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VAX FACTS NEWS BULLETIN



Biden Administration Announces Changes to COVID-19 Travel Bans

On September 20, 2021, the White House announced that it will be revamping travel restrictions for international travelers entering the United States. These changes will take effect in early November, 2021. The new policy will replace the country-specific travel bans with a policy that applies to all individuals, regardless of country of origin or physical presence, based on vaccination status and COVID-19 testing. Travelers to the U.S. must prove that they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and also produce a negative COVID-19 test issued within three days of boarding a flight to the United States. According to the White House announcement, unvaccinated travelers may still enter the U.S., but must provide a negative COVID test taken within one day of boarding a flight to the U.S., and must show proof that they have purchased a viral test, to be taken after arrival. The CDC will also perform contact tracing, and will require airlines to collect contact information for all travelers to the U.S., so that anyone exposed to COVID-19 may be notified.

Source: <https://bit.ly/39Cd2y4>








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PAHO Laments Unequal Distribution Of COVID-19 Vaccines

President of the Pan American Health Organization's 59th Directing Council, Jamaica's Health Minister, Dr. Christopher Tufton, has lamented the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Addressing the opening of the 73rd Session of the Regional Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) of the Americas, Dr. Tufton pointed to the inequality in the distribution of vaccines internationally, with low-income countries at the bottom of the receiving end. "A disproportionate amount of the over five billion doses administered globally has gone to high-income countries. While some countries in our region have vaccinated over 50% of their population, others remain below 3%. More than a third of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are yet to vaccinate 20% of their populations," Dr. Tufton said.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3kAB6Ym>

Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker : Top 5 Caribbean Countries as at September 23, 2021

COUNTRY		FULLY VACCINATED	TOTAL DOSES GIVEN
	Trinidad & Tobago	473,097	1,037,412
	Jamaica	219,244	711,694
	Guyana	181,862	533,843
	Suriname	165,144	387,552
	Belize	107,915	293,681

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



CDC director endorses Pfizer Covid vaccine booster shot

The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has endorsed recommendations for a third dose of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine for certain at-risk groups, clearing the way for millions of Americans to get a booster. Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky signed off on the recommendations for a booster shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine after advisers approved them. She endorsed the recommendations but went further, also recommending a third dose for workers in high-risk settings and those in institutional settings.

Source: <https://nbcnews.to/3o6zOXm>

Mandatory vaccination will become inevitable — Jamaica's Prime Minister

While underscoring that he will not be forcing anyone to take the COVID-19 vaccine, Prime Minister Andrew Holness on Thursday (September 23) said mandatory vaccination will become unavoidable when a larger segment of the population becomes inoculated and demand that they should not be restricted by safety measures because some people refuse to take the jab.

"...As the number of persons vaccinated reaches a critical threshold it is going to become inevitable, because that population that are vaccinated will start to demand — as you are seeing the demands coming — that, 'Hey, we should not be held back in lockdowns and reduced gatherings; we should be allowed to go to restaurants and go to parties, move about, and go to churches because we are vaccinated. It is the unvaccinated who should remain under some sort of restrictions'," Holness said.

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

Europe prepared to help Caribbean acquire COVID-19 vaccines

A senior European Commission official says the European Union is more than prepared to help developing countries, including those in the Caribbean, get access to vaccines to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. "Until the whole world is vaccinated, we are under threat of COVID," said Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans. "We cannot afford to let the developing world wait endlessly for vaccines, we have to take that responsibility. The European Union is more than prepared to do that", Timmermans said

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



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