

COVID-19

PAHO/WHO RESPONSE. 17 JUNE 2022. REPORT N. 78



SITUATION NUMBERS IN THE AMERICAS

159,834,715

TOTAL REPORTED CASES

2,754,186

TOTAL REPORTED DEATHS

1,891,093,205

VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED

13.1% INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK ↗

20.5% INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK ↗

29.9% OF CASES 44.6% OF DEATHS WORLDWIDE

68.9% OF THE POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED IN THE AMERICAS

AS OF 17 JUNE 2022.

IN THE NEWS

On 8 June 2022, the United States announced the launch of a joint US/PAHO initiative, [Americas Health Corps – Fuerza de Salud de las Americas](#), an initiative to train 500,000 public health workers throughout the Region over the next five years. Americas Health Corps, which forms part of the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas, aims to help the region prevent, prepare for, and respond to future pandemic threats and other public health emergencies, while ensuring the equitable delivery of health care services to remote, vulnerable and marginalized communities. With a current regional deficit of around 600,000 health care workers, primarily in rural and underserved areas, training and equipping health personnel is a key part of this initiative. This new initiative will build on PAHO's programs of work and mandates to build resilient health systems based on primary health care, strengthen essential public health functions, and improve pandemic preparedness and response in the Americas. It will leverage the capacity of the PAHO Virtual Campus to reach health care workers throughout the Region, including in remote and underserved areas.



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](#).

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



AN ANCIENT TRADITION TO THE RESCUE: MAYAN MIDWIVES OR “COMADRONAS” DISPEL COVID-19 VACCINATION FEARS

The practical and spiritual guidance from comadronas is a mainstay of indigenous families, who make up over 40 percent of the country’s population and often live in poverty, far away from health clinics.

3 June 2022 | Guatemala, like many countries around the world, was flooded with rumors when COVID-19 vaccination started. A strategy to counter 21st century disinformation was found paradoxically in an old tradition: the *comadronas* or traditional midwives, who are revered in Guatemala as keepers of ancestral medical knowledge, and who support women throughout pregnancy, delivery, and motherhood.

Over the last decades, Guatemala has persistently shown one of the highest maternal mortality rates in Latin America and the pandemic posed an additional challenge: according to the Guatemalan Ministry of Health, COVID-19 was the main cause of maternal deaths in 2021, making vaccination efforts imperative.

“I recommend the COVID-19 vaccine to pregnant women the same way I recommend folic acid and vitamins: for the good of their health and their babies,” said Matilde Rax Gualim, 44, who has been a *comadrona* for half her life in El Rancho, an indigenous community in the department of Alta Verapaz, 254 kilometers from the capital.

It is said that *comadronas* are born with their talent. Due to their high standing in traditional Mayan society – and because their home visits were often the only attention pregnant women received during pandemic lockdowns – the Guatemalan Ministry of Public Health and PAHO sought them out as ideal messengers to fight vaccine disinformation and misinformation. [Read more.](#)

VACCINATION, PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS, AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

BY THE NUMBERS

- More than **1,891,093,205 doses** of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the Region.
- **704,942,652** people, **68.9%** of the population, have been fully vaccinated in 51 countries and territories.
- More than **142,864,390 doses** were delivered to 33 countries in the Americas through **PAHO's Revolving Fund** and COVAX.
- **17 countries/territories** have achieved the WHO target of 70% vaccination by the end of June 2022.
- **11 countries/territories** have not reached the 40% coverage target set by WHO for December 2021.

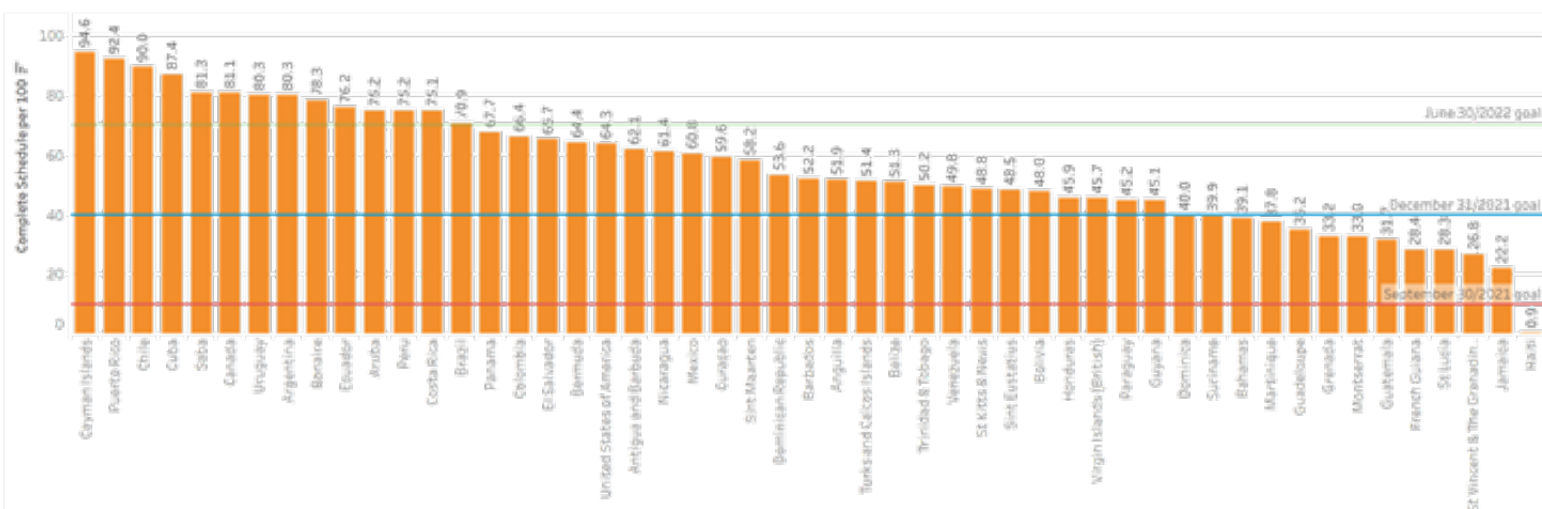
as of 17 June 2022.



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 24 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 **Colombia**, on 9 June 2022, **PAHO announced a project on health communication to promote COVID-19 vaccination in indigenous communities in the department of Nariño**. This is the second phase of the project, which will be directed at the indigenous communities of Quillacingas, Pastos, Nasa, Eperara siapidara, Kofan, Ingas and Awá, and will run until the first quarter of 2023. The aim of the project is to implement a communications strategy with an ethnic approach to provide information on preventive measures to avoid contagion and dissemination of COVID-19. It will also emphasize the importance of vaccination and build institutional capacities to strengthen surveillance of COVID-19, other vaccine preventable diseases and events supposedly attributable to vaccination or immunization (ESAVI). The project also aims to produce knowledge and learn from this experience in order to replicate it in other communities and territories in the country. The first phase of the project included the production of communication material with an ethnic approach, the promotion of dialogues and training of young people and social leaders to become replicators of messages to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and encourage vaccination in the Awá indigenous community.



Figure 1: Representatives from indigenous communities participate in presentation of PAHO project in Colombia. Credit: PAHO.

In **Honduras**, from 7 to 10 June 2022, **PAHO delivered 249,210 doses of COVID-19 vaccines**, resulting in a total of 5,564,240 doses donated to the country through COVAX since start of 2022. During the reporting period, PAHO also delivered 5,040 vaccine doses to Grenada through COVAX.

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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 4,206,706 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 17 June 2022, PAHO has delivered:
 - 21.98 million COVID-19 PCR Tests.
 - 21.47 million Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests (Ag-RDTs).
 - 734,500 Genomic Surveillance Tests.
 - 63 Primers to test for variants.

as of 17 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 **Costa Rica**, PAHO delivered workshops to present and validate a plan for strengthening active community surveillance of COVID-19 in the cantons of Talamanca, Pococí, and Sarapiquí from 6 to 8 June 2022, and in the cantons of León Cortés, San Carlos, Corredores, Los Chiles, Coto Brus, Upala and La Cruz from 13 to 16 June. The sessions are part of interventions to strengthen the global response to COVID-19 in the country. From 7 to 10 June 2022, a [PAHO team visited Costa Rica](#) to review the indicators and procedures for sentinel surveillance of ARI in the country, and conduct workshops for data analysis on surveillance of severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) and on the effectiveness of vaccines against COVID-19. The aims of the workshops were to review indicators and procedures for sentinel SARI surveillance, analyze national data on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and present a tool for the evaluation of the impact of influenza vaccination. Since the beginning of 2022, the country has been sharing surveillance and vaccination data with the [REVELAC-i network](#). REVELAC-i supports the integration of data from epidemiological and virological surveillance and immunization programs to generate evidence for prevention and control of influenza.

SAFE AND SCALABLE CLINICAL CARE, AND RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

BY THE NUMBERS

- Summary of rapid systematic reviews updated on 8 June 2022. The study synthesizes evidence on **204** therapeutics from **636** 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 17 June 2022.

KEY TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Ongoing Living Update of Potential COVID-19 Therapeutics.

PAHO's COVID-19 EMT Response information hub.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

On 15 and 16 June 2022, PAHO delivered an online training event on [Monitoring and Evaluation of Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Practices and Programs](#). Items addressed included indicators for monitoring and evaluation of administrative measures for IPC in health facilities for acute patients and IPC practice assessment tools in the context of COVID-19. The training was aimed at health care workers from the Region and had 330 participants on the first day, and 205 on the second day.

In **Brazil**, on 10 June 2022, PAHO concluded a mission to the state of Pernambuco, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, to support the immediate response to the emergency caused by heavy rainfall. PAHO had been in Pernambuco since 30 May 2022, and provided support to situation analyses and planning, as well as recommendations regarding infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, the detection of respiratory symptoms, and diagnosis and isolation of COVID-19 cases in shelters.

In **Costa Rica** on 14 June 2022, PAHO presented to the Ministry of Health the report "Structure, composition and dynamics of the health workforce in Costa Rica in the context of COVID-19". The document was prepared by PAHO, in collaboration with the Human Resources for Health Unit (URHUS) and the Technical Commission for Human Resources in Health Development (CTDRHUS). The meeting also resulted in an agreement for the planning of future activities, including the creation of



Figure 2: Oxygen plant is donated by PAHO to Paraguay. Credit: PAHO.

working groups to analyze the main challenges and propose solutions to key aspects faced by the health workforce in the country

In **Paraguay** on 10 June 2022, **PAHO delivered an oxygen plant to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare**. The plant was installed in the District Hospital of Curuguaty (Canindejú) and will benefit approximately 236,000 people, while refilling the oxygen balloons of a network of 30 Family Health Units and other health facilities in the XIV Health Region. The equipment will help tackle the challenge of supplying oxygen in the country and strengthen resilient health systems during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 **225** shipments to **35** countries, including:
 - **8.7 million** gloves.
 - **49.5 million** surgical and respirator masks.
 - **2.93 million** gowns.

as of 17 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).

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

In the **Dominican Republic** on 9 June 2022, **PAHO** delivered a donation of personal protective equipment (PPE) and electronic and computer equipment to strengthen response to COVID-19. The items will support strengthening of epidemiological surveillance and diagnostic capacities, based on priorities identified by the Ministry of Public Health.



Figure 3: Official ceremony receives donation of PPE and electronic equipment in the Dominican Republic. Credit: PAHO.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE COORDINATION

BY THE NUMBERS

- 328 technical guidelines and recommendations related to COVID-19 were developed or adapted from WHO.
- More than 402 virtual or in-person regional and country trainings were delivered at regional and country level.

KEY TOOLS AND RESOURCES

COVID-19 Partners Platform

Response Strategy and Donor Appeal

COVID-19 Response Fund

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

In **Brazil**, PAHO supported technical cooperation activities between Brazil and Nicaragua, carried out during a visit of Nicaraguan health authorities to the Ministry of Health of Brazil from 6 to 10 June 2022. This cooperation between both countries is focused on developing surveillance, monitoring, preparedness, and response activities during public health emergencies, considering the lessons learned in coping with the current COVID-19 pandemic.



COVID-19 PRESS BRIEFING

15 JUNE 2022

“Thanks to the commitment of donors and national governments, we now have the supplies and financial and technical support to help countries reach the 70% target. Our priority now should be turning vaccines into immunity, ensuring that the doses we have are making it into people’s arms and saving lives.”

Dr. Carissa F. Etienne

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