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VAX FACTS NEWS BULLETIN



PAHO launches platform to boost regional COVID-19 vaccine production

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Director Carissa Etienne says the severe shortage of COVID-19 vaccines in Latin America and the Caribbean is a “wake-up call” for increased regional production of vaccines and announced the start of a new platform to reach that goal. “This week, PAHO will launch a platform to boost regional vaccine manufacturing efforts, beginning with the first in a series of meetings to promote greater coordination across countries and to enlist partners from both the public and private sectors to turn this idea into reality,” Dr Etienne said at her weekly media briefing. Explaining the drive for the new platform, Dr. Etienne said that “limited production and unequal distribution of vaccines” compromise the region's pandemic response and “put public health at very high risk”. Reliance on imports makes Latin America and the Caribbean more vulnerable. “Our region imports 10 times more pharmaceuticals than we produce,” she added.

Source: https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/paho-launches-platform-to-boost-regional-covid-19-vaccine-production_229663








Caribbean
Vulnerable
Communities

Jamaica targets 800,000 jabs by September

Jamaica crossed the psychological hurdle of administering half a million doses of COVID-19 vaccines on Thursday (August 26), an important step in the journey towards the 65 per cent herd immunity of its population by March 2022. The development came 48 hours after the country scored another victory in delivering a record one-day total of 21,000 shots. Of the 500,605 overall vaccinations, 359,675 were first doses and 139,242 were second jabs. The remainder were one-shot Johnson & Johnson doses. A shipment of 200,000 doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca gifted by the Canadian government arrived on Thursday, stark validation of the Government's projection that the supply chain would increase sharply in August. Health and Wellness Minister Dr. Christopher Tufton said the ministry believes that the end-of-September target of 700,000-800,000 vaccinations would be within reach.

Source: <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20210827/vaccine-sprint>

Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker : Top 5 Caribbean Countries as at August 26, 2021

COUNTRY		FULLY VACCINATED	TOTAL DOSES GIVEN
	Trinidad & Tobago	498,016	879,807
	Guyana	301,369	455,209
	Suriname	198,729	319,815
	Jamaica	140,372	500,605
	Barbados	92,025	196,703

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



Barbados Gets Final Batch of Vaccines Under COVAX Facility

A senior official of the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) Tuesday (August 24) said that Barbados could achieve its target of 40 percent vaccination of its population against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic by the end of September and maintain a 60 percent immune population by 2022. Barbados received its third and final batch of 33,600 coronavirus AstraZeneca vaccines from the COVAX facility. PAHO/WHO representative Dr Yitades Gebre, said the island is one of the more positive stories in the Caribbean.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3gAe0hV>

Covid-19 Vaccine conspiracies put Jamaican sex workers at risk

The majority of Jamaica's 700 sex workers have no plans to take the COVID-19 vaccine, a worrying revelation that presents health ministry officials with grave concerns for a high-risk group that operates in the shadows. An informal survey found that 20 percent of sex workers have indicated a willingness to take the jab. However, it is unclear how many have actually received Covid-19 shots. Meanwhile the Sex Workers Association of Jamaica which represents male, female and transgender sex workers, is appealing for more resources and financing to hit the roads and aggressively campaign for vaccine compliance.

Source: <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20210827/vaccine-conspiracies-put-sex-workers-risk>

SVG Hoteliers launch COVID-19 vaccine awareness and education programme

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Hotel & Tourism Association in conjunction with the health authorities, has developed a programme which aims to increase awareness, acceptance and actual vaccination among Tourism and Hospitality workers. The programme was launched on Tuesday (August 24). Forty two participants were involved in two highly interactive sessions. Meanwhile, the association says it continues to work closely with the Covid-19 Task Force in its efforts to keep nationals and visitors updated, educated and safe.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3mAC8VL>

