PAHO welcomes first WHO emergency use listing of COVID-19 vaccine produced in Latin America

Washington, D.C., 23 December 2021 (PAHO) – The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) welcomed the WHO listing today of an AstraZeneca vaccine jointly produced by Argentina and Mexico – the first such decision for a COVID-19 vaccine manufactured in Latin America.

The vaccine, with the international denomination COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant]), is jointly manufactured by Argentina’s mAbxience, which reproduces its active pharmaceutical ingredient, and Mexico’s Laboratorios Lio-mont, which mixes and finishes the product for distribution.

“We applaud this news,” the PAHO Director Carissa F. Etienne said. “This is an important milestone for Latin America and highlights the importance of technology transfer to increase the availability of quality COVID-19 vaccines in the region.”

The regionally produced AstraZeneca vaccine is already in use in some Latin American and Caribbean countries, and inclusion in the World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use Listing will facilitate its procurement and distribution through PAHO’s Revolving Fund as well as COVAX, the international mechanism to increase global COVID-19 vaccines access.

The approval comes as the pandemic enters its third consecutive year and the region sees a steady climb in COVID-19 cases. In the past week, the Americas reported over 1.1 million new COVID-19 infections – a 6% increase in cases from the previous week.

Vaccine inequity, however, continues to divide the region, with a handful of countries unlikely to reach the 40% vaccination target by the end of the year and many just above the 50% threshold of full COVID-19 immunization.

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ECC COVID-19 Surveillance

Almost all countries and territories (hitherto referred as countries) in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries (ECC) are reporting increase in cases. Some countries are reporting incidence rates hitherto not seen even during the last ‘Delta wave’, chief among them being Saint Kitts and Nevis and French Guiana. Test positivity rate, i.e., number of tests that are positive of every 100 tests done, averaged over the last 7 days is upwards of 20% in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and French Guiana. This demonstrates the intensity of transmission and possibly the saturation of testing facilities. Countries should consider to either increase the number of daily tests being done with the incorporation of rapid antigen tests as confirmatory test in certain conditions, and/or consider symptomatic primary contacts of known cases to be ‘probable cases’ and offer testing to other suspected cases instead.

The number of people hospitalized has also increased in all but two countries / territories where data is available as have the number of deaths compared to the previous week. However, given that last week was one with New Year’s Eve and other holidays, the increases in cases, hospitalizations and deaths may be ascribed to late notification this week. Omicron has now been officially detected in almost all countries and territories except Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Montserrat, and Saint Lucia, but the near vertical rate of increase in cases in these territories points to the veritable presence of the variant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Territory</th>
<th>Data as of</th>
<th>Situation in last 7 days</th>
<th>Active Cases</th>
<th>Hospitalized</th>
<th>Situation since the start of the pandemic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New Cases</td>
<td>New Deaths</td>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anguilla</td>
<td>3-Jan</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>4-Jan</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>6-Jan</td>
<td>2287</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>British Virgin Islands</td>
<td>6-Jan</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>3-Jan</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>597</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>French Guiana</td>
<td>6-Jan</td>
<td>5411</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>6-Jan</td>
<td>1196</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1447</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>3320</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Martinique</td>
<td>4-Jan</td>
<td>2246</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>99</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Montserrat</td>
<td>6-Jan</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Barthelemy</td>
<td>26-Dec</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>7-Jan</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Saint Lucia</td>
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<td>844</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Martin</td>
<td>26-Dec</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>4-Jan</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figures in red indicate increasing trend compared to previous 7 day period, green indicates decrease

Table 1: COVID-19 status in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, French Territories and United Kingdom Overseas Territories.

Data is updated by 5:00PM each day and there could be delays in reporting. Any discrepancies from national data figures will be edited on the next issue.
### Antigua and Barbuda

#### COVID-19 Incidence (per 1,000 people)
7 day moving average of new cases per 1,000 people

#### COVID-19 Testing Positivity
7 day moving average of test positivity rate

### Barbados

#### COVID-19 Incidence (per 1,000 people)
7 day moving average of new cases age groups (<18 in blue & 18+ in red)

#### COVID-19 Testing Positivity
7 day moving average of test positivity rate

### Dominica

#### COVID-19 Incidence (per 1,000 people)
7 day moving average of new cases per 1,000 people

#### COVID-19 Testing Positivity
7 day moving average of test positivity rate

### Grenada

#### COVID-19 Incidence (per 1,000 people)
7 day moving average of new cases per 1,000 people

#### COVID-19 Testing Positivity
7 day moving average of test positivity rate
FRENCH GUIANA, FRANCE

COVID-19 Incidence (per 100,000 people)
7 day moving average of new cases per 100,000 people

COVID-19 Testing Positivity
7 day moving average of test positivity rate

MARTINIQUE, FRANCE

COVID-19 Incidence (per 100,000 people)
7 day moving average of new cases per 100,000 people

COVID-19 Testing Positivity
7 day moving average of test positivity rate

GUADALOUPE, FRANCE

COVID-19 Incidence (per 100,000 people)
7 day moving average of new cases per 100,000 people

COVID-19 Testing Positivity
7 day moving average of test positivity rate
COVID-19 vaccination highlights

Vaccination rates have declined / stalled in past two weeks, possibly due to multiple holidays and the year end festivities. By the end of 2021, 6 of the 15 countries could reach the year end goal of 40% of population vaccinated completely (two doses / one dose of a single shot vaccine – Jansen). It is projected that at the rates demonstrated in the last 2 weeks, only 2 countries would meet the 70% coverage target by June-2022. Nonetheless, it is likely that the pace of vaccination will pick up from the second week of this year and at least 7 countries would meet the 70% target, Dominica being the likely other country apart from the 6 that met their 2021 target.