

AUGUST 13, 2021

# VAX FACTS NEWS BULLETIN



## Covid-19 Vaccine Protests Erupt across the Caribbean

Caribbean governments all over the region are facing serious backlash from organized citizen groups, demanding their right to choose whether they want to be vaccinated or not. In Antigua and Barbuda, freedom fighters organized protests to make their views known even after local police denied their application for a local protest. Meanwhile in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Prime Minister Ralph Gonslaves was hit by a rock thrown by demonstrators during an anti-vaccine protest on the island. Bleeding profusely, he received emergency treatment for injuries to the head, and was later airlifted to a hospital in Barbados. In the meantime, in Barbados about 2,000 people took to the streets with similar concerns to their eastern Caribbean neighbours. Along with that, members of the Barbados Concerned Citizens Grouping, consisting of representatives from the business community, churches and grassroots organizations, all dressed in white marched in downtown Bridgetown, the capital, shouting anti-government slogans. Down south in Guyana, Opposition Leader Joseph Harmon has asked for an urgent parliamentary debate on what he says are coercive efforts to introduce a mandatory vaccination of citizens.








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## 5.5 Million Pfizer Vaccines for Caricom

The US Government has gifted the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with 5.5 million doses of Pfizer vaccines. This is the culmination of efforts initiated by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. the Honorable Keith Rowley, who as Chair of CARICOM, wrote to President Joseph Biden of the United States earlier this year requesting a supply of vaccines for the Community. President Biden subsequently announced that the US was donating a supply of vaccines to the region as part of its worldwide distribution of 80 million doses. US Vice President Kamala Harris also spoke with Prime Minister Rowley in June confirming the allocation to CARICOM. Fifteen CARICOM Member States will receive the Pfizer vaccines, with 1.5 million doses being allocated to Haiti and the other 4 million doses for distribution among 14 CARICOM countries. The donation from the White House also includes 3 million ancillary kits containing needles, syringes, diluent and other supplies which have already been received.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/37EZAbs>

### Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker : Top 5 Caribbean Countries as at August 12, 2021

COUNTRY		TOTAL DOSES GIVEN	FULLY VACCINATED
	Trinidad & Tobago	709,963	271,653
	Guyana	425,580	279,489
	Jamaica	369,960	238,475
	Suriname	267,988	191,609
	Belize	202,797	144,321

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

## Jamaica to receive 200,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine in days

Jamaica is set to receive a total of 600,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine in three tranches of 200,000 each starting next week Tuesday, August 17. This was confirmed by the chairman of the National Health Fund Howard Mitchell, in response to questions from the Jamaica Observer online. Speaking on behalf of the United States government, National Council Senior Director for the Western Hemisphere, Juan Gonzalez said “The Biden-Harris administration’s highest priority in the Americas today is managing and ending the (COVID-19) pandemic and contributing to equitable recovery.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/3CHGHmR>

## PAHO to procure COVID-19 vaccines for Latin America and the Caribbean

Taking action to expand access to the COVID-19 vaccines, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) will use its Revolving Fund to help countries in Latin America and the Caribbean procure enough vaccines to control transmission, PAHO Director Carissa F. Etienne said. “The region is still short of the doses needed to turn the tide of the pandemic,” she told reporters at a media briefing. “We need a significant influx of vaccines and a more equitable process for distributing them. With this in mind, PAHO is offering our Member States a new opportunity to access COVID-19 vaccines.” PAHO’s Revolving Fund will go “beyond the 20 percent COVAX offers,” Dr. Etienne explained, referring to COVAX’s commitment to procure vaccines for 20% of the region’s population—the most at-risk groups.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/3CKRlSW>

## Extra COVID-19 vaccine shot for people with weak immune systems

United States regulators say transplant recipients and others with severely weakened immune systems can get an extra dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to better protect them as the delta variant continues to surge. The late-night announcement Thursday August 12 by the Food and Drug Administration applies to several million people who are especially vulnerable because of organ transplants, certain cancers or other disorders. Several other countries, including France and Israel, have similar recommendations.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/3xKGlbG>



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