

OCTOBER 08, 2021

# VAX FACTS NEWS BULLETIN



## Jamaica forced to dump 55,000 doses as COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy persists

At midnight on September 30, the Jamaican government found itself having to do away with 55,000 expired doses of the Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine that had been donated by the United Kingdom on July 30. The wasting of the precious doses was a particularly bitter pill for Minister of Health and Wellness Christopher Tufton to swallow. He tweeted that there had been a last-minute rush on vaccination sites, with some centres remaining open for extended hours in order to use up as many doses as possible. Thus far, over 803,000 vaccines have been administered, with only 292,326 people being fully vaccinated, placing the island at the bottom of the region when it comes to the percentage of citizens who have completed their vaccination schedule, whether single- or double-dose (9.5 per cent). Also, thousands of people have not turned up for their second dose. Vaccination levels have been increasingly falling short of targets, despite the urgings of state agencies and the private sector. The government aims for 65 per cent of its target population to be fully vaccinated by March 2022. As of October 6, it had reached just over 15 per cent of that goal.

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








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## Trinidad & Tobago to donate AstraZeneca COVID Vaccines to Caribbean & Latin America

AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccines will be donated by Trinidad and Tobago to countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. The announcement was made by the Minister of Foreign and Caricom Affairs, Dr. Amery Browne, who said, "Trinidad and Tobago have made excellent progress toward sharing our excess AstraZeneca vaccines prior to expiry." He noted that the Foreign Affairs ministry is working closely with the Ministry of Health and approached nations in the Caribbean and Latin America region with offers of sharing AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines with them. He added that 2,500 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine were shared with the Bahamas, 3,000 doses with – St. Kitts and Nevis, and 4,500 doses with the Commonwealth of Dominica. He also noted that the country will be removed from the United Kingdom's COVID-19 travel Red List from October 11, 2021. This means fully vaccinated travellers to and from Trinidad and Tobago will now be able to enter the United Kingdom without quarantine.

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

### Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker : Top 5 Caribbean Countries as at October 07, 2021

COUNTRY		FULLY VACCINATED	TOTAL DOSES GIVEN
	Trinidad & Tobago	531,161	1,121,521
	Jamaica	296,928	809,234
	Guyana	215,553	579,761
	Suriname	177,577	412,588
	Belize	139,157	337,737

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



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## Saint Lucian Teachers Union oppose COVID-19 vaccine mandate

The head of the Saint Lucia Teachers Union in says the organization is closely monitoring the Government's mandatory vaccination position, which the trade union organization strongly opposes. Prime Minister Philip J Pierre has made it clear that his administration will not force vaccination on anyone; however, the Ministry of Education says it will consider all options to return classes to a physical environment. The union says teachers will not be bullied into taking the COVID-19 vaccine.

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

## Antigua to drop all COVID restrictions in 2022

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says Antigua and Barbuda will be entering 2022 with most, if not all of the measures put in place to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, removed, whether or not a significant number of people has been vaccinated. "I want to make a point here, too, that we are moving towards dropping the state of emergency, the curfews and so on and eliminate most of the restrictions as we can by the end of the year, the latest. Now, let's say if we only get 60 per cent of the population vaccinated, or 70 per cent and we decide to drop those restrictions, it means therefore that individuals would come exposed to those unvaccinated persons," Browne said. He argued that nationals were given sufficient time to get vaccinated to curb the spread of the virus that has so far killed 85 people and infected 3,503 others since March last year.

**Source:** <https://bit.ly/2YtL05q>

## SVG Government resolute on implementing vaccine policy says PM

The government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is resolute in the implementation of the vaccine policy that has been drafted, which provides the choice "for persons who are on the frontline to take the vaccine or have another job", Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said, last Sunday while giving a brief update on the progression of the matter. "I am seeking to persuade everybody, but government is not a continuing university seminar. A point comes when decisions have to be taken with certain choices," Gonsalves said.

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



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