

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

# VAX FACTS NEWS BULLETIN



## Antigua Implements Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate

The Antigua and Barbuda Government has given a September 20 deadline for all unvaccinated public sector workers to show proof of having been vaccinated against the novel coronavirus. The Gaston Browne-led Government says effective October 1, all unvaccinated public sector employees, inclusive of statutory corporations and companies of which the Government holds majority shares, shall be required to remain at home until proof of COVID-19 vaccination. In addition, those workers “shall not be paid a salary or wage for the period of non-compliance with the current policy” and that all officers and support staff of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force are required to be vaccinated, effective October 1. Meanwhile the Government says trade unions and employee associations shall be permitted to conduct educational awareness sessions via virtual and face-to-face engagements and that all COVID-19 protocols shall be strictly observed.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3Ck1YBZ>



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# Jamaica Suspends First Doses of Pfizer Vaccine until New Shipment Arrives

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton, says the first-dose administration of the Pfizer coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine will be suspended after Friday September 10. The suspension is to ensure that there is sufficient supply to administer the second dose to persons who will become due shortly. Children between the ages of 12 and 18 years have been prioritised to receive this brand of vaccine. "The reason for this approach is because we have not yet confirmed the arrival date of the second shipment of Pfizer vaccines from the United States (US)," Dr. Tufton said. "We're awaiting word from the United States [and] we are hoping that the confirmation date will not be long," he said, noting that the Ministry will resume administering first doses once an arrival date is established. The Ministry is reporting that 72,857 doses of the Pfizer vaccine remain of the 208,260 doses that arrived in the island on August 19.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/3kfrLF7>

## Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker : Top 5 Caribbean Countries as at September 16, 2021

COUNTRY	FULLY VACCINATED	TOTAL DOSES GIVEN
 Trinidad & Tobago	456,483	1,009,873
 Jamaica	214,971	699,544
 Guyana	175,037	512,067
 Suriname	158,505	374,184
 Barbados	96,629	219,138

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



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## Venezuela Gets First COVAX Shipment of COVID-19 Vaccines

Venezuela has received its first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines under the COVAX Facility to cover approximately 20 percent of the population. A shipment of 693,600 doses of the Chinese-made Sinovac, purchased using Venezuela's own resources and procured through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Revolving Fund – the procurement agent for COVAX for the Region of the Americas –, arrived at the Simon Bolivar International Airport on Tuesday. It is the first of a total of 12,068,000 doses that the country will receive via the COVAX mechanism.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/3nQZ9Ee>

## Spain begins covid19 vaccine donations to Caribbean

The Spanish Government has donated a total of 180,000 doses of the AstraZeneca covid19 vaccine to two Caricom countries – Jamaica and Suriname. On April 21, Spain announced it would donate 7.5 million doses of covid19 vaccines to Latin America and the Caribbean. In a press release, its Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said it was part of the "unequivocal commitment of the Government of Spain to universal access to the vaccine so that "no one gets left behind." The vaccines are being delivered through Covax. The Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) online covid19 vaccine delivery tracker says on Thursday, Jamaica will receive 100,800 doses and Suriname will get 79,200 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/3ly0vRD>

## Cuban scientists present results of Covid-19 vaccines to WHO

Cuban scientists on Thursday (September 16) presented details of the results of clinical trials of its Covid-19 vaccines to experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) for the process of international recognition. Experts from the Finlay Vaccines Institute made a virtual presentation of the clinical trials on the Soberana 02, Soberana Plus vaccines and the Soberana 01 vaccine candidate. Representatives from the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB) of Cuba also showed the results of the studies of the Abdala vaccine and the Mambisa vaccine candidate. WHO's recognition will facilitate the entry of these products into the international market once Cuban needs are met.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/3Ci8KrG>

