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VAX FACTS NEWS BULLETIN



British donation to spark seven-day Jamaican Covid-19 vaccination blitz

Jamaica's Ministry of Health and Wellness is to launch an islandwide COVID-19 vaccination blitz on Saturday (July 31) after the island receives 300,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine on Friday (July 30). Minister of Health and Wellness Dr. Christopher Tufton told the Jamaica Observer that the blitz will last for seven days, following news that the vaccine donated by the Government of the United Kingdom (UK) is now set to reach the island and boost the inoculation drive. After confirmation of the arrival date and time for the vaccine, the UK's top diplomat in Jamaica, Asif Ahmad, declared, "This is Global Britain in action." According to Ahmad, the UK plans to donate a further batch of vaccines to Jamaica in December. "I have worked closely with the team in London to expedite the delivery of vaccines to Jamaica. Prime Minister Andrew Holness gave me clear assurances that Jamaica is ready to deploy the vaccines at a fast pace," Ahmad told the Observer. "For me, saving lives is the biggest contribution a public servant can make," added Ahmad. He said the delay in the UK's commitment to develop and distribute vaccines worldwide was understandable.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3iaZrCK>








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PAHO to help acquire Covid -19 Vaccines For Latin America and Caribbean Countries

Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Dr. Carissa Etienne, says the entity is negotiating with producers of COVID-19 vaccines that have secured World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use Listing (EUL), to acquire additional doses for Latin American and Caribbean member countries. "Our proposal for direct purchase of COVID-19 vaccines through [PAHO's] Revolving Fund is intended [to be] complementary to country bilateral agreements and... their agreements with the [WHO's] COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Facility," Dr. Etienne said. She was speaking during PAHO's COVID-19 digital briefing on Wednesday (July 28). Noting that COVID-19 vaccine availability remains limited, Dr. Etienne said PAHO has been working with COVAX to ensure that at least 20 per cent of member countries' populations are vaccinated this year, in order to combat the pandemic's acute phase.

Source: <https://jis.gov.jm/paho-to-assist-with-acquiring-vaccines-for-lac-countries/>

Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker : Top 5 Caribbean Countries as at July 29, 2021

COUNTRY		TOTAL DOSES GIVEN	FULLY VACCINATED
	Trinidad & Tobago	565,499	189,273
	Guyana	382,957	133,987
	Jamaica	300,902	122,174
	Suriname	242,696	56,684
	Belize	175,735	49,042

Source: <https://news.google.com/covid19/map>



Antigua and Barbuda approves mixed vaccines for visitors

Travellers who have received mixed doses of COVID-19 vaccines are now approved for entry to Antigua and Barbuda. The new guideline, announced by the twin island republic's National Covid-19 Vaccination Technical Working Group, applies to visitors who have received a dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine with either Moderna or Pfizer vaccines, or a combination of Moderna and Pfizer. The destination is already welcoming fully vaccinated travellers who have received both doses of a World Health Organization (WHO) approved two-dose COVID-19 vaccine. Earlier this month, Barbados updated its entry requirements to allow fully vaccinated mixed-dose travellers to enter the country. Jamaica has also supported mixed vaccines for travellers.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3rN1UXs>

World Bank to finance extra COVID jabs for poorer nations

A new World Bank financing mechanism will allow developing countries to purchase COVID-19 vaccines collectively through the Covax facility. The new mechanism will allow those countries to buy additional doses on top of the subsidized ones they will already receive via Covax.

Using money from the World Bank and other development banks, the facility says it will make advanced purchases from vaccine manufacturers based on aggregated demand across countries. Under the World Bank financing arrangement, up to 430 million additional doses would be available for delivery between late 2021 and mid-2022 for the 92 countries that currently get their vaccine doses covered by donors.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3ifyHBm>

Guyana to decide on mandatory COVID-19 vaccination

Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony says the Government will make a decision about mandatory COVID-19 vaccination in due course. He said the Government is paying close attention to the evolution of the virus in order to ensure it adequately adjusts its vaccination response, as he noted that with the fast-spreading Delta variant, several governments around the world have moved to mandatory vaccination. Several private sector companies have instituted mandatory vaccination within their organisations, and Anthony said the Government is keeping a close watch as it explores other strategies to combat vaccine hesitancy.

Source: <https://bit.ly/379d2En>



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