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2021
30|aug

COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

SPREAD OF COVID-19 | MAIN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

3,335,700 confirmed cases
258,165 deaths
64.78 vaccines/100 people

COLOMBIA

4,907,264 confirmed cases
124,883 deaths
68.41 vaccines/100 people

ECUADOR

501,140 confirmed cases
32,232 deaths
100.64 vaccines/100 people

BRAZIL

20,752,281 confirmed cases
579,574 deaths
88.35 vaccines/100 people

PERU

2,149,227 confirmed cases
198,209 deaths
53.50 vaccines/100 people

BOLIVIA

490,956 confirmed cases
18,411 deaths
49.44 vaccines/100 people

PARAGUAY

458,334 confirmed cases
15,723 deaths
54.41 vaccines/100 people

CHILE

1,638,330 confirmed cases
36,923 deaths
149.06 vaccines/100 people

URUGUAY

384,778 confirmed cases
6,029 deaths
157.44 vaccines/100 people

ARGENTINA

5,178,889 confirmed cases
111,607 deaths
91.27 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

AUGUST 23 - AUGUST 30, 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	5,178,889	45,058	20.5%	111,607	1,255	33%	482,036
BOLIVIA	490,956	4,313	48.1%	18,411	109	36%	191,992
BRAZIL	20,752,281	181,390	18.0%	579,574	5,000	30%	265,490
CHILE	1,638,330	3,936	-3.1%	36,923	235	-6%	1,048,912
COLOMBIA	4,907,264	17,727	15.4%	124,883	667	26%	468,284
ECUADOR	501,140	6,025	347.0%	32,232	247	115%	98,343
MEXICO	3,335,700	110,627	8.6%	258,165	5,010	38%	74,422
PARAGUAY	458,334	609	-13.2%	15,723	152	55%	244,987
PERU	2,149,227	7,074	11.8%	198,209	330	-3%	498,867
URUGUAY	384,778	684	16.1%	6,029	13	44%	953,524

Source: National Health Ministries & OurWorld in Data (As of: 30/08/2021 | 14:00 EST). Prospectiva



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Argentina: Minister of Economy adjusted upward the country's GDP growth forecast for 2021.

Bolivia: Sanitary measures to control the COVID-19 expansion were extended until December 31, 2021.

Brazil: Hospital systems are at their most stable point since the beginning of the pandemic.

Colombia: Sanitary Emergency extended for 90 more days

Chile: New strategies to boost COVID-19 testing and traceability controls were announced.

Ecuador: At the request of Vice President Borrero, the government reactivated the National Health Council.

Mexico: The National Electoral Institute formalized the new integration of the House of Representatives as of September 1.

Paraguay: As second-dose vaccination moves forward, first-doses are expected to resume next week.

Peru: Congress granted the vote of confidence to the Ministerial Cabinet.

Uruguay: While most of the population approves the management of the pandemic, process of signature verification to call for a referendum against a strategic law is advancing.

ARGENTINA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
5,178,889	111,607	4,869,104	2,443	91.27

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New meeting of the Federal Health Council to discuss the pandemic situation. The opening plan, the monitoring of indicators and the situation of the Delta variant are topics to be discussed. Cordoba province is the epicenter of the Delta variant in the country, concentrating 31% of the cases.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina surpassed 50 million vaccine doses received. 60% of the population over 50 years of age already have two doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Richmond laboratory delivered 307,000 doses of locally produced Sputnik V component II.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government signed a reference price agreement for construction materials. It is intended to provide predictability in public housing program budgets. Government extended the unemployment benefit until the end of the year. It is for people who have lost their jobs during the pandemic.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uruguayan and Chilean tourists would be allowed to enter the country as of September 6th, local press reported.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Economy adjusted upward (from 7% to 8%) the country's GDP growth forecast for 2021. Two weeks before the legislative elections, an opposition governor obtained a landslide victory in the province of Corrientes, local press reported. Government is planning an increase in the amount starting from which income tax is levied on employees in dependency. It is only for individuals, local press reported. Buenos Aires Province obtained 98% of the creditors' adherence to its debt swap.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the Argentine Rural Society, as a result of export closures, the Argentinean meat chain lost USD 1,000 between mid-April and the end of August.

BOLIVIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
490,956	18,411	433,353	1,553	49.44

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments to reform vaccine strategies against measles, rubella and poliomyelitis. Ministry of Health launched the VII Scientific Conference on rare diseases. Different high-level panelists participated from cross-cutting sectors including experts from the San Andrés University (UMSA), Franz Tamayo University, and the Bolivian Children's Hospital. Government launched a digital-based system to facilitate workers access to social security benefits.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitary measures to control the COVID-19 expansion were extended until December 31, 2021. More than 3 million doses have not been yet administered in the country. The national government called on municipalities and departments to speed up the process.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government authorized a fund to reactivate the construction of road infrastructure in rural zones. Bolivian Congress approved a government-backed bill that allowed a 15% withdrawal of private-held pensions funds to help overcome the pandemic crisis. This had been a key campaign pledge by President Luis Arce.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former President Jeanine Áñez requests precautionary measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights amid concerns over her health condition. Carlos Mesa's opposition party presents a plan to reform Bolivian justice amid concerns on judicial mishandling.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Luis Arce highlighted the contributions of Bolivian state-owned companies amid the economic recovery.

BRAZIL

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
20,752,281	579,574	19,692,898	2,704	88.35

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President of the Pandemic CPI, Senator Omar Aziz (PSD/AM) announced that the body has ample evidence to indict multiple government officials for profiting from the pandemic. For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, 20 states have bed occupancy rates below 50%, with only one state, Roraima, above 80% occupancy.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health announced that vaccine booster doses will be distributed to those over the age of 70 and the immunocompromised, beginning in September. Brazil has vaccinated 80% of its population with a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, but half of this group remains only partially vaccinated. Rio de Janeiro has begun vaccinating adolescents, which will be completed in September.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bolsonaro's relationship with the Judiciary is likely to remain tense as the president is using the conflict to generate electoral support for 2022. Income Tax Reform is on the House's agenda for August 31st, but continued disagreement over broader reform may delay voting on the project once again.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debate over the Judicial Debt PEC continues, with former officials from the Ministry of the Economy arguing that the amendment will create larger future debt liabilities. Second quarter GDP data is due to be released on September 1st, with growth expected at 0.2%, down from the 1.2% growth seen in the first quarter. The Central Bank is continuing to pursue a tight monetary policy to counteract the inflationary effects from the water crisis, which is putting pressure on energy and food prices.

CHILE

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
1,638,330	36,923	1,595,170	1,912	149.06

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Undersecretary of Public Health launched new strategies to boost the testing and traceability controls against COVID-19.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New shipment of over 2 million Sinovac doses arrived in Chile. Sinovac has been the company with the highest number of vaccines administered in the country so far. New shipment of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines arrives in the country.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experts called for a reopening plan based on sanitary conditions while encouraging female employment along the process.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture announced agricultural emergency in four regions of the country amid intense water shortages reported in the past months. Final report on the employment recovery landscape in Chile was launched by the government. Chile launched program to help local farmers and boost agriculture production amid the economic recovery. Government extends the Employment Protection Law for one more month.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government to announce a strategic plan in Maule's region to confront the water crisis. Among the nine presidential candidacies that have registered before the National Electoral Office (Servel), only two are independent.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Piñera announces the production of the first green hydrogen molecule in the country. This is another milestone in the country's intention to transit towards clean energies and decarbonize its energy matrix. 57% of Chileans believe that the best way to confront the economic crisis is by granting social packages for vulnerable populations.

COLOMBIA

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
4,907,264	124,883	4,737,467	2,424	68.41

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitary Emergency extended for 90 more days.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government surpassed the 35 million doses applied and met in advance the goal proposed for August. Second Moderna shot delayed for three months, Minister of Health confirmed last week.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former minister of Finance Alberto Carrasquilla, the one that led the tax reform that resulted in a month of protests, was appointed as codirector on Colombia's Central Bank. This decision may generate backlash against president Iván Duque due to Carrasquilla's controversial profile. President Duque ratified its commitment towards SME's economic recovery announcing a bill to permit VAT free days. President Duque highlighted the approval, in first debate, of the Social Investment Law, which strengthens the free provision of public education and grants a special subsidy for youth employment.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colombian president Iván Duque and high-level officials visited South Korea to boost investments, reinforce the economic recovery plan, and prompt joint actions. In total, six cooperation agreements were signed and investment commitments with Korean officials that exceeded USD \$200 million were formalized. Former Minister of Health, Alejandro Gaviria launches bid for presidency.

ECUADOR

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
501,140	32,232	443,880	1,795	100.64

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the request of Vice President Borrero, the government reactivated the National Health Council (CONASA). Vice President Borrero also released some details of the 2021 – 2025 Health Plan for Ecuador. The National Agency for Regulation, Control and Sanitary Surveillance (ARCSA) warned of the commercialization and irregular use of three medicines. The Ministry of Health identified 82 new cases of the Delta variant.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the presence of COVID-19 variants of concern, the Ministry of Public Health decided to shorten the second dose application interval for the Astra Zeneca vaccine. 394,950 thousand new doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine donated by Canada will go to border areas or the country. Navigation on the digital platform of the Vaccine Meter was fully enabled after a technical review.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The College of Physicians of Pichincha asked the authorities to guarantee strict security protocols upon the return to face-to-face classes. The state of exception ended in the provinces of El Oro and Guayaquil.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARCSA updated the list of products for human consumption that do not require Sanitary Registration for importation and distribution.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lasso met with his Mexican counterpart President AMLO to propose a Free Trade Agreement.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ecuadorian Pro Transplant Foundation reported that the situation of transplant patients in Ecuador "is critical" due to the lack of medicines.

MEXICO

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
3,335,700	258,165	2,669,941	1,978	64.78

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of oncological drugs was <u>expanded</u> in the national compendium. The Delta variant is responsible for more than 94% of the COVID-19 infections reported in Mexico, <u>warned</u> the PAHO.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COFEPRIS <u>authorized</u> for emergency use the Sinopharm vaccine. The first shipment of Moderna vaccines <u>donated</u> by the United States government arrived in the country. Mexico has <u>exceeded</u> 97 million packaged vaccines against COVID-19.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government <u>signed</u> an agreement with the Yaqui community to reactivate the agricultural and fishing sectors.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Electoral Institute (INE) <u>formalized</u> the new integration of the House of Representatives as of September 1. A new Secretary of Government was <u>appointed</u>, while former Secretary, Olga Sánchez Cordero, took office as president of the Board of Directors of the Senate. The Electoral Court of Mexico <u>ordered</u> Congress to regulate the referendum process to revoke the presidential mandate. The President of Ecuador <u>made</u> an official visit to Mexico. The Secretary of Foreign Relations <u>called</u> on the international community to strengthen cross-border arms control. Foreign Minister <u>insisted</u> on Mexico's plan to say "goodbye" to the current Organization of American States (OAS).
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE) <u>prevented</u> President AMLO from arriving to his daily press conference. The government <u>decided</u> to receive Afghan refugees.

PARAGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
458,334	15,723	436,831	2,173	54.41

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health confirms passing of patient infected with COVID-19's Delta variant.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Massive second-dose vaccination campaign for those who received first doses of Moderna, AstraZenca, Pfizer and Sputnik COVID-19 vaccines. 0,06% of vaccinated people have reported side effects. First-dose vaccination to resume on September.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Minister of Trade remarked that a more “competitive” tariff for land freights will be implemented amid discussions carried out in a Technical Committee with different associations.
	Country Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New sanitary measures enacted until September 7th, 2021. While mobility restrictions are still in place, sporting events were authorized. Return to schools will depend on a protocol to be published by the Ministry of Education, but public-school have already been called to return to learning centers.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Abdo met with governors of border towns. High-level meeting on customs took place between Argentinean and Paraguayan authorities.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government authorizes renewal of telecommunications license for tow companies. In overall, a USD \$50 million investment is expected. MERCOSUR block to relaunch trade and economic negotiations with Singapur.

PERU

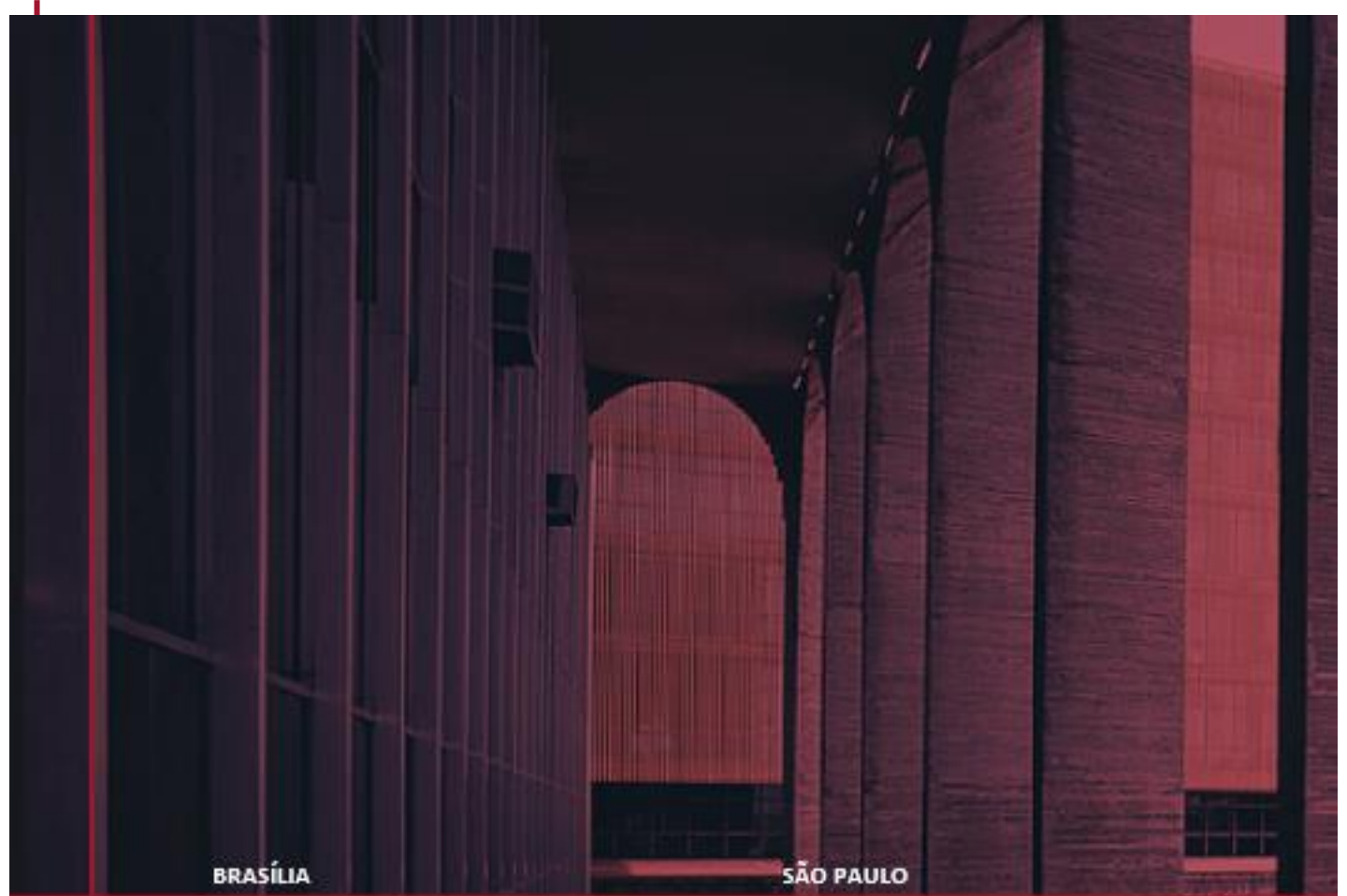
TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
2,149,227	198,209	-	5,916	53.50

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The General Directorate of Medicines, Supplies and Drugs (DIGEMID) recommended avoiding irrational use of antibiotics and other medications in cases of COVID-19. Health Minister Cevallos indicated that so far, no deaths have been registered from the delta variant in the country.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health received a new shipment of 1,000,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from Sinopharm. President Castillo received the second dose of the Sinopharm vaccine against COVID-19. On August 30, vaccination for adolescent patients with comorbidities that require their second dose against COVID-19 will be carried out.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Power sent to Congress the draft for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022. The new Vice Minister of Economy was appointed. The Ministry of Economy published the document that contains the official multiannual macroeconomic projections for the 2022-2025 period.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Congress granted the vote of confidence to the Ministerial Cabinet chaired by Guido Bellido. The president of the Congress announced that she will promote a common agenda of urgent issues to present it to the Executive. President Castillo called on all three powers of the State to work together to meet the needs of the population.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Bellido announced that the Government will adopt measures for the effective and rapid collection of tax debts. The Ministry of Economy raised the projection of GDP growth as well as of private investment.
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Agrarian Development stated that the second agrarian reform will seek to industrialize agriculture. President Castillo held a meeting with a group of scientists to address the creation of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Technological Innovation.

URUGUAY

TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	RECOVERED	DEATHS PER MILLION	VACCINATION PER 100
384,778	6,029	377,659	1,729	157.44

Government Measures	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop in COVID19 cases continues to be <u>sustained</u>. According to the Harvard index, there are no Departments at orange or red risk. Local press <u>highlighted</u> that only 10 people were hospitalized in intensive care units last Friday.
	Vaccine Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uruguay has a <u>pre-agreement</u> with Pfizer to purchase an additional 4.5 million doses. Government is working with PAHO for the donation of the vaccines from COVAX. The executive decided not to use the reserved vaccines, local press <u>reported</u>. Uruguay reached 70% of the population vaccinated against COVID19 with two doses, local press <u>reported</u>.
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government <u>announced</u> family allowance supplements to be applied in September and December. They are for pregnant women and for children from 0 to 3 years old. The <u>Interior Development Fund</u> will finance projects aimed at promoting road infrastructure and productive development initiatives.
	Country opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidential Decree <u>enabled</u> the entry of foreigners owning property in the country as from September 1st. They may enter with relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity.
Outlook	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to a survey by <i>Opción Consultores</i> reported in the <u>local press</u>, 75% of the population approves the government's management of the pandemic. The PIT-CNT <u>announced</u> a general strike for Sep. 15th. After 39 out of 150 days of verification, the Electoral Court validated almost 200 thousand signatures of the nearly 700 thousand required to call a referendum against the Urgent Consideration Law (LUC), local press <u>remarked</u>.



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