

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

# VAX FACTS NEWS BULLETIN



## Mu variant in Jamaica, ministry suspends administering Pfizer vaccine

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton has confirmed that the Mu variant of COVID-19 is now in Jamaica. The minister made the announcement during yesterday's (September 09) virtual COVID conversations. He said some 26 of 90 samples tested and received on Thursday (September 09) confirmed its presence locally. Meanwhile, Dr. Tufton said he expects the arrival of at least one genome sequencing machine within the next two to three weeks. This, he said, will allow the country to test for variant strains without having to send samples to locations overseas. He also announced that after September 10, the ministry will suspend administering the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Dr Tufton said this is to ensure that the inventory of Pfizer vaccines that remain will guarantee second doses.

### Source:

[https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Mu\\_variant\\_in\\_Jamaica,\\_ministry\\_suspends\\_administering\\_Pfizer\\_vaccine](https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Mu_variant_in_Jamaica,_ministry_suspends_administering_Pfizer_vaccine)








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## OECS leaders told constitutions support mandatory vaccination laws

Leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have been told that there is “ample provision” in their constitutions to support mandatory vaccination laws as the sub-region continues the battle to curb the spread of COVID-19 that has infected hundreds of their citizens and killed a significant number of others since March last year. In addition, the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat, have been informed that there are corresponding jurisprudence and medical data to support the position of mandatory vaccination. The issue of mandatory vaccination has surfaced not only in the OECS countries but also in the wider Caribbean Community (Caricom) grouping where governments have been urging their nationals to be vaccinated as part of the efforts to curb the spread of the virus that has led to closure of borders, a crippling of economies and stringent policies such as curfews and states of emergencies (SOE).

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

### Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker : Top 5 Caribbean Countries as at September 9, 2021

COUNTRY		FULLY VACCINATED	TOTAL DOSES GIVEN
	Trinidad & Tobago	425,763	962,287
	Guyana	170,125	495,220
	Jamaica	152,743	606,206
	Suriname	151,580	361,815
	Barbados	95,816	213,075

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



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## 40,000 Students Have Received First Dose of Pfizer Vaccine

Jamaica's Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Fayval Williams, says the Covid-19 vaccine take-up by students is "going very well". Ms. Williams said she is optimistic that "we are going to get way more students vaccinated", as more school plants are added as vaccination sites. "We will be using our school nurses [to assist with the vaccination process] and we have almost 200 school nurses, so we are right now just planning the rollout of that," she informed. Ms. Williams said the Ministry is targeting a vaccination rate of at least 65 per cent to facilitate a resumption of face-to-face classes.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/3A50bQp>

## COVID-19 vaccine could be added to list of must-have jabs for Barbados school entry

Prime Minister Mia Mottley has hinted that the COVID-19 vaccine could be added to the list of mandatory vaccines children will need to attend school in Barbados. While reiterating the Government's stance that it would not be mandating adults to take the vaccine, she said students were required by law to receive vaccinations before they were accepted into schools. The Prime Minister said even as Government was targeting mid-October for a possible return to face-to-face classes, there needed to be a higher vaccination percentage among students. So far only one in every five children between the ages of 12 and 18 has been vaccinated.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/2XalO3m>

## PAHO urges pregnant women to get vaccinated against COVID

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says disruptions to maternal and newborn care have worsened in this second year of the Covid-19 pandemic. PAHO says more than 270,000 pregnant women have fallen ill with COVID-19 in the Americas and more than one per cent of them have died from the virus. The organization noted that the pandemic threatens to wipe away 20 years of hard-fought gains in the reduction of maternal deaths in the Caribbean and Latin America, that is why it is recommending that all pregnant women receive the COVID-19 vaccine after their first trimester, as well as those who are breastfeeding.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/3A1EnoF>

