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VAX FACTS NEWS BULLETIN



PAHO: 5 Caribbean countries might miss 40% vaccination coverage target

The Pan American Health Organization says 55 percent of people in Latin America and the Caribbean are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 but there are still too many people who continue to remain unvaccinated in the region. PAHO Director Dr. Carissa Etienne during PAHO's weekly update said 20 countries in the region have yet to reach the WHO's year-end 45 percent vaccination target.

Dr. Etienne said Guatemala and several Caribbean islands including Haiti, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines remain far behind. She says at the current pace as many as six countries may not meet the 40 percent year-end target. Meanwhile PAHO's Assistant Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa said Haiti, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, Grenada and Guatemala are the six countries, at the rate they are today, won't reach the 40 percent vaccination target. In the meantime, PAHO says it's doing everything it can to accelerate vaccinations in the region noting that 1.6 million Covid-19 vaccine doses are being delivered this week to countries in the region.

Source: <https://bit.ly/339airO>








Caribbean
Vulnerable
Communities

France delays vaccine mandate for health workers in Caribbean

France has postponed implementing a COVID-19 vaccination mandate for health workers in Martinique and Guadeloupe, after the measure spurred widespread protests on the French territories in which police officers were injured and journalists attacked. The two Caribbean islands have been hit by unrest over the last week after the French government imposed tougher measures to curb the spread of the virus. Compulsory vaccinations for health workers, a measure already introduced on the French mainland, had fueled resentment among the islands' population. The French health ministry says the government has decided to postpone to December 31 "finalizing the implementation of the vaccine mandate" in Martinique and Guadeloupe. It had put those who refused inoculation on unpaid leave but now says it will give those suspended more time for individual "dialog" with their managers while still getting paid.

Source: <https://bayareane.ws/3lwHR7o>

Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker : Top 5 Caribbean Countries as at December 09, 2021

COUNTRY	FULLY VACCINATED	TOTAL DOSES GIVEN
 Trinidad & Tobago	652,152	1,349,102
 Jamaica	531,405	1,150,000
 Guyana	283,505	687,627
 Suriname	223,209	482,534
 Belize	195,230	412,002

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



Argentina Donates COVID-19 Vaccines to Barbados

The government of Argentina has donated 30,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to Barbados in an effort to help in the fight against the pandemic. The shipment arrived on Saturday (December 5). The donation was coordinated by the Argentine White Helmets, a humanitarian institution with an active presence in the region. Besides the 30,000 doses received by Barbados, donations of AstraZeneca vaccines have already been sent by Argentina to Mozambique, Vietnam, Angola, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica.

Source: <https://bit.ly/30dKmu2>

St Kitts And Nevis First to Exceed Covid-19 Vaccination Target in Eastern Caribbean

The Federation of St Kitts and Nevis is the first in the region to reach a vital vaccination milestone. As of now, over 72 percent of the adult population and over eight percent of the target population of children between 12 to 17 years are fully vaccinated. This exceeds the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s benchmark of ensuring 40 percent of a country's population is vaccinated. The high vaccination rate is an essential milestone for the Federation as the virus continues to wreak havoc in the health and economic sectors around the world, said the country's medical official Dr. Cameron Wilkinson.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3IPI9qn>

Pfizer says COVID booster offers protection against omicron

Pfizer said Wednesday (December 8) that a booster dose of its COVID-19 vaccine may offer important protection against the new omicron variant even though the initial two doses appear significantly less effective. Pfizer and its partner BioNTech said that while two doses may not be protective enough to prevent infection, lab tests showed a booster increased by 25-fold people's levels of virus-fighting antibodies. Blood samples taken a month after a booster showed people harboured levels of omicron-neutralising antibodies that were similar to amounts proven protective against earlier variants after two doses.

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

