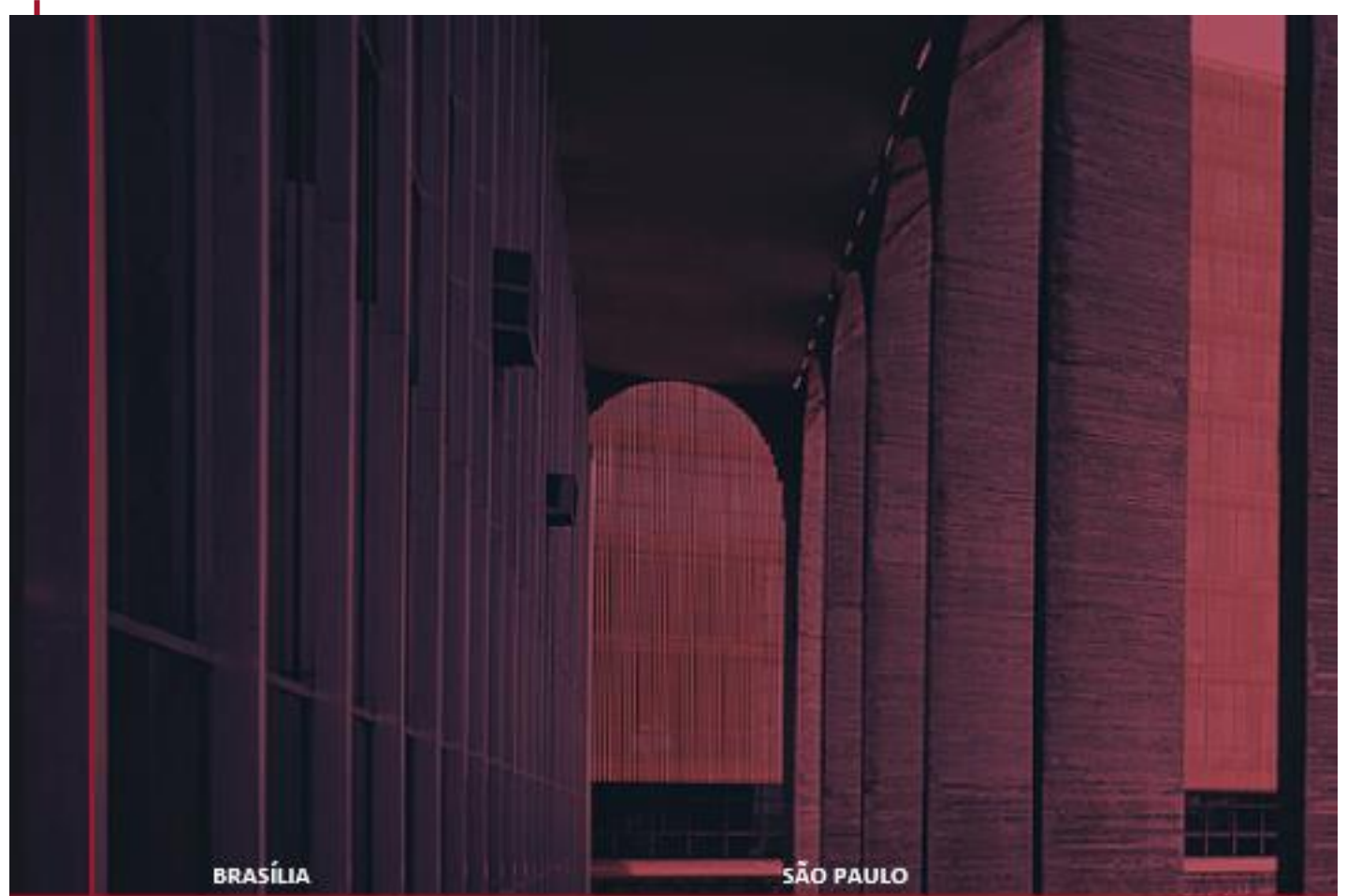
TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,173,034	199,292	-	5,942	75.53

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Health Institute (INS) identified a sub-lineage of the Gamma variant (P.1) called “P.1.12”, which is mostly composed by Peruvian genomes. The Ministry of Health identified the first cases of the delta plus variant in the country. The General Directorate of Medicines, Supplies and Drugs (DIGEMID) is preparing a campaign against counterfeit medicines. The Comprehensive Health Insurance (SIS) signed a contract with the Austral University Hospital of Argentina to finance bone marrow transplants. The government held the first COVID-19 Scientific Congress. From September 27 to October 1, the III National Pharmacovigilance and Technovigilance Campaign will be held. President Castillo proposed before the UN the signing of a global agreement between the heads of state and patent owners to guarantee universal access to COVID-19 vaccines.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health launched a 'Mobile Vaccine' to bring vaccination against COVID-19 to the areas further from certain cities. Over 600 people were vaccinated against COVID-19 in areas where the delta plus variant has been identified.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Castillo ratified that his Government is "the government of the provinces and regions" and spoke against corruption. President Castillo held a meeting with PAHO's director.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Castillo announced that, in coming weeks, a group of American businessmen will arrive to encourage investment in various regions of the country. President Castillo met with more than 300 leaders of trade union organizations. President Castillo stated that that his government will work to eliminate repressive laws that violate labor rights.


URUGUAY


TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
388,502	6,052	381,038	1,735	140.54

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uruguay has accumulated more than ten days without COVID-19 deaths in this September. Uruguay and Chile agreed to strengthen technical cooperation for health prevention and promotion. Research conducted by the University of the Republic and the Pasteur Institute confirms third doses significantly increase antibodies against COVID19 Social Development Ministry and the State Health Services Administration (ASSE) will sign an agreement to offer comprehensive health care services to users without coverage.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government is evaluating the possibility of offering third doses to tourists arriving in Uruguay
Outlook	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a controlled pandemic stage, the unemployment insurance will be shortened to certain activities as of October 1st. Government prepares measures to reopen borders with Argentina. It will seek to implement solutions to contain discrepancies created by the depreciation of the Argentine exchange rate, local press reported.
	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Electoral Court has already approved half of the signatures required to call for a referendum against the Urgent Consideration Law. There are still 50 working days left to finish validating the signatures, local press reported. President Lacalle Pou traveled to the USA and Mexico on an official tour. In the US he met with investment funds and emphasized the stability of the country. He invited them to invest, local press reported. President Lacalle Pou met with Chilean President Piñera. They discussed the pandemic and progress in vaccination plans.





BRASÍLIA

 +55 61 3344-3780

 SBS Q. 2, Ed. Prime Business, Sl. 1110
70070-120


SÃO PAULO

 +55 11 3816-3636


 Avenida Brigadeiro Faria Lima, 201,
9º andar, cj 91, Ed. Tomie Ohtake
05426-100


BOGOTÁ

 +57 3108 129 860


 Cl 93B, no. 13-92, Sala 404,
110221


BUENOS AIRES

 +54 11 6091 1662

 Juana Manso 555, C1107 DDA,
Argentina

WASHINGTON D.C

 +1 202 710 9000

 1440 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20005,
United States