

NOVEMBER 05, 2021

VAX FACTS NEWS BULLETIN



46 per cent of Latin America and Caribbean vaccinated

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is reporting that 1.2 billion doses of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines have, to date, been administered in member countries. Assistant Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa da Silva Jr. says consequent on this, 46 percent of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean are fully vaccinated. He noted that at least 32 countries have already reached the World Health Organization's (WHO) target of 40 percent vaccination coverage, adding that several more are on track to reach or surpass this figure by year-end. "This progress is encouraging but not surprising, thanks to our region's strong immunisation systems," Barbosa added. He was speaking during PAHO's COVID-19 digital media briefing on Wednesday (November 3). Barbosa said, however, that several regional countries are still experiencing challenges with their vaccination campaigns, noting that 19 remain below the 40 percent target. He advised that PAHO is working closely with these countries, among them Jamaica, Haiti, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Guatemala, which he pointed out "are still below 20 per cent coverage".

Source: <https://bit.ly/3CSb2yr>








Caribbean
Vulnerable
Communities

CARPHA launches campaign to promote reporting of vaccine side effects

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has launched a week-long social media campaign to promote the importance of reporting suspected side effects following coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination. CARPHA said the project is being undertaken by its Caribbean Regulatory System (CRS), in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). It said the weeklong event, which is the sixth annual “#MedSafetyWeek” social media campaign will focus on vaccines. “Medicines agencies from 64 countries will be encouraging healthcare professionals, national immunisation programme staff, as well as patients, their careers and families, to report problems experienced with vaccines, including COVID-19 shots. PAHO Sub-regional Programme Director in the Caribbean, Dean Chambliss, said this campaign comes at a critical moment when millions of people are vaccinated against COVID-19.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3wy8W4N>

Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker : Top 5 Caribbean Countries as at November 04, 2021

COUNTRY		FULLY VACCINATED	TOTAL DOSES GIVEN
	Trinidad & Tobago	610,852	1,236,684
	Jamaica	413,089	960,723
	Guyana	247,822	631,765
	Suriname	203,733	454,937
	Belize	144,453	344,463

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



Pfizer : Covid-19 pill reduces risk of hospitalization and death

Drugmaker Pfizer said Friday its experimental pill designed to fight coronavirus, reduced the risk of hospitalization and death for high-risk patients taking part in a trial of the drug. The company hopes it can eventually offer the pill, given in combination with an older antiviral drug called ritonavir, to people to take at home before they get sick enough to go to the hospital. A so-called interim analysis -- done before the trial was scheduled to end -- showed an 89% reduction in the risk of hospitalization or death from Covid-19 if patients got it soon enough, the company said.

Source: <https://cnn.it/3qc5rzQ>

St. Lucia reaches 20% fully vaccinated target

Saint Lucia reached the 20% target of fully vaccinated persons as of Monday October 11, 2021, accounting for 36,253 persons having received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. St. Lucian officials say while this seems far away from the desired 70% population immunity, it signifies progress – a step closer to achieving our goal. Meanwhile the Ministry of Health, Wellness and Elderly Affairs says it continues to note a higher percentage of hospitalizations and deaths in the unvaccinated. In light of this, it is encouraging persons to get vaccinated for the added protection from the COVID-19 virus. The ministry adds that COVID-19 vaccines combined with the public health recommendations provide the best protection from the deadly virus.

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

T&T sends Pfizer vaccines to Grenada

Trinidad and Tobago's Local Ministry says 2,000 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine were shipped out last Monday (November 1) to the island of Grenada. The Ministry says this follows a request from Grenada's Ministry of Health sent via the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. Meanwhile the Ministry added that Trinidad and Tobago is ready and willing to play its part in the regional collaborative approach to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, reminding that between May and June 2021 Trinidad and Tobago received a donation of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine from Grenada, which supported the twin island republic's vaccination effort.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3BW7Cd2>

