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VAX FACTS NEWS BULLETIN



Cuba launches commercial exports of COVID-19 vaccines

Cuba has started commercial exports of its homegrown COVID-19 vaccines, sending shipments of the three-dose Abdala vaccine to Vietnam and Venezuela. President Miguel Díaz-Canel announced the arrival in Vietnam on his Twitter feed recently. The official Cuba debate news website said the shipment included 900,000 doses purchased by Hanoi and 150,000 more donated by Cuba. Vietnam's President Nguyen Xuan Phuc visited Cuba last week and toured the laboratory that produces the vaccine, announcing an agreement to buy at least 5 million doses. Cuba's Centre of Genetic Immunology and Biotechnology also announced that initial shipments of the Abdala shots were sent to Venezuela last weekend. That country's vice president, Delcy Rodríguez, announced in June that Venezuela had agreed to buy \$12 million worth of the Cuban vaccine, though officials have declined to say how many doses were involved. Meanwhile another Cuban-developed COVID-19 vaccine is being produced in Iran.

Source: : <https://tt.loopnews.com/content/cuba-launches-commercial-exports-covid-19-vaccines>








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Jamaican Gov't to Introduce Digital COVID-19 Vaccination Card

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton, says the Jamaican Government is working on developing a digital coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination card, which should be available to Jamaicans within the next two to three months. Dr. Tufton said the Ministry is seeking to have the card modelled off best practices and standards seen in Canada, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States (US). He said the card will feature a QR code that will be “securely encrypted”, and persons will be able to print their QR Code or have it available digitally via short message service (SMS) or email. Dr. Tufton said it is expected that persons who already have a physical vaccination card will be transitioned to the digital format. He said the card will be critical in managing the vaccination process and provide Jamaicans with a universally accepted card, while reducing fraud.

Source: <https://jis.gov.jm/govt-to-introduce-digital-covid-19-vaccination-card/>

Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker : Top 5 Caribbean Countries as at September 30, 2021

COUNTRY		FULLY VACCINATED	TOTAL DOSES GIVEN
	Trinidad & Tobago	498,048	1,073,351
	Jamaica	253,566	755,782
	Guyana	185,972	543,180
	Suriname	172,220	401,242
	Belize	123,457	315,807

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



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Dominican Republic approaching vaccinating 70% of population

As of September 21, 57.2% of the Dominican Republic's target population has received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, while 68.6% have received the first. As of August 19, these figures stood at 54.6% and 67.1%, respectively. Between August 19 and September 21 second jabs increased by 2.6% while first doses inched up by 1.5%, as the country moves closure to the desired 70% of population vaccinated mark. The people in the Dominican Republic are optimistic that once the 70% milestone is reached, curfews will be eliminated and herd immunity achieved.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2YaaMLH>

PAHO: Haiti Needs Vaccines

With droves of Haitians showing up in the southern Bahamas, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has revealed that fewer than one percent of that country's citizens have been inoculated against COVID-19. Addressing the organisation's weekly webinar on COVID-19, Dr. Carissa Etienne, PAHO's Director, not only revealed the low percentage of COVID-19 inoculations in Haiti, but also said PAHO is working diligently with the Haitian government to increase allocations of the vaccine. "In Haiti, fewer than one percent of people have been protected so far," Dr. Etienne said. "We are on the ground in Haiti helping the country make the most of the vaccines it has on hand and working with the Haitian government and international partner NGOs to plan for additional allocations of vaccine supply in the coming months. Special attention is also focused on uptake of vaccines in the areas affected by the earthquake," she said.

Source: <http://www.tribune242.com/news/2021/sep/30/paho-haiti-needs-vaccines/>

Antiguan Union Threatens Industrial Action over Vaccine Mandate

The Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) say it is not "relenting its stance" on teachers being exempt from "mandatory" COVID-19 vaccination, despite staunch opposition from the government. In a statement, the union said communication had been sent to the Cabinet requesting a meeting to discuss the proposed exemption. Last week, Prime Minister Gaston Browne brushed aside moves by trade unions and other organisations to legally challenge his administration's vaccination policy.

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

