

# COVID-19

PAHO/WHO RESPONSE. 3 JUNE 2022. REPORT N. 77



## SITUATION NUMBERS IN THE AMERICAS

157,660,472

TOTAL REPORTED CASES

2,746,686

TOTAL REPORTED DEATHS

1,871,173,262

VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED

10.4% INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK

14.2% INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK

29.8% OF CASES 43.6% OF DEATHS WORLDWIDE

68.1% OF THE POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED IN THE AMERICAS

AS OF 3 JUNE 2022.

## IN THE NEWS

On 31 May 2022, PAHO published the final report of the ad hoc expert consultation in the Region of the Americas: [Challenges, gaps and next steps in COVID-19 surveillance and integration into influenza and other respiratory viruses surveillance](#). The consultation took place in Panama City on 29 and 30 March 2022, with the objective of identifying the challenges, gaps, and next steps in surveillance of COVID-19 and its integration into the surveillance systems for influenza and other respiratory viruses. It was attended by 26 participants from 15 countries in the Americas, as well as from WHO, the WHO Collaborating Center for the Americas (U.S.A. CDC), and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). Participants also included members of the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (SE-COMISCA). The event included a presentation of the contextual framework at the global and regional level, and group activities with participatory dynamics followed by plenary discussions with both laboratory and epidemiology experts. The working groups have identified and prioritized critical areas for surveillance of COVID-19 including methods for assessing indicators of transmission, severity, and impact of the disease; integration of SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance into surveillance of other respiratory viruses; surveillance systems and adjustments required for a transition from universal surveillance of COVID-19 to integrated surveillance of respiratory viruses; and the need for a transition to sustainable, integrated surveillance of SARS-CoV-2, influenza, and other respiratory viruses. The report documents the main findings resulting from the consultation and concludes with recommended next steps to advance with the topic in countries of the Region.

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](https://paho.org/donate)

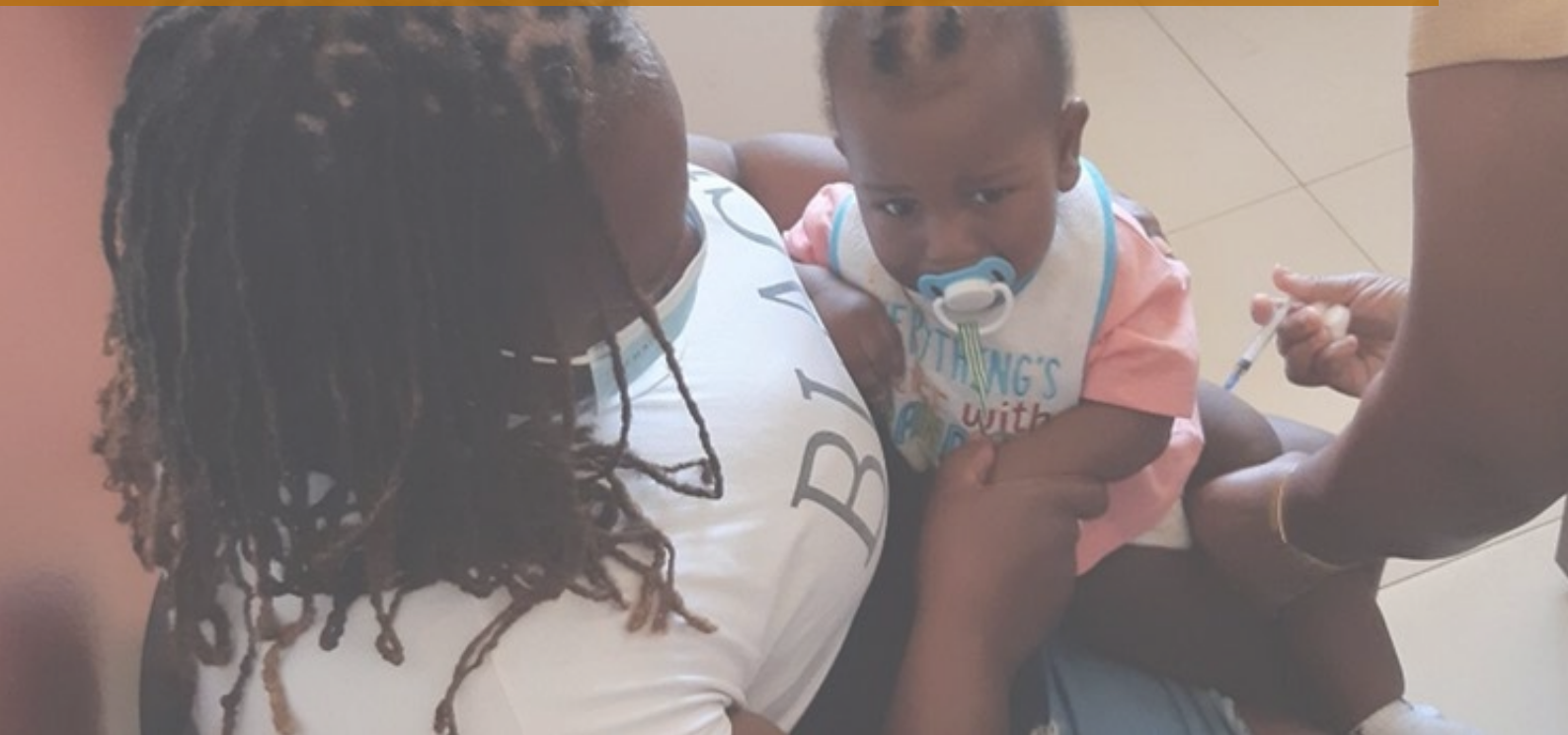
Read global operational situation reports



World Health Organization

READ PAHO'S COVID-19 OPERATIONAL SITUATION REPORTS [HERE](#).

# STORIES FROM THE FIELD



## “I’M PROUD TO PROMOTE IMMUNIZATIONS,” SAYS JAMAICAN PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

*Primary healthcare workers play a significant role in protecting communities by administering and promoting routine and COVID-19 immunizations. Nurse Christine Smart-Guy, the public health nurse responsible for immunizations at the Kitson Town Health Centre in rural St. Catherine, Jamaica, is proud to promote immunizations.*

**1 June 2022** | Nurse Christine Smart-Guy, who started her career over 28 years ago and transitioned to public health in 2009, has been based at the Kitson Town Health Centre for the past eight years. The Kitson Town Health Centre is in the heart of the community and serves 26,000 residents with close connections to the two primary schools and one secondary school in the area. The immunization team working at the health center consists of thirteen community health aides and two midwives, led by Smart-Guy.

**“The diverse offerings at the center are very beneficial for our immunization program because it provides multiple opportunities to engage with community members for the promotion of routine and COVID-19 immunizations,”** Smart-Guy said.

She was quick to add that motivating people to get vaccinated requires providing factual, accurate information and ensuring they know that health workers themselves believe in the vaccines they administer. “We find that people immunize their children to ensure that they can go to school but with the COVID-19 vaccines, they want to know that we have taken the vaccine and believe in its value. Much of our work in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine is to allay the fears or uncertainties of community members for them to get vaccinated,” Smart-Guy said. [Read more.](#)

# VACCINATION, PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS, AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

## BY THE NUMBERS

- More than **1,871,173,262 doses** of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the Region.
- **702 million** people, **68.1%** of the population have been fully vaccinated in 51 countries and territories.
- More than **142,550,140 doses** were delivered to 33 countries in the Americas through **PAHO's Revolving Fund** and COVAX.
- **17 countries and territories** have achieved the 70% vaccination target.
- **11 countries and territories** have not reached the 40% coverage target set by WHO.

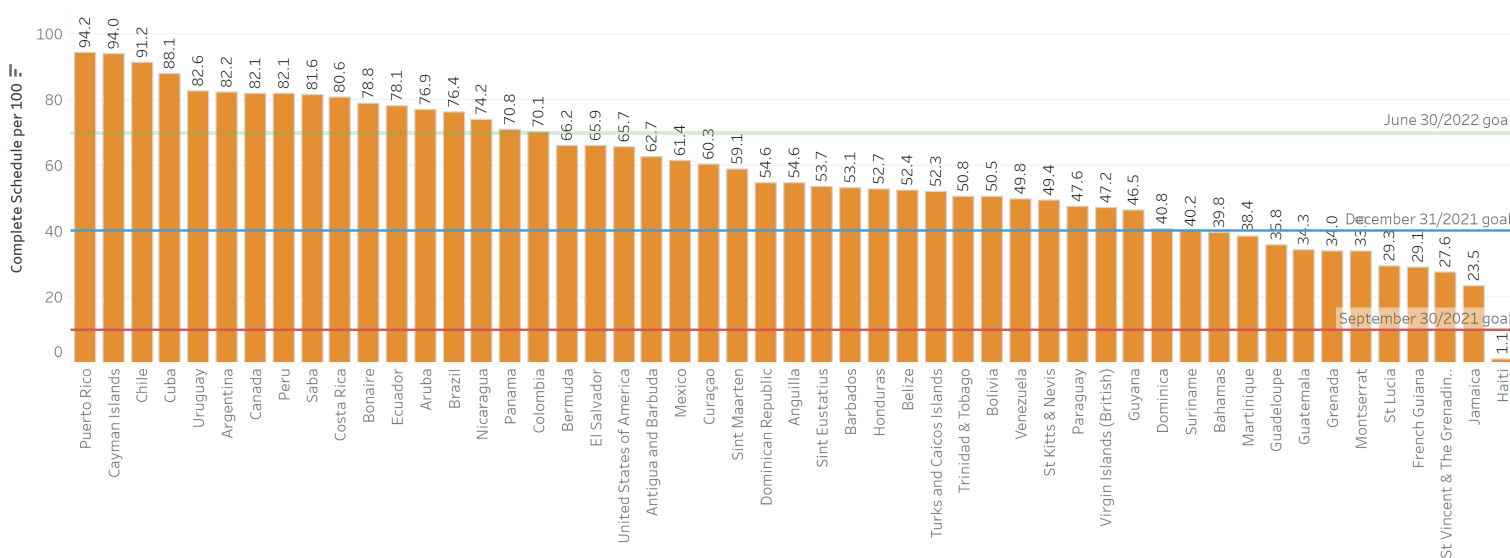
as of 3 June 2022.



## 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 22 of 2022.





## 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 **Argentina**, during the week of 21 May 2022, PAHO started to implement the second stage of a project carried out in schools and in social and community spaces for adolescents from the provinces of La Rioja and Buenos Aires. Activities will run until August 2022 and include vaccination against COVID-19, voluntary testing, and workshops for students and employees on the use of rapid COVID-19 tests in schools as well as measures to prevent the disease.



Figures 1, 2 and 3: Project in schools and community centers promote vaccination, voluntary testing, and information on COVID-19 prevention. Credit: PAHO.

In **Costa Rica** from 23 May to 3 June 2022, PAHO deployed a mission to the cantons of Talamanca, Pococí, Sarapiquí, San Carlos, León Cortés, Los Chiles, Corredores, Upala, Coto Brus and La Cruz. The mission is to



Figures 4 and 5: Workshops are organized to create work plans to strengthen COVID-19 response activities in different cantons in Costa Rica. Credit: PAHO.

organize workshops for preparation of work plans and activities to strengthen the overall response to COVID-19 and generate a recovery framework for the country. The work plans included actions to strengthen health promotion and prevention of diseases as well as address the importance of mental health, COVID-19 vaccination, and the continuity of health protocols. Workshops are also being prepared to present and validate an active community surveillance plan. As part of the project’s communication strategy, PAHO supported development of four messages that promote the COVID-19 vaccination campaign and will be disseminated in the communities of San Jorge, Las Vegas, and Santa Rosa through audio speakers. As part of the project on 25 and 26 May 2022, PAHO coordinated a two-day campaign for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses in San Jorge, Las Vegas, and Santa Rosa, including among the indigenous population.



Figures 6 and 7: COVID-19 vaccines are delivered to communities in San Jorge, Las Vegas, and Santa Rosa, in Costa Rica. Credit: PAHO.

Additionally, together with UNICEF and national institutions in **Costa Rica**, PAHO launched a book with ten short stories for children about topics that included COVID-19 prevention and vaccination, as well as mental health, misinformation, and healthy personal relationships. Titled “Cuenticos en Familia,” the **publication** was officially launched on 20 May 2022<sup>1</sup> with dissemination of a **promotional video**.



In **Mexico**, during the week of 27 May 2022, PAHO concluded the first round of capacity-building sessions in perception analysis and risk communication in order to establish risk communication state laboratories. Training was aimed at professionals from the states of Aguascalientes, Durango, Querétaro, and Tlaxcala. The second round of online capacity-building sessions started during the same week, with professionals from Baja California, Baja California Sur, Colima, and Zacatecas.



<sup>1</sup> The book was launched during the previous reporting period (6 to 20 May 2022), and subsequently reported. Therefore, it was exceptionally included in this issue.

# 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 **4,098,330** 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 **3 June 2022**, PAHO has delivered:
  - **21.97 million** COVID-19 PCR Tests.
  - **21.46 million** Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Testes (Ag-RDTs).
  - **734,500** Genomic Surveillance Tests.
  - **63** Primers to test for variants.

as of 3 June 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

In **Brazil**, from 26 May to 1 June 2022, a PAHO analysis team was deployed to the city of Florianópolis, state of Santa Catarina, to develop the last part of a four-module course on health situation analysis using the R software. The training aimed to support health surveillance local teams in analyzing health data and preparing epidemiological bulletins of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.



Figure 8: PAHO and partners work to develop a course on health situation analysis in Brazil. Credit: PAHO.





# SAFE AND SCALABLE CLINICAL CARE, AND RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

## BY THE NUMBERS

- Summary of rapid systematic reviews updated on 4 May 2022. The study synthesizes evidence on **193** therapeutics from **615** randomized controlled trials and observational studies.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, PAHO has deployed a total of **300** Emergency Medical Teams, and **385** Alternative Medical Care Sites managed by PAHO, which have added **50,552** inpatient hospital beds and **2,285** critical care beds throughout the Americas.

as of 3 June 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 23 May 2022, PAHO supported development of response plans for emergencies due to wildfire and COVID-19. The plans were developed for eight health facilities and two health networks that cover the municipalities of Roboré, San José and San Ignacio.

Between 24 May and 1 June 2022, PAHO supported several additional activities to strengthen COVID-19 preparedness and inclusive governance capacities among indigenous and rural communities in the region of Chiquitanía. In three municipalities, PAHO delivered capacity-building sessions on hospital incident command system, epidemiological surveillance, and chronic diseases. The final stage of the training was dedicated to the validation of emergency response plans through simulation exercises in health facilities. PAHO also organized meetings with health commissions in these three municipalities. The role of health commissions is to assess needs and support response to emergencies at the local level, and it was identified that these commissions were not fully operational during the pandemic. PAHO held these meetings to support their reactivation, the strengthening of coordination and response capacities during emergencies, and to ensure continued focus on the priorities established by the emergency response plans validated in each of these locations. PAHO also supported activities aimed at fortifying COVID-19 prevention and strengthening alarm systems for wildfires in indigenous and small rural communities.



Figure 9: PAHO delivers capacity building sessions on hospital incident command system and conducts simulation exercises in Bolivia. Credit: PAHO.



Figure 10: PAHO meets with Health Commissions in the region of Chiquitanía, Bolivia. Credit: PAHO.



Figures 11 and 12: Activities in indigenous and small rural communities for COVID-19 prevention. Credit: PAHO.

In **Brazil**, on 26 and 27 May 2022, PAHO deployed a team to the city of Boa Vista, state of Roraima, to meet with authorities of the Unified Health System, international agencies of the UN system, and managers of *Operação Acolhida*<sup>2</sup>. The activity aimed to reorganize flows for access to medical specialty services offered by the Municipal Health Department of Boa Vista, such as mental health care and post-COVID-19 rehabilitation services as well as any humanitarian response activities for Venezuelan migrants. PAHO has



Figure 13: Activities Boa Vista with Operation Acolhida aimed to provide better health to Venezuelan migrants. Credit: PAHO.



Figure 14: Meeting in Santarém discusses post COVID-19 conditions. Credit: PAHO.

<sup>2</sup> Operação Acolhida is the Brazilian federal government's response to the influx of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to Brazil. It aims to reduce the pressure on vulnerable border communities where Venezuelans arrive, and foster integration by helping refugees and migrants find new job opportunities in other cities. It is supported by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), other UN agencies and more than 100 civil society organizations.



been assisting the response to the humanitarian emergency in Roraima and has provided support to the managers of the Unified Health System. PAHO is also supporting international and national organizations in managing the health of Venezuelan migrants targeted by *Operação Acolhida*. Additionally, on 26 and 27 May 2022, a team was deployed to the municipality of Santarém, state of Pará, to support organization of services for people experiencing post-COVID-19 conditions, including mental health issues. Topics discussed included referral flows to specialized care and primary care protocols within the 16 municipalities in the region.

In **Panama**, on 23 May 2022, PAHO organized a webinar on the clinical management of COVID-19. The aim was to update the most recent clinical evidence related to the management of moderate and severe COVID-19 cases. The virtual session included two presentations on potential therapeutics for COVID-19 patients and on the issues of safety and pharmacovigilance for use of nirmatrevir/ritonavir, tocilizumab and molnupiravir. More than 100 physicians dedicated to COVID-19 patient management in Panama participated in the event PAHO also shared with participants a list of relevant documents and resources with the most up-to-date scientific evidence. Additionally, PAHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health organized the **National Symposium on Occupational Health**, with the participation of 110 participants from national institutions, such as the Ministry of Health, the Social Security Fund (CSS), the Ministry of Labor and Workforce Development, the Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies (ICGES), among others. Topics addressed included the challenges posed by COVID-19 to workers' mental health and COVID-19 pandemic sequelae, amongst others.

In **Suriname**, from 27 to 29 May 2022, PAHO held a course focused on antimicrobial resistance and infection prevention and control (IPC), which aimed to sustainably enhance and strengthen infectious disease care in the country through capacity-building and a feasible, effective, and acceptable operational plan adapted to the local context. The course was held in collaboration with the RADBOUD University, with the goal to improve the outcome of patients with infections through better diagnostics, treatment, and improved IPC, including against COVID-19. Additionally, on May 31 and June 1, PAHO held a training on IPC to increase the capacity of IPC committees and specialists in local hospitals to support improved surveillance, supervision, and monitoring of IPC practices, including to prevent COVID-19 infections. Target groups were infection prevention professionals and members of the Infection Prevention and Control Committees of the hospitals, and quality assurance focal points. Approximately 50 health care workers participated, including members from the Mungra Medical center in Nickerie and national training institute for nurses (COVAB) who joined virtually.



Figure 15: Participants attend to the National Symposium on Occupational Health. Credit: PAHO.



Figures 16 and 17: Course and training sessions on IPC held in Suriname. Credit: PAHO.

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

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 433 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 tests), PPE and medicines for critical care. Purchases have already benefited more than 39 million people throughout the Region of the Americas.
- Since the onset of the pandemic, PAHO has delivered 217 shipments to 35 countries, including:
  - 8.4 million gloves.
  - 48.7 million surgical and respirator masks.
  - 2.79 million gowns.

as of 3 June 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).



# PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE COORDINATION

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 325 technical guidelines and recommendations related to COVID-19 were developed or adapted from WHO
- More than 396 virtual or in-person regional and country trainings were delivered at regional and country level.

as of 3 June 2022.

## KEY TOOLS AND RESOURCES

COVID-19 Partners Platform

Response Strategy and Donor Appeal

COVID-19 Response Fund



## COVID-19 PRESS BRIEFING

1 JUNE 2022

"This recent surge represents a risk for our health systems, and we should track hospital capacity closely. Many places are facing the double threat of a potential influenza surge alongside a rise in COVID-19 cases, which will put healthcare workers, the elderly and pregnant women at additional risk."

Dr. Carissa F. Etienne

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