

COVID-19

PAHO/WHO RESPONSE. JULY 2022. REPORT N.80



SITUATION NUMBERS IN THE AMERICAS

170,969,051

TOTAL REPORTED CASES

2,792,768

TOTAL REPORTED DEATHS

1,942,091,914

VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED

0.8% DECREASE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK

2.9% INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK

29.6% OF CASES 43.6% OF DEATHS WORLDWIDE

69.2% OF THE POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED IN LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN

AS OF 31 JULY 2022.

IN THE NEWS

On 4 July 2022 in Panama, PAHO hosted a meeting of country and subregional managers of Central America, Cuba, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. Representatives proposed a critical analysis of challenges and solutions to be implemented during the transition to the post-pandemic phase of COVID-19. Representatives also evaluated the expected social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, its effect on the health of countries in coming years, and possibilities for recovery and promotion of well-being in its aftermath. The meeting also addressed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the importance of health in the attainment of these objectives. PAHO's Director, Carissa F. Etienne, attended the meeting, visiting health authorities and organizations in Panama that have supported the response to COVID-19. During the event she acknowledged the role of national authorities and health care workers in mitigating the crisis.

[Read the full article in Spanish.](#)



Geo-Hub COVID-19 Information System for the Region of the Americas

PAHO's COVID-19 Vaccination in the Americas Dashboard

PAHO's technical and epidemiological reports, guidance, and recommendations

PAHO thanks our generous donors who have been helping us save lives and reduce the impact of COVID-19 in the Region.

Thank You!
paho.org/donate

Read global operational situation reports



World Health Organization

READ PAHO'S COVID-19 OPERATIONAL SITUATION REPORTS [HERE](#).
READ THE REPORT ON [PAHO'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN THE AMERICAS IN 2021](#).

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



FOR VACCINE EQUITY: PRODUCERS WORK TOGETHER TO ADVANCE MRNA TECHNOLOGY IN LATIN AMERICA

Two centers in Latin America are working to produce mRNA vaccines, aiming to reduce the Americas' dependence on health technology imports.

The Bio-Manguinhos Institute of Technology on Immunobiologicals at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) in Brazil, and Sinergium Biotech, a private biopharmaceutical company in Argentina, joined an initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to collaborate in the development of the groundbreaking mRNA vaccine technology.

"We are proud to produce [mRNA vaccines] in the Region," said Germán Sánchez Alberti, Development and Innovation Manager, Sinergium Biotech. "This will leave us much more prepared to supply the region and decrease waiting times in the event of a new pandemic."

In September 2021, when only about 23% of the people in the Americas were fully vaccinated, PAHO launched the Regional Platform to Advance the Manufacturing of COVID-19 Vaccines and other Health Technologies in the Americas to boost regional production by facilitating technology transfer. The initiative included collaboration with the Bio-Manguinhos Institute and Sinergium Biotech, building from their existing manufacturing capacity.

Through PAHO's platform, experts from Bio-Manguinhos Institute and Sinergium Biotech are now working with the mRNA technology transfer hub established by WHO in South Africa to learn how to apply the mRNA processes and update their laboratories and training standards to include this methodology. In March 2022, scientists from both institutions became the first to receive training on the development of these new vaccines from the company Afrigen Biologics in Cape Town. In May, they met again for a follow-up session in Brazil.

In July, PAHO [announced](#) additional efforts to increase the manufacturing capacity of drugs, biopharmaceuticals and health technologies, and equipment in Latin America and the Caribbean. Those efforts include developing a stronger regional regulatory system and a shared roadmap to improve the production of health technology in the Americas, including in cooperation with international partners, such as the European Union.

[Read the full article here.](#)

VACCINATION, PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS, AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

BY THE NUMBERS

- More than **1,942,091,914 doses** of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the Region.
- **707,269,728** people have been fully vaccinated in 51 countries and territories, representing **69.2%**¹ of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- More than **149,547,480 doses** were delivered to 33 countries in the Americas through **PAHO's Revolving Fund** and COVAX.
- **17 countries/territories** achieved the WHO target of 70% vaccination by the end of June 2022.
- **10 countries/territories** have not reached the 40% coverage target set by WHO for December 2021.

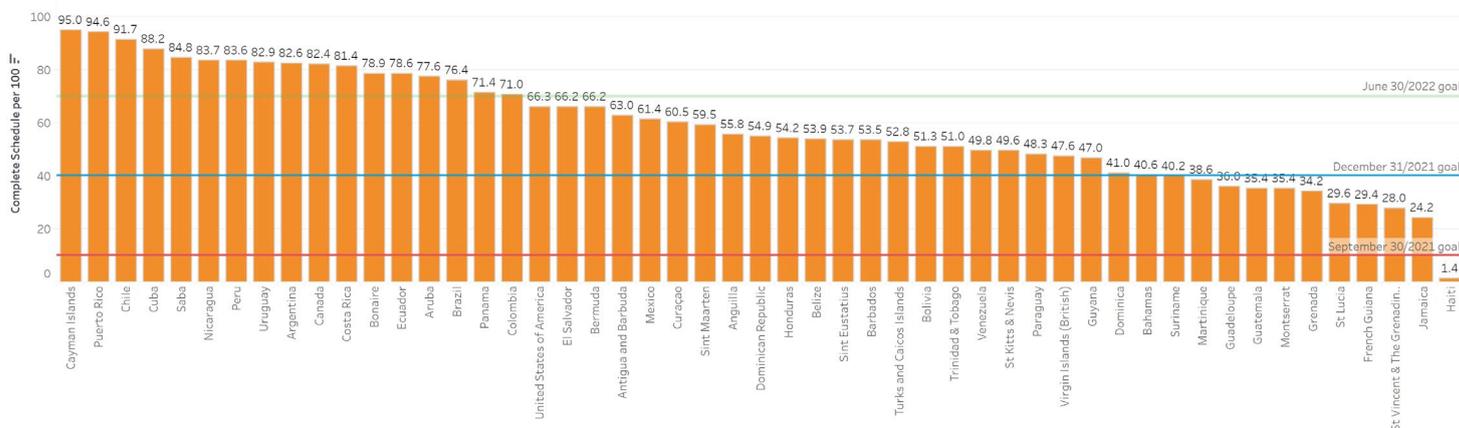
as of 31 July 2022.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT



- [PAHO's COVID-19 Vaccination in the Americas dashboard.](#)
- [Arrival of COVID-19 vaccines to the Americas through COVAX.](#)
- [Pharmacovigilance of COVID-19 vaccines.](#)

Percentage of fully vaccinated people in countries of the Americas, epidemiological week 28 of 2022.



¹ Brazil has corrected data made available on COVID-19 vaccination during the reporting period and therefore numbers may have decreased based on those reported in SitRep 79.

KEY TOOLS AND RESOURCES

COVID-19 Communication Materials

COVID-19 Latest News

PAHO's Weekly Press Briefings on COVID-19

Courses and Webinars on COVID-19 on the Virtual Campus for Public Health

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

In **Belize** during the reporting period, PAHO supported development of COVID-19 health promotional activities, including creation of a jingle to be used in a campaign to promote vaccination among 5-to 11-year-old children.

In **Bolivia**, on 23 and 24 July, PAHO conducted the first capacity-building session for communicators from Guaraní communities. Thirty participants from different municipalities of the Camiri region received training in the dissemination of appropriate, timely, and accurate messages about COVID-19 and early warning, and community surveillance of the disease. During the event, communicators also had the opportunity to share their views and establish partnerships with colleagues from other locations and with local health institutions and networks.

In **Costa Rica** from 5 to 12 July 2022, PAHO conducted a number of activities to raise awareness of the importance of COVID-19 vaccination, including live transmissions, workshops, and participation in public events. Additionally, PAHO launched a social media campaign to promote COVID-19 vaccination, developed in partnership with the Costa Rican Ministry of Health and UNICEF.



Figure 1: PAHO participates in a public event to promote COVID-19 vaccination in Costa Rica. Credit: PAHO.

On 22 July 2022, PAHO conducted knowledge dialogues on approaches to COVID-19 prevention with the indigenous community of Guatuso, together with local representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS). On 18 July 2022, PAHO promoted an event to encourage conversations about COVID-19 vaccines in the municipality of Desamparados. The target audience was mainly adolescents and adults. From 26 to 29 July 2022, the event was also conducted in several schools in the city of Goicoechea.



Figure 2: Communication material from campaign to promote vaccination in Costa Rica. Credit: PAHO.

In **Haiti** during the reporting period, PAHO provided support to train-the-trainer sessions in the Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes departments. The training sessions focused on building capacity for the launching of vaccination campaigns. PAHO also helped train 150 community health workers in the Centre department, who will work as communicators within COVID-19 vaccination teams and deliver equipment and medical supplies to support their work.

In **Honduras** from 13 to 15 July 2022, PAHO delivered 346,320 doses of COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines through COVAX, bringing the total number of doses received by the country through the mechanism to 6,066,860. During the reporting period, PAHO also delivered vaccines to **The Bahamas, Colombia, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Nicaragua, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.**

In **Mexico** on 14 July 2022, PAHO held a virtual presentation for state health directorates, including risk communication laboratories, on risk perception and health. The meeting was convened by the General Directorate for Health Promotion (DGPS) to address the fifth COVID-19 wave and other health threats.

In **Suriname** during July 2022, PAHO delivered two sessions of a risk communications and community engagement (RCCE) training to strengthen the government's capacity for early communication of accurate information about COVID-19, and its ability to enable individuals and communities to protect themselves from acute hazards. Among the target audience were staff from health promotion, education, and communication units, provincial level health authorities and emergency responders, including technical units and representatives from surveillance (with special focus on respiratory viruses), environmental health and agricultural health units. Apart from the Ministry of Health, several other ministries also participated, including the ministries of justice, agriculture, regional affairs, defense, and public works.



Figures 3 and 4: RCCE training sessions to government staff in Suriname. Credit: PAHO.

During the reporting period, PAHO also supported an outreach mission to West **Suriname**. Community members from four villages – Tapoeripa, Donderskamp, Corneliskonder and Kalebaskreek along the Nickerie and Coppename rivers – received COVID-19 vaccines and information on the disease.

Additionally, PAHO supported **Suriname's** Ministry of Public Health with facilitation of focus group discussions to understand beliefs, fears, concerns, and other barriers to increased vaccination uptake. During the week of 25 July 2022, seven focus groups were carried out. These groups consisted of member of the general population, older persons, adolescents, teachers, health care workers, business owners/entrepreneurs and students. Insights gained from the discussions will inform a media campaign aimed at encouraging vaccine uptake within targeted populations.



Figure 5: PAHO conducts focus group discussions on vaccine hesitancy in Suriname. Credit: PAHO.

In **Belize**, PAHO facilitated participation of the Ministry of Health and Wellness in a regional study conducted by the Organization on lessons learned about the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines in selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

SURVEILLANCE, LABORATORIES, AND PUBLIC HEALTH INTELLIGENCE

BY THE NUMBERS

- 31 laboratories from 28 countries participate in the **COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Regional Network (COVIGEN)**. Reference sequencing laboratories operate in **Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America**.
- More than **4,555,403** complete genomic sequences from the Americas have been shared globally through publicly accessible databases since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Since the onset of the pandemic through **31 July 2022**, PAHO has delivered:
 - **22.81 million** COVID-19 PCR Tests.
 - **22.05 million** Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Testes (Ag-RDTs).
 - **706,700** sample collection kits.
 - **863,538** Genomic Surveillance Tests.
 - **119** primers to test for variants.

as of 31 July 2022.

KEY TOOLS AND RESOURCES

COVID-19 Weekly Updates for the Region of the Americas

Contact Tracing Knowledge Hub

[Go.Data app](#) to support case investigation and contact tracing

Latin America and the Caribbean Dashboard of Seroprevalence Studies

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

From 12 to 14 July 2022, PAHO conducted an international influenza and SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis course for reference laboratory and epidemiology professionals in the Caribbean region, held in Fiocruz, Brazil. The course was a partnership among PAHO, the Fiocruz National Influenza Center of Rio de Janeiro, and the US

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a WHO Collaborating Center (WHO-CC). Trainings focused on molecular detection of influenza viruses and SARS-CoV-2, virological surveillance of influenza and SARS-CoV-2, strengthening epidemiological skills for integrated influenza surveillance and SARS-CoV-2, as well as reviewing and discussing the use of surveillance data to inform decisions through lectures and group exercises.



Figure 6: International influenza and SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis course offered by PAHO at Fiocruz, Brazil. Credit: PAHO.

In **Bolivia** on 11 July 2022, PAHO organized a workshop to support the establishment of the Situation Room of Red Cordillera in the city of Camiri. The activity is part of the implementation of five situation rooms in the country that will permanently generate epidemiological information for analysis and support of decision-making by municipal authorities and autonomous indigenous communities with high incidence of COVID-19. PAHO also conducted a workshop on the primary health care software SOAPS-SNIS at Facultad Técnica Cordillera (FICH). The objective was to provide tools for the use of the software and strengthen epidemiological surveillance and COVID-9 data. The event was directed at health personnel from first-level health facilities in Camiri.

In **Costa Rica** on 6 July 2022, PAHO delivered laboratory supplies, reagents for genomic surveillance, IT equipment, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The material delivered also included ultra-low temperature freezers, refrigerators, thermometers, and cold boxes to strengthen cold chain capacity and expand vaccination in the country. Donations are part of a project facilitated by PAHO in Costa Rica, which also includes community surveillance activities with a focus on promotion and prevention in 10 different municipalities of the country.



Figure 7: Delivery of laboratory supplies, PPE, and equipment in Costa Rica. Credit: PAHO.

In **Brazil** from 25 to 29 July, PAHO participated in a meeting entitled Surveillance, Alert and Response to Emergencies in Public Health - VIGIAR International, which was promoted by the Brazilian Ministry of Health. The event drew representatives from 42 countries in the Americas and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, along with WHO and PAHO authorities. The five-day event included discussions and practical exercises to identify lessons learned about the COVID-19 pandemic and other concurrent emergencies, the need to strengthen the emergency and disaster surveillance and response capacity and establishing partnerships between countries for mutual support. Additionally, from 25 to 27 July, a data analysis team was deployed to the state of Maranhão, **Brazil**, to provide local training to health personnel on the use of the R software for statistical computing and graphics. During the mission, the team also participated in a technical visit to the School of Public Health of Maranhão.



Figure 8: Surveillance, Alert and Response to Emergencies in Public Health - VIGIAR International meeting. Credit: PAHO.



Figure 9: PAHO delivers training on the use of the R software to health staff in the state of Maranhão, Brazil. Credit: PAHO.

SAFE AND SCALABLE CLINICAL CARE, AND RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

BY THE NUMBERS

- **Compilation** of evidence on **220** potential therapeutics based on **695** randomized controlled trials and observational studies. Last updated on 28 July 2022.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, PAHO has deployed a total of **300** Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs), and **385** Alternative Medical Care Sites (AMCS) managed by PAHO, which have added **50,552** inpatient hospital beds and **2,285** critical care beds throughout the Americas.

as of 31 July 2022.

KEY TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Ongoing Living Update of Potential COVID-19 Therapeutics.

PAHO's COVID-19 EMT Response information hub.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

In **Bolivia** on 15 July 2022, PAHO supported activities in preparation to respond to the wildfire season in the municipality of Roboré during the COVID-19 pandemic. These actions are part of a project jointly developed by PAHO and international partners in the region of Chiquitanía. The project, which included a simulation exercise and assessment of critical issues, aims to strengthen capacities for disaster preparedness and promote inclusive governance of health networks with communities and small farmers in the area.

Additionally, **PAHO is supporting the development of activities to improve migrants' health** during the pandemic in **Bolivia**. The Organization is providing technical cooperation to the Departmental Health Service (SEDES) of La Paz and visiting health facilities on the border with Peru to coordinate actions. Activities are part of a project to strengthen the health system in border areas, improving health care conditions and epidemiological surveillance among migrant populations. The project is being implemented in collaboration with SEDES La Paz, municipal networks, and government. It also included capacity-building activities, provision of equipment and strengthening of information systems. On 23 July 2022 in Bolivia, PAHO conducted a workshop on the financial and administrative integrated system (SIAF) for staff from a COVID-19 reference hospital in the Chaco region. The event aimed to improve COVID-19 care in the facility.

In **Brazil** on 1 July 2022, PAHO trained 158 community health agents from the Santarém region in the state of Pará to recognize post-COVID-19 syndrome and support management and referral of people affected by the condition.

In **Costa Rica** on 10 July 2022, PAHO held a capacity-building session on community mental health in the village of Pérez Zeledón. The activity aimed to train instructors to promote recovery and maintenance of psychosocial well-being in the context of COVID-19. The training was adapted to support disabilities communities, especially people with hearing impairments, and was coordinated jointly by the National Association of Deaf Persons and the Municipality of Pérez Zeledón.



Figure 10: PAHO participates in activities to promote the health of migrants at the border between Bolivia and Peru. Credit: PAHO.



Figure 11: Community health agents participate in training on the diagnosis of the post COVID-19 syndrome in Brazil. Credit: PAHO.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO COUNTERMEASURES AND ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

BY THE NUMBERS

- 436 COVID-19-related reports are available in the [Regional Database of Health Technology Assessment Reports of the Americas \(BRISA\)](#).
- PAHO's Strategic Fund has procured more than \$298 million worth of COVID-19 diagnostic tests (PCR and rapid antigen? tests), PPE, and medicines for critical care. Purchases have already benefited more than 40 million people throughout the Americas.
- Since the onset of the pandemic, PAHO has delivered 227 shipments of supplies to 35 countries, including:
 - 8.7 million gloves
 - 49.5 million surgical and respirator masks
 - 3.7 million face shields
 - 2.96 million gowns.

as of 31 July 2022.

KEY TOOLS AND RESOURCES

COVID-19 guidance and the latest research in the Americas.

Regional Platform on Access and Innovation for Health Technologies (PRAIS).

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

In **Costa Rica** on 14 July 2022, PAHO delivered PPE to the Costa Rican Red Cross. The donations are intended to support first responders to continue implementing preventive measures against COVID-19 and strengthen the Red Cross' service delivery. The delivery included 25,000 respirators and 11,000 pairs of gloves. On 20 July 2022, PAHO also delivered PPE to the Ministry of Justice and Peace. The material will be distributed to health personnel in several penitentiaries in the country. Items donated included additional 36,000 respirator masks and 15,000 gloves.



Figure 12: Delivery of PPE to the Red Cross in Costa Rica. Credit: PAHO.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE COORDINATION

BY THE NUMBERS

- 332 technical guidelines and recommendations related to COVID-19 were developed or adapted from WHO.
- More than 408 virtual or in-person regional and country trainings were delivered at regional and country levels.

as of 31 July 2022.

KEY TOOLS AND RESOURCES

COVID-19 Partners Platform

Response Strategy and Donor Appeal

COVID-19 Response Fund

In **Bolivia** during the reporting period, PAHO provided technical cooperation to SEDES of the department of La Paz as part of a project focused on the health of migrant populations in the context of COVID-19. Activities included site visits to health facilities in the cities of Copacabana and Desaguadero, which are located on the border with Peru. The facilities visited provide care to migrants in collaboration with the Public Defender Office, the Red Cross, and migration offices.

From 11 to 15 July 2022, a PAHO team from **Brazil** was deployed to Washington DC to support the development of a protocol for the implementation and operationalization of Emergency Operations Centers in Public Health with the participation of CONASS, CONASEMS, the Ministry of Health and PAHO's Regional Team.

In **Costa Rica** on 27 and 28 July 2022, PAHO deployed a mission to the city of Los Chiles to assess the conditions of migrants when crossing the country, especially at the northern border. The visit aimed to understand the political and technical context and the health situation, so that PAHO could continue providing support to the projects implemented by the Organization in the region.



Figure 13: PAHO visits the border health services in Desaguadero. Credit: PAHO.

On 22 July 2022, PAHO presented to Costa Rican authorities a project to assess the maturity of health information systems in the country. The project is part of a regional effort to establish a roadmap to evaluate information systems, their interoperability, and the implementation of COVID-19 digital vaccine certificates in Latin America. As a result of this meeting, the terms of reference for the project were approved and implementation of the first phase will begin.



Figure 14: PAHO mission to Los Chiles to verify conditions of migrants' health. Credit: PAHO.

Additionally, on 26 and 27 July 2022, PAHO supported and participated in a simulation exercise of a pandemic preparedness plan for influenza and other respiratory viruses in **Costa Rica**.

PAHO worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), the Costa Rican Institute of Research and Teaching in Health and Nutrition (INCIENSA), and the Official Veterinary Services (SENASA). PAHO provided technical support to test and evaluate multisectoral coordination and communication mechanisms of the preparedness plan. After the exercise, the plan will be updated and revised to incorporate any issues identified.

COVID-19 PRESS BRIEFING

JULY 2022

“This virus knows no borders, especially now that international travel has resumed. We must use every tool at our disposal to protect ourselves, particularly those of us most vulnerable to severe disease and death. This means reintroducing public health measures like masks and social distancing when cases spike. It also means accelerating our efforts to reach everyone with COVID-19 vaccines, which are estimated to have saved nearly four million lives in our region, according to a recent study.”

Dr. Carissa F. Etienne

CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESS BRIEFING DELIVERED BY PAHO DIRECTOR.