

Region of the Americas Update

Last 24 hours *

- 569,313** Additional cases
- 2,742** Additional deaths
- 0.56%** Relative increase in cases
- 0.11%** Relative increase in deaths
- 36** Countries/territories reporting new cases
- 21** Countries/territories reporting new deaths

Highest numbers of cases & deaths in the last 24 hrs.*

Cases (≥ 1,000)

United States	525,763
Argentina	20,263
Brazil	6,840
Colombia	3,281
Bolivia	2,882
Peru	2,063
Puerto Rico	1,716

Deaths (≥ 100)

United States	2,445
---------------	--------------

COVID-19 – Highlights

Today's maps represent the incidence rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the Region of the Americas reported in EW 50 and 51. The highest rates in the region in the last 2 weeks are seen in the US, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Dominica.

In **North America**, most states in the US have an incidence higher than 300 per 100,000 population, with majority of the north-eastern states and Florida reporting a rate >700 per 100,000 people. An overall increase in incidence is also observed in Canada, with Quebec having the largest number of cases reported in the last 2 weeks (>300 per 100,000 pop).

In **South America**, Bolivia shows a higher incidence relative to the last 2 weeks, especially in the departments of Santa Cruz, Tarija, and Pando (>300 cases per 100,000 population). There is an increase in incidence in Chile in all of its territories, with an average incidence >150 per 100,000 people. In **Central America**, there is a continued increase in Panama, particularly in Los Santos and Herrera provinces with an incidence rate >150 per 100,000 people. In the **Caribbean**, Puerto Rico shows the largest increase in new cases in the last 2 weeks. In addition, Trinidad and Tobago, Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba, the Cayman Islands, Martinique, Dominica, and Barbados saw the high incidence rates in the region with over 300 cases per 100,000 population. In the Guianese shield, Regions 6 in Guyana reports an incidence >300 per 100,000 population.

Region of the Americas

102,287,102 cases

2,404,352 deaths

56

countries/areas/territories affected.

Global

280,930,860 cases

5,406,630 deaths

236

countries/areas/territories affected.

Total cases, deaths & CFR (%) among PAHO countries/territories with ≥ 200,000 cumulative cases.

Country/Territory	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
United States of America	52,543,602	812,577	1.5%
Brazil	22,246,276	618,534	2.8%
Argentina	5,480,305	117,066	2.1%
Colombia	5,127,971	129,798	2.5%
Mexico	3,951,946	298,819	7.6%
Peru	2,281,362	202,550	8.9%
Canada	1,945,754	30,131	1.5%
Chile	1,801,795	39,059	2.2%
Cuba	965,002	8,321	0.9%
Guatemala	625,257	16,098	2.6%
Bolivia	580,890	19,576	3.4%
Costa Rica	568,860	7,343	1.3%
Ecuador	542,960	33,650	6.2%
Panama	488,341	7,418	1.5%
Paraguay	465,564	16,607	3.6%
Venezuela	443,612	5,316	1.2%
Dominican Republic	415,359	4,243	1.0%
Uruguay	407,981	6,165	1.5%
Honduras	379,276	10,432	2.8%
Puerto Rico	234,980	3,292	1.4%

*Numbers may vary due to differences in reporting times.

Starting the weekend of 26 June 2021, the PAHO COVID-19 daily situation reports will no longer be published on Saturdays and Sundays. The reports will continue to be published during the workweek – Monday through Friday – at the regularly scheduled time, with the exception of any official holidays observed by PAHO in Washington, DC

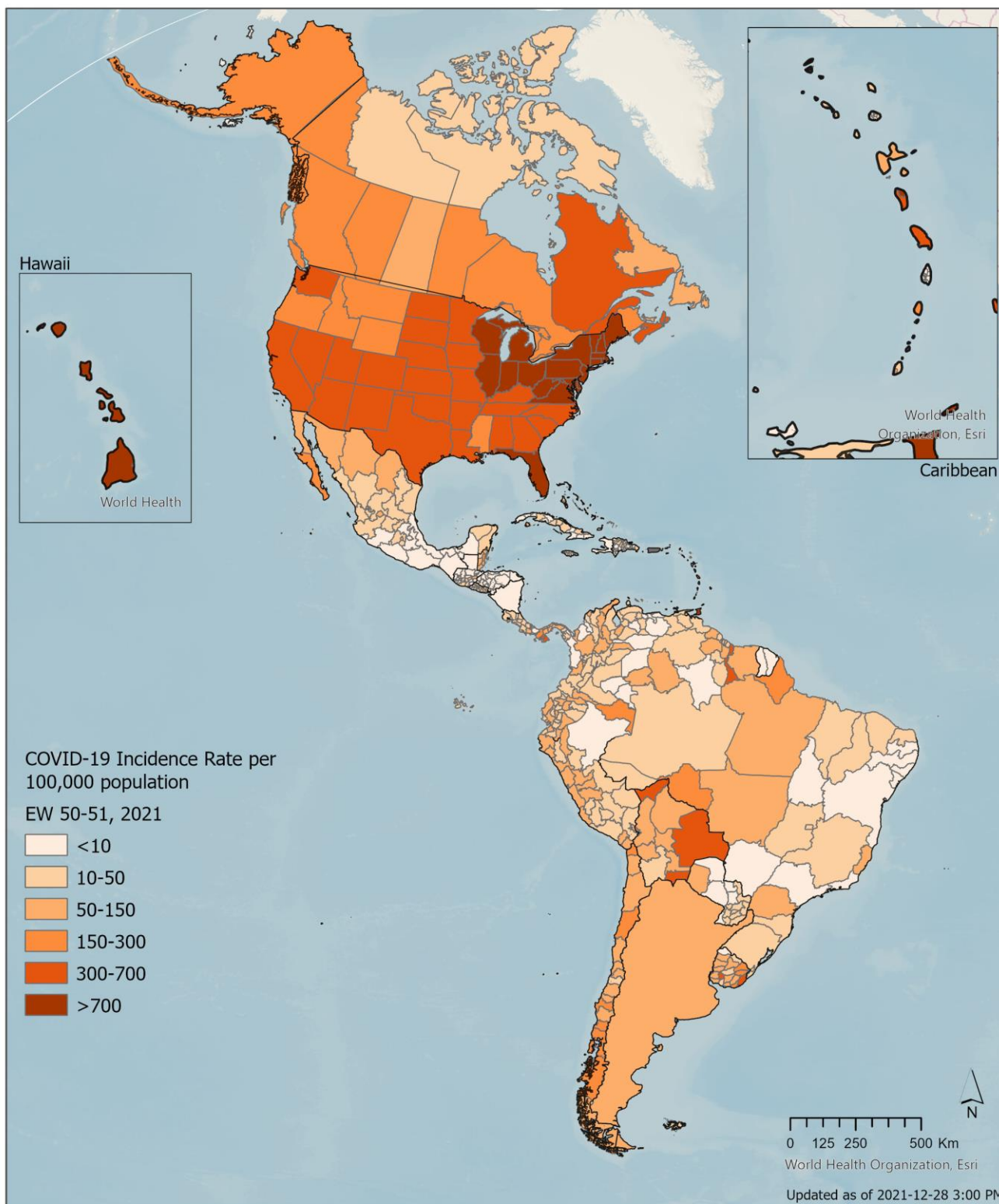
Spotlight – Studies assessing clinical severity of Omicron variant – 21 – 28 December

Below, we present a summary of the latest studies (some of which are not peer-reviewed yet) exploring the clinical severity of Omicron. The latest WHO guidance on Omicron is also available here: <https://bit.ly/3pxvDnG>

Summary

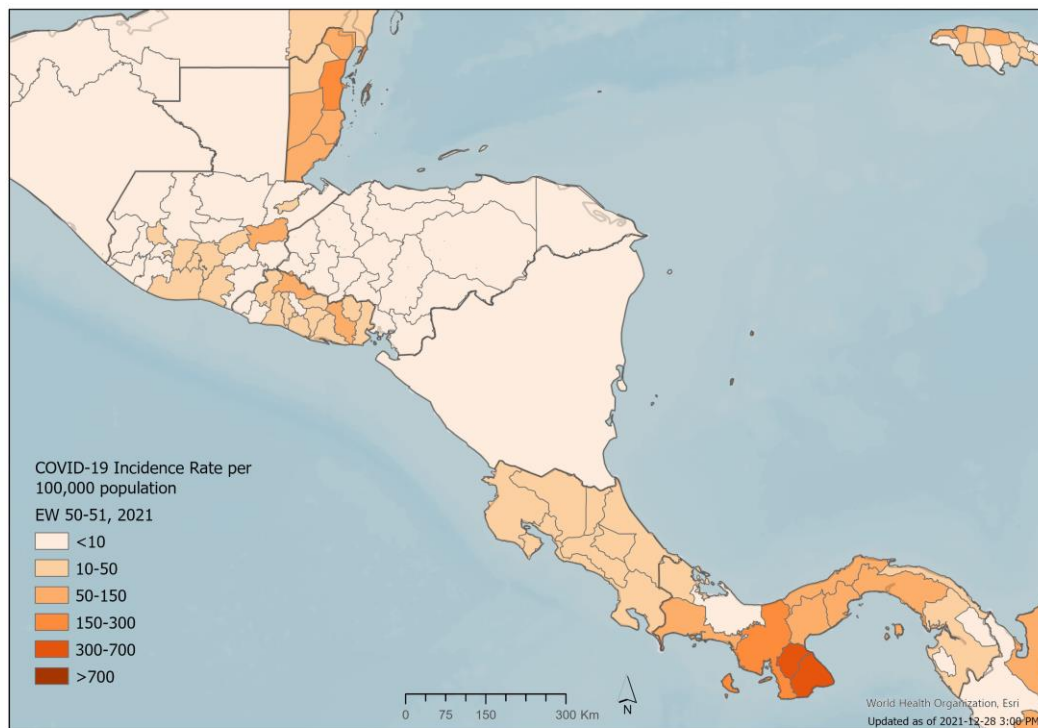
1. According to the pre-print paper (not peer reviewed yet) titled [“Early assessment of the clinical severity of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant in South Africa”](#) by Wolter et.al, results suggest a reduction in hospitalization among individuals infected with Omicron when compared to those not infected with Omicron in the same time period (adjusted odds ratio (aOR) 0.2, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.1-0.3). However, once hospitalized, the risk for severe disease was the same for both Omicron and non-Omicron infected patients (aOR 0.7, 95% CI 0.3-1.4). Finally, compared to earlier Delta infections, Omicron-infected cases had a reduced risk of severe disease (aOR 0.3, 95% CI 0.2-0.5). The researchers used the S Gene Target Failure (SGTF) on the Thermo Fisher Scientific TaqPath COVID-19 PCR test as a proxy for Omicron infection.
2. Another pre-print paper titled (not peer reviewed yet) [“Rapid rise in pediatric COVID-19 hospitalizations during the early stages of the Omicron wave, Tshwane District, South Africa”](#) by Cloete et.al reported that the number of pediatric cases was higher during the early stages of Omicron wave than in the prior 3 waves, uncharacteristically preceding adult hospitalizations. Of the 75 viral specimens sequenced from the district, 99% were Omicron. Detailed clinical information obtained from 139 of 183 (76%) admitted children (≤ 13 years) indicated that young children (0-4 years) were most affected (62%). Symptoms included fever (47%), cough (40%), vomiting (24%), difficulty breathing (23%), diarrhea (20%) and convulsions (20%). All children and majority of parents for whom data were available were unvaccinated
3. A third paper (not peer reviewed yet) on Omicron severity from South Africa was published today – 28 December by Abdullah et.al titled [“Decreased severity of disease during the first global omicron variant covid-19 outbreak in a large hospital in Tshwane, South Africa”](#). According to the researchers, there was decreased severity of disease in the Omicron driven fourth wave in the City of Tshwane, the first global epicenter, with fewer deaths, ICU admissions and a shorter length of hospital stay. Deaths and ICU admissions were 4.5% vs 21.3% ($p < 0.00001$), and 1% vs 4.3% ($p < 0.00001$); length of stay was 4.0 days vs 8.8 days; and mean age was 39 years vs 49 years for the Omicron and previous COVID-19 waves respectively.
4. According to the 50th report from Imperial College London titled [“Hospitalisation risk for Omicron cases in England”](#) Omicron cases have, on average, a 20-25% reduced risk of any hospitalization and an approximately 40-45% reduced risk of a hospitalization. Reinfection is associated with approximately a 50-60% reduction in hospitalization risk compared with primary infections. However, after adjusting estimates to account for only one in three reinfections being identified, the estimated difference in intrinsic hospitalization risk (i.e. defined for primary infections in unvaccinated people) between Delta and Omicron is reduced (ie, 0-30% reduced risk of any hospitalization) but the estimated reduction in risk of hospitalization due to previous infection is increased (around 55-70% reduction). Moderately reduced severity is also supported by the observation that the mean lengths of hospital stay for Delta and Omicron cases in the study were 0.32 (95%CI: 0.29-0.34) and 0.22 (95%CI: 0.15-0.28) days, respectively. However, it should be noted that Omicron cases on average had less follow-up time in the study.
5. A major caveat in all the above-mentioned studies is that with the currently available evidence, it is difficult to know to what extent, previous infection and/or vaccination protects against severe illness in Omicron cases. Furthermore, the impact on individual countries’ populations and healthcare systems by surges in Omicron cases is difficult to predict given the heterogeneity in capacity, age-structures, vaccination coverages, seroprevalence, public health & social distancing measures implemented etc. At a population level, large numbers of infections could still lead to large numbers of hospitalizations.

Map 1: COVID-19 incidence and mortality rates per 100,000 population by country/territory in EW 50 – 51 of 2021. Region of the Americas.



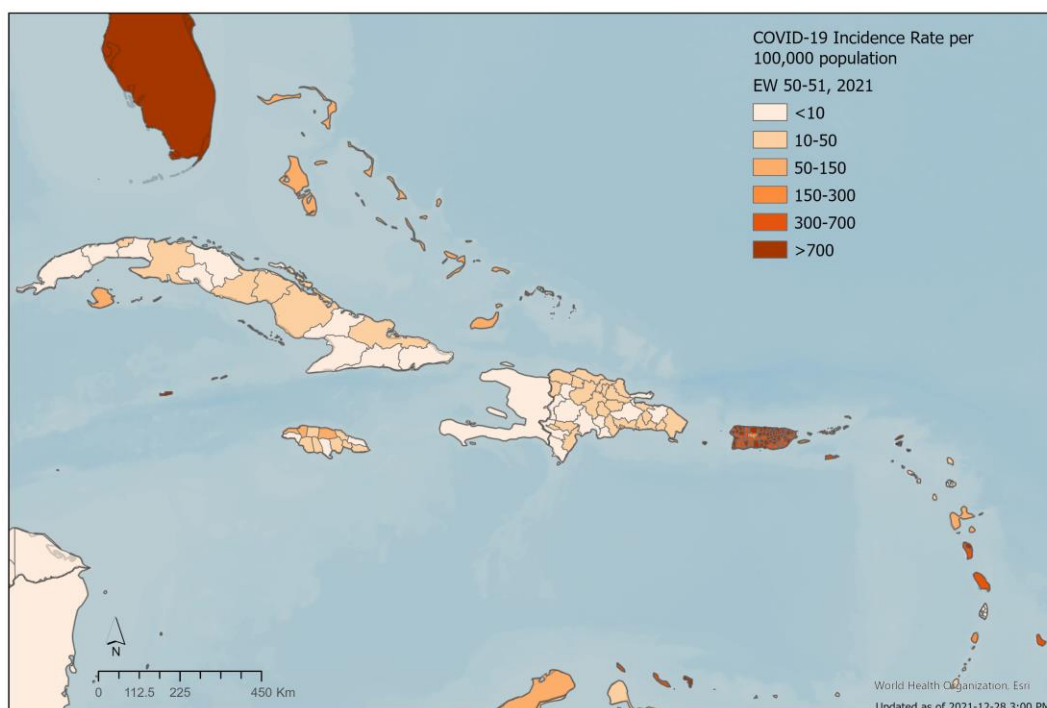
© Pan American Health Organization-World Health Organization 2021. All rights reserved.
 The designations employed and the presentation of the material in these maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Map 2: COVID-19 incidence and mortality rates per 100,000 population by country/territory in EW 50 – 51 of 2021. Region of the Americas. Central American subregion



© Pan American Health Organization-World Health Organization 2021. All rights reserved. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in these maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Map 3: COVID-19 incidence and mortality rates per 100,000 population by country/territory in EW 50 – 51 of 2021. Region of the Americas. Caribbean subregion



© Pan American Health Organization-World Health Organization 2021. All rights reserved. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in these maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

COVID-19 situation reported by countries and territories in the Americas, as of 28 December 2021

Updated as of 3 PM

Sub-Region	Country/Territory	Cases			Deaths		
		7 Day MA* Trend	Cummulative	7day % change	7 Day MA* Trend	Cummulative	7day % change
North America	Canada		1,945,754	-11%		30,131	-44%
	Mexico		3,951,946	120%		298,819	179%
	United States of America (the)		52,543,602	56%		812,577	24%
	Subtotal		58,441,302			1,141,527	
Central America	Belize		31,503	11%		592	-80%
	Costa Rica		568,860	-80%		7,343	-89%
	El Salvador		121,741	-36%		3,820	0%
	Guatemala		625,257	-6%		16,098	-28%
	Honduras		379,276	90%		10,432	0%
	Nicaragua		13,563	-16%		217	0%
	Panama		488,341	82%		7,418	50%
	Subtotal		2,228,541			45,920	
South America	Argentina		5,480,305	158%		117,066	-1%
	Bolivia (the Plurinational State of)		580,690	22%		19,576	-9%
	Brazil		22,246,276	27%		618,534	-34%
	Chile		1,801,795	-8%		39,059	-4%
	Colombia		5,127,971	44%		129,798	-4%
	Ecuador		542,960	58%		33,650	-31%
	Paraguay		465,564	-2%		16,607	-66%
	Peru		2,281,362	39%		202,550	-43%
	Uruguay		407,981	50%		6,165	-18%
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		443,612	-41%		5,316	-46%
Subtotal		39,378,516			1,188,321		
Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean Islands	Anguilla		1,674	22%		5	-100%
	Antigua and Barbuda		4,259	142%		118	0%
	Aruba		17,896	331%		181	-67%
	Bahamas (the)		23,539	79%		713	-100%
	Barbados		27,724	28%		260	33%
	Bermuda		6,064	11%		106	0%
	Bonaire		3,246	9%		23	0%
	Cayman Islands		8,386	111%		11	0%
	Cuba		965,002	57%		8,321	67%
	Curacao		19,247	589%		186	0%
	Dominica		6,559	-83%		45	-50%
	Dominican Republic (the)		415,359	156%		4,243	567%
	Falkland Islands (the)		81	-100%		0	0%
	French Guiana		47,631	125%		338	-75%
	Grenada		5,968	683%		200	0%
	Guadeloupe		55,795	22%		831	-50%
	Guyana		39,119	-29%		1,050	70%
	Haiti		25,974	-24%		766	0%
	Jamaica		92,950	187%		2,464	-33%
	Martinique		47,828	-23%		775	-70%
Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean Islands	Montserrat		45	-100%		1	0%
	Puerto Rico		234,980	279%		3,292	-55%
	Saba		30	700%		0	0%
	Saint Barthelemy		1,726	278%		4	0%
	Saint Kitts and Nevis		2,858	317%		28	0%
	Saint Lucia		13,357	134%		295	-100%
	Saint Martin		4,118	169%		39	0%
	Saint Pierre and Miquelon		98	100%		0	0%
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		5,843	-3%		81	0%
	Sint Eustatius		31	0%		0	0%
Sint Maarten		4,838	230%		75	0%	
Suriname		51,683	1%		1,187	-71%	
Trinidad and Tobago		90,004	-14%		2,793	-1%	
Turks and Caicos		3,283	217%		26	0%	
Virgin Islands (UK)		3,071	0%		39	0%	
Virgin Islands (US)		8,477	1163%		88	0%	
Subtotal		2,238,743			28,584		
Total		102,287,102			2,404,352		

* 7 Day Moving Average

Legend

	>50% increase
	10% to 50% increase
	10 to -10% change
	10% to 50% decrease
	>50% decrease

Table notes on the next page.

NOTES: Case and death counts may include both confirmed and probable classifications depending on the reporting Member State.

- Antibody tests, including rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) based on antibody detection, are not recommended for use by PAHO/WHO in clinical diagnosis. Antigen-detecting RDTs may be used following the WHO 117 December 2020 Guidance, available at: <https://bit.ly/2FxK2fs>.
- Data is updated on a weekly basis for the British Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Nicaragua, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Martin, and Saint Pierre and Miquelon.
- As of 117 December 2020, the previously aggregated Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius are now being presented separately in the table.
- *A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (the) (Malvinas) "

Argentina: On 14 March 2021, due to daylight savings time observed in Eastern Standard Time zone, the Argentina data is no longer published by 3:00PM EST same day and is henceforth included in the following day table. Between 22 February and 14 March 2021, the data had corresponded to the same date.

Bahamas: According to the latest Bahamas Ministry of Health (MoH) publication, there are a total of 36 additional deaths under investigation, available at: <https://bit.ly/3wh84Aq>

Ecuador: According to a 6 September Ecuador Ministry of Public Health press release, only cases confirmed by RT-PCR will be reported; previously, cases who tested positive by either RT-PCR or RDTs were reported, resulting in the exclusion of 8,956 cases. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3h2EWEA>

El Salvador: Cumulative cases and deaths as published by the Government of El Salvador: <https://covid19.gob.sv/>. The government presents a retroactively adjusted epidemiological curve of daily cases on the same dashboard.

Jamaica: According to the latest Jamaica Ministry of Health and Wellness press release, there are a total of 351 additional deaths under investigation, available at: <https://bit.ly/3qAwIJo>

Mexico: On 1 June 2021, the Mexico Ministry of Health reported 4,272 deaths in 24 hours. Of these, 3,924 were reported in 2020 and the remaining were reported in 2021. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3pfdMA8>

Nicaragua: Please note there are discrepancies with the data published by the Citizen's Observatory COVID-19 Nicaragua as of 1 December 2021. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3pw7ZVR>

Peru: Aggregated case total as reported by the Peru MoH; latest disaggregated data available is 677,987 by RT-PCR + 625,852 by antigen tests + 949,007 by other RDTs. Antibody tests, including RDTs based on antibody detection, are not recommended for use by PAHO/WHO in clinical diagnosis. Antigen-detecting RDTs may be used following the WHO 11 September 2020 Guidance, available at: <https://bit.ly/3fjVKTM>. On 31 May 2021, the Government of Peru announced that, after revision, the death toll was 180,764 deaths as of 22 May 2021, available at: <https://bit.ly/3fYGj8V>. The number of cumulative deaths reported prior to the revision, on 30 May, was 69,342, available at: <https://bit.ly/3pkar2U>.

Puerto Rico: Aggregated case total as reported by the Puerto Rico Department of Health (DoH); 156,048 were positive by RT-PCR and 35,317 were positive by antigen tests; previously, cases who tested positive by either RT-PCR or serological RDTs were reported, resulting in the exclusion of 33,965 cases. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3AXY7KU>

United States of America: Case and death counts include both confirmed and probable classifications, as published on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) website on 28-December.

Excludes American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands and the United States Virgin Islands. Please note that the state of Maryland has not been submitting COVID-19 data to the U.S. CDC since 3 December 2021 due to server issues. Case and death counts may differ from other US CDC data sources because these are provisional counts which are subject to change, including updates to data reported previously, adjustments can occur. Sources: <https://bit.ly/2RSpap5> and <https://bit.ly/2RVI2n6> . .

Uruguay: According to the latest Uruguay Ministry of Public Health report, the total notes 01 positive cases reported in the last 24 hours were excluded from the total. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3Eiywgp>.

DATA ADJUSTMENTS: Differences in the total number of cases and/or deaths and respective % increases reflect the following adjustment(s):

ISO3_CODE	Adjusted Date	Cases	Deaths	Source
MTQ	2021-12-27	48123	777	https://bit.ly/3HhsfDI
USA	2021-12-26	51860087	810044	
USA	2021-12-27	52017839	810132	
VCT	2021-12-25	5840	81	https://bit.ly/3mHjKtp
VCT	2021-12-26	5840	81	https://bit.ly/3mHjKtp
VCT	2021-12-27	5843	81	https://bit.ly/3qtsswp