

COVID-19 Situation Update - 150

18 February 2022

This situation update is on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) reported cases, deaths and related vaccination status, Globally, Regionally, for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, French Territories, and the United Kingdom Overseas Territories.



Reduced public health measures contributed to deadly COVID-19 surge in the Americas, PAHO Director says

Washington D.C. February 16, 2022 (PAHO) – Complacency around mask wearing, travel, and indoor gatherings created a perfect opportunity for the new Omicron variant to spread rapidly throughout the region and increase deaths, alerted PAHO Director, Carissa F. Etienne, with many places remaining “just as they were before.”

“Reduced public health measures were insufficient to reduce the scale of this wave. And now we’re dealing with the consequence: a rise in infections is driving a surge in deaths,” she said at a media briefing today.

While still very high, COVID-19 infections declined by 31% this week, and deaths continued to rise by 5.6%.

“Undoubtedly, Omicron overtook us,” the Director said. “Every time infections surge, there is a heavy toll for our families and communities,” with peaks in cases followed by peaks in deaths three weeks later.

“COVID-19 is a preventable disease. And right now, we’re losing far too many lives,” she added. “As Omicron arrived, we didn’t use all the tools we had developed to slow the spread and prevent infections.”

More than half of deaths in the latest surge occurred in people over the age of 65 but many others occurred among those yet to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Unvaccinated people of all ages still fill up hospitals and ICU beds.

Region of the Americas

144,954,080

cases

2,599,230

deaths in

56

countries, areas, or territories

1,663,328,537

total vaccine doses administered

Global

418,650,474

cases

5,856,224

deaths in

236

countries, areas, or territories

10,279,668,555

total vaccine doses administered

“Omicron has shown that the vaccines we have at hand can protect most of us from severe illness and death,” Dr. Etienne said.

To ensure more equitable access, PAHO’s Revolving Fund has now delivered 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in coordination with COVAX.

The PAHO Director thanked donors for contributing 30% of the 100-million dose milestone and urged countries ... [read more](#)

COVID-19 Situation

Incidence and Testing

The situation in all countries and territories (hitherto referred to as countries) follows the trend from last few weeks wherein the peak in the current Omicron wave has been reached and cases are declining. However, Dominica is one country that bucks the trend and is currently showing an increasing 7 day moving average incidence and test positivity rate. On the other hand, declines in a few countries are not as steep in others. Important among them are Barbados and Grenada. Barbados continues to report a positivity rate akin to 1 of every 5 people tested is positive. With the opening of schools, an uptick in cases could be expected in the subsequent weeks. In Grenada, the test positivity rates and the incidence rates have plateaued to a lower but steady level which is a bit worrying. However, the number of people hospitalized or deaths reported from that country are low, which is an encouraging sign. On the other hand, Montserrat has reported no new cases of COVID-19 in the whole of February.

The continuously high demand for testing among all countries is evident and judicious use of rapid antigen tests (RDTs) is of paramount importance to alleviate the pressure on laboratories and to move towards a long term testing strategy as countries continue to reopen and relieve public health and social measures. Especially, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados and Saint Lucia need to reconsider and use RDTs as a confirmatory diagnosis with no need of parallel testing with rt-PCR for those who test positive on RDTs. This would go a long way in providing more rapid turn around of definitive results to patients for care and decrease the workload of laboratories such that they could also focus on diagnosis of other diseases of public health importance.

Information from Guadeloupe shows that near 100% of all samples sequenced showed only the Omicron variant, showing almost a complete overtake of delta variant in that department. Information from Martinique shows a similar trend. Information from other countries is patchy at best but increasingly more and more cases sequenced are Omicron variant.

Hospitalizations and Deaths

Number of people hospitalized has started declining in all countries including the French departments of Guadeloupe and Martinique, where the trend wasn't that pronounced last week. In Barbados and Guadeloupe, deaths rose this week but in all other countries there was a decline.

Vaccination

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (0.3% of total population per week) had an increased rate of second dose uptake. Antigua & Barbuda is another where the second dose uptake was 0.5% of the total population. Given its already high coverage of >61%, this is a healthy sign and shows that the country is on track to meet the 70% coverage target by June-2022. However, total vaccine doses delivered in all other countries have showed a decline this week compared to the week prior to it. At this rate, some countries might not be able to fully vaccinate 40% of its total population by the middle of this year, especially Grenada, French Guiana and Saint Lucia.



Anguilla

Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
137
↓ -6.8%

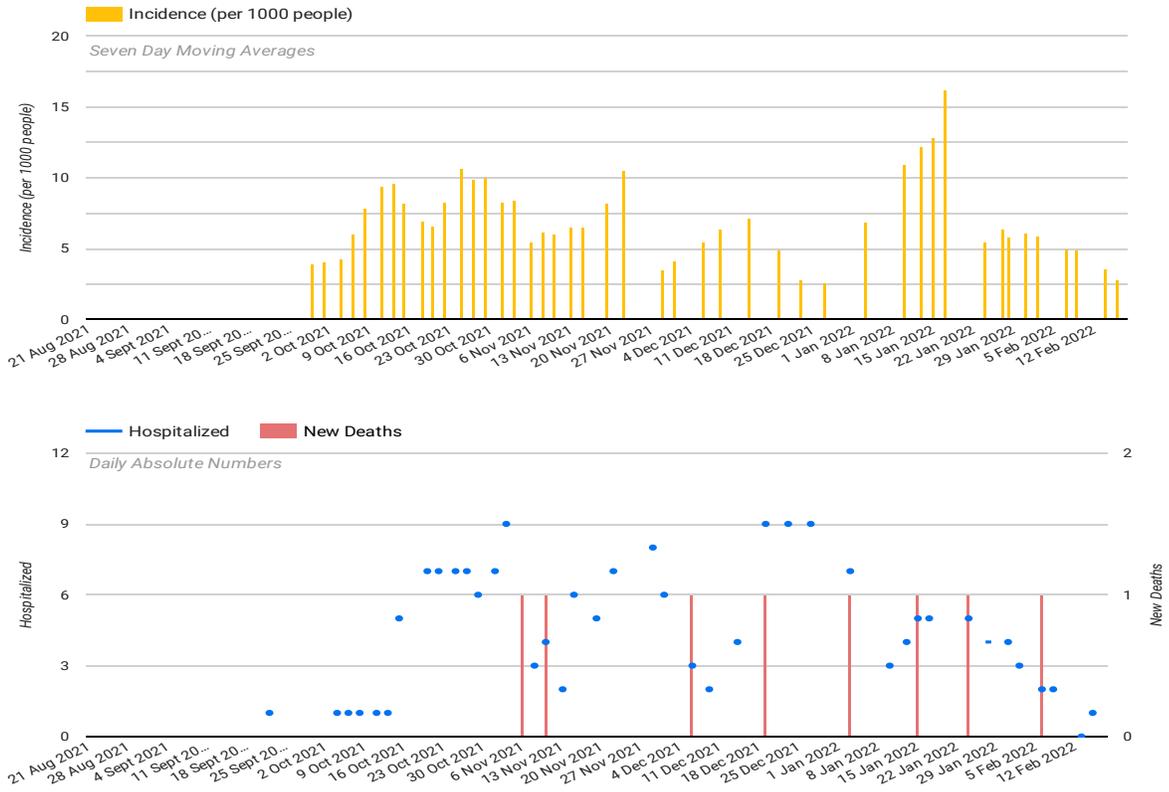
Tests
No data
No data

Deaths
1
0.0%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
67.3%
↑ 0.2%

2nd Dose / Fully
61.6%
↑ 0.2%



Antigua and Barbuda



Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
69
↓ -85.6%

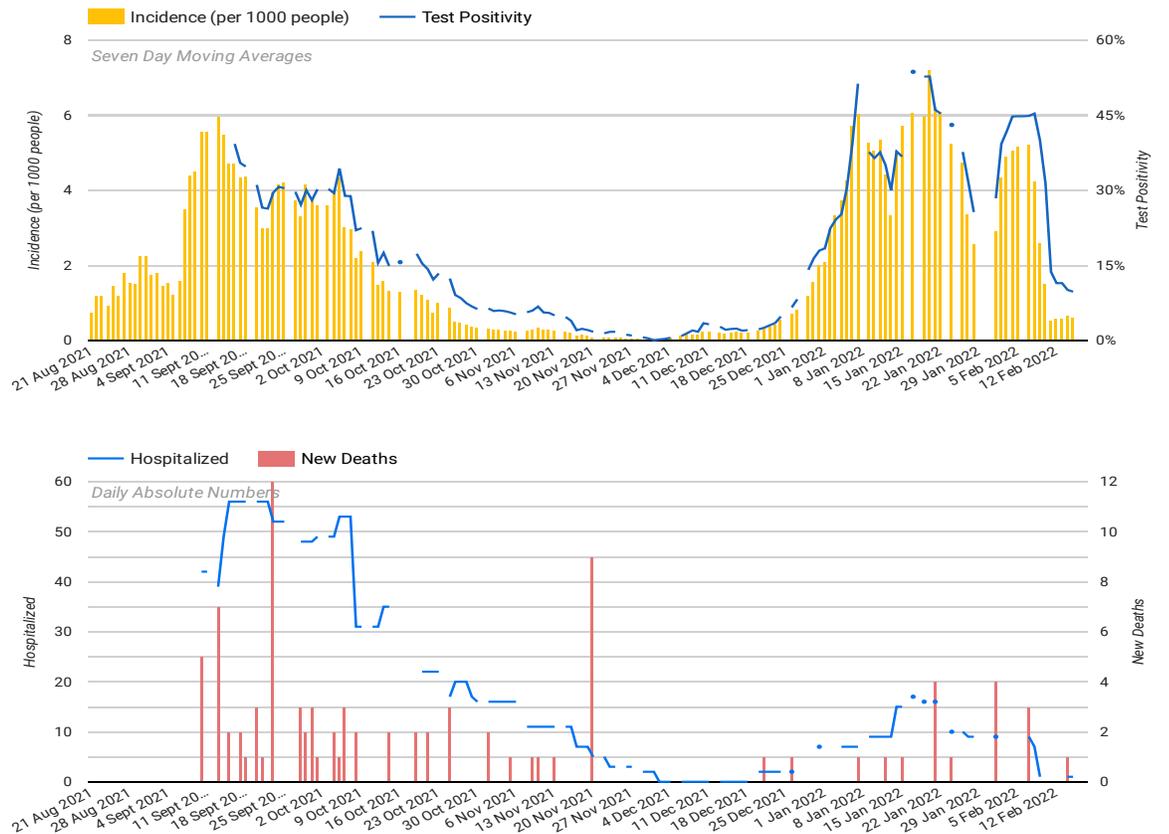
Tests
712
↓ -32.5%

Deaths
1
↓ -66.7%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
63.7%
↑ 0.2%

2nd Dose / Fully
61.1%
↑ 0.5%



Barbados



Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
2,432
↓ -38.8%

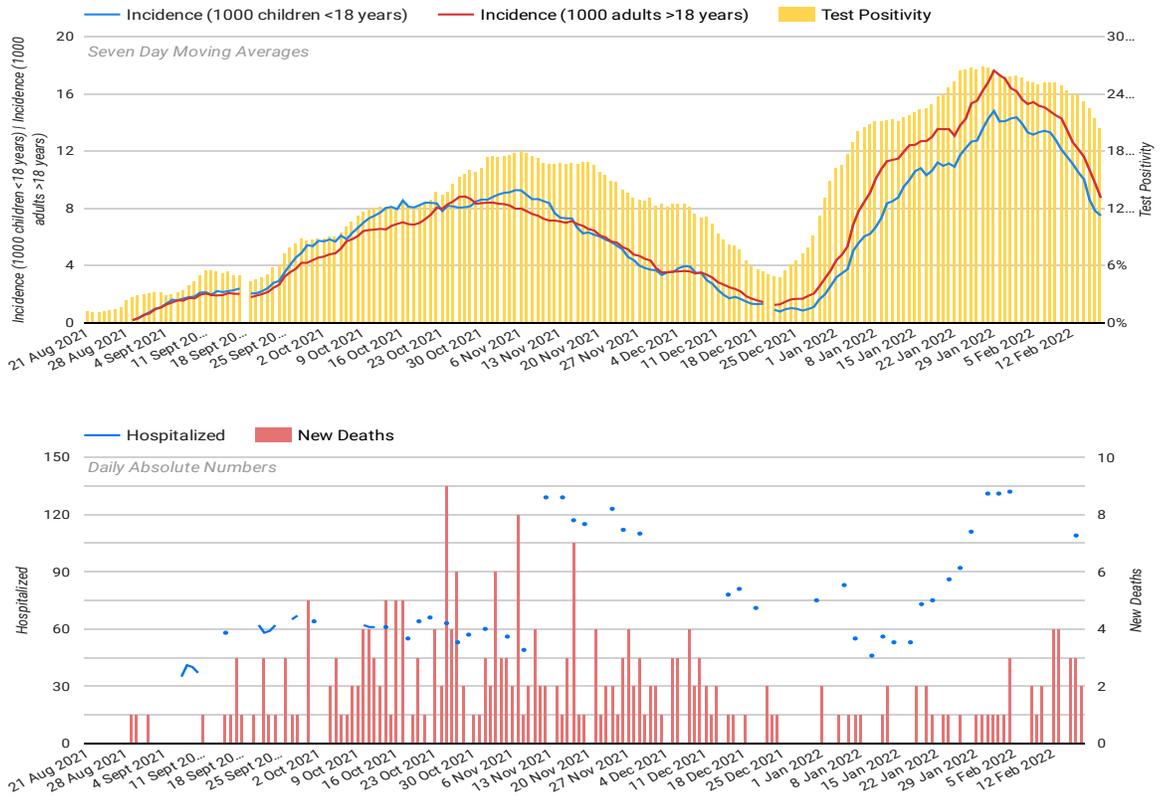
Tests
11,947
↓ -25.2%

Deaths
16
↑ 100.0%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
55.5%
↑ 0.1%

2nd Dose / Fully
51.7%
↑ 0.2%



British Virgin Islands



Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
122
No data

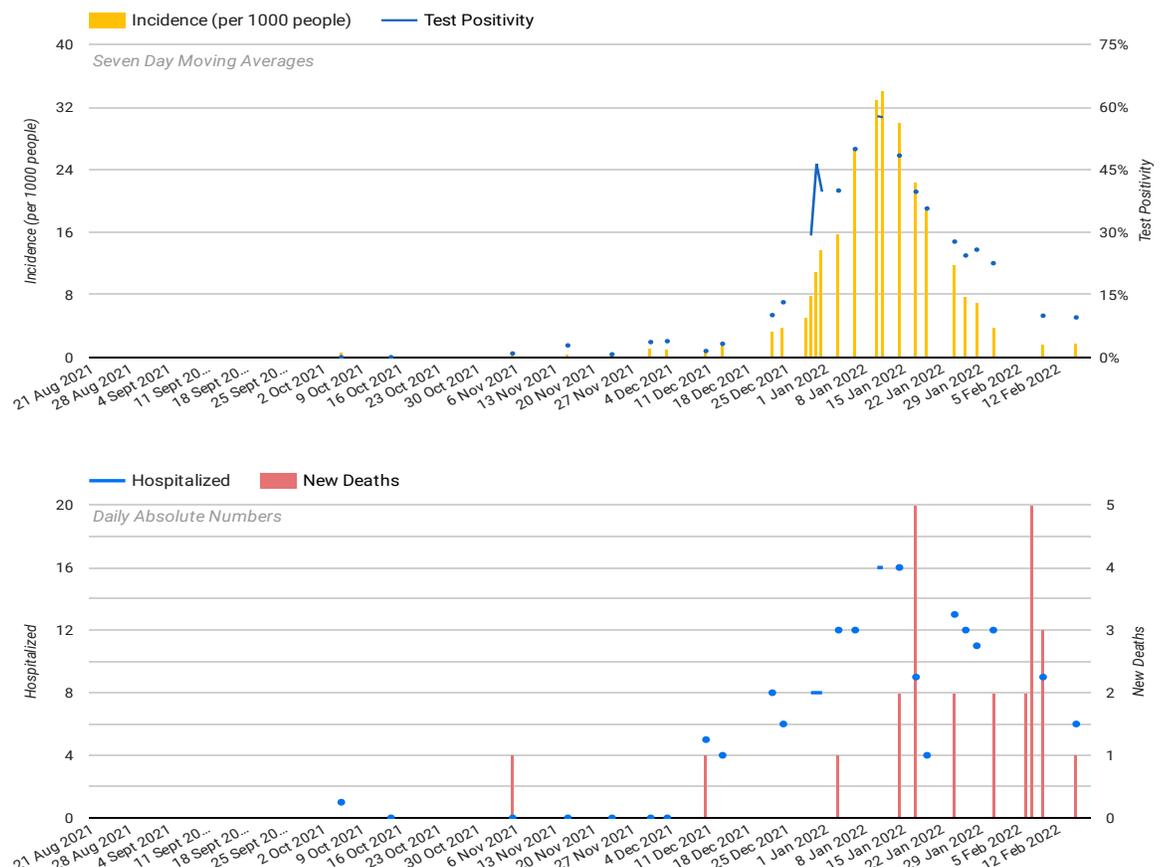
Tests
1,272
No data

Deaths
4
↓ -42.9%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
62.2%
↑ 0.3%

2nd Dose / Fully
56.9%
↑ 0.2%



Dominica



Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
394
↑ 0.8%

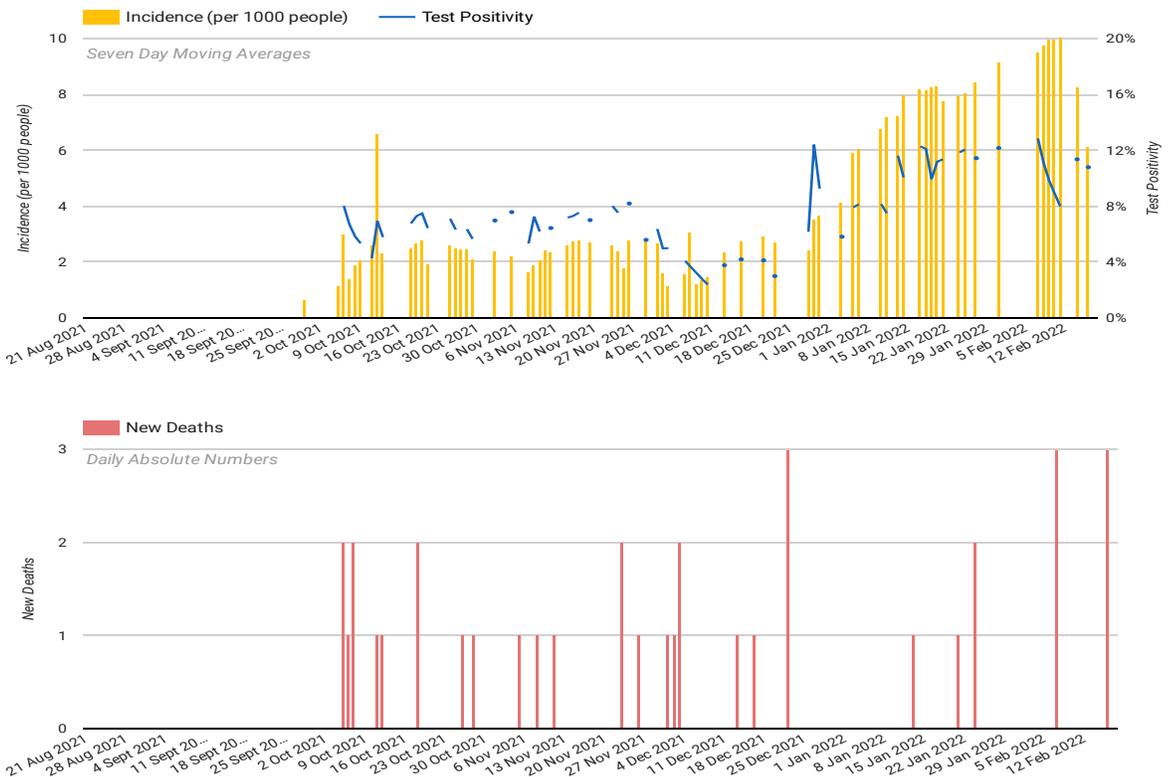
Tests
4,089
↓ -44.1%

Deaths
3
0.0%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
44.4%
↑ 0.1%

2nd Dose / Fully
40.7%
↑ 0.2%



French Guiana, France



Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
250
↓ -56.9%

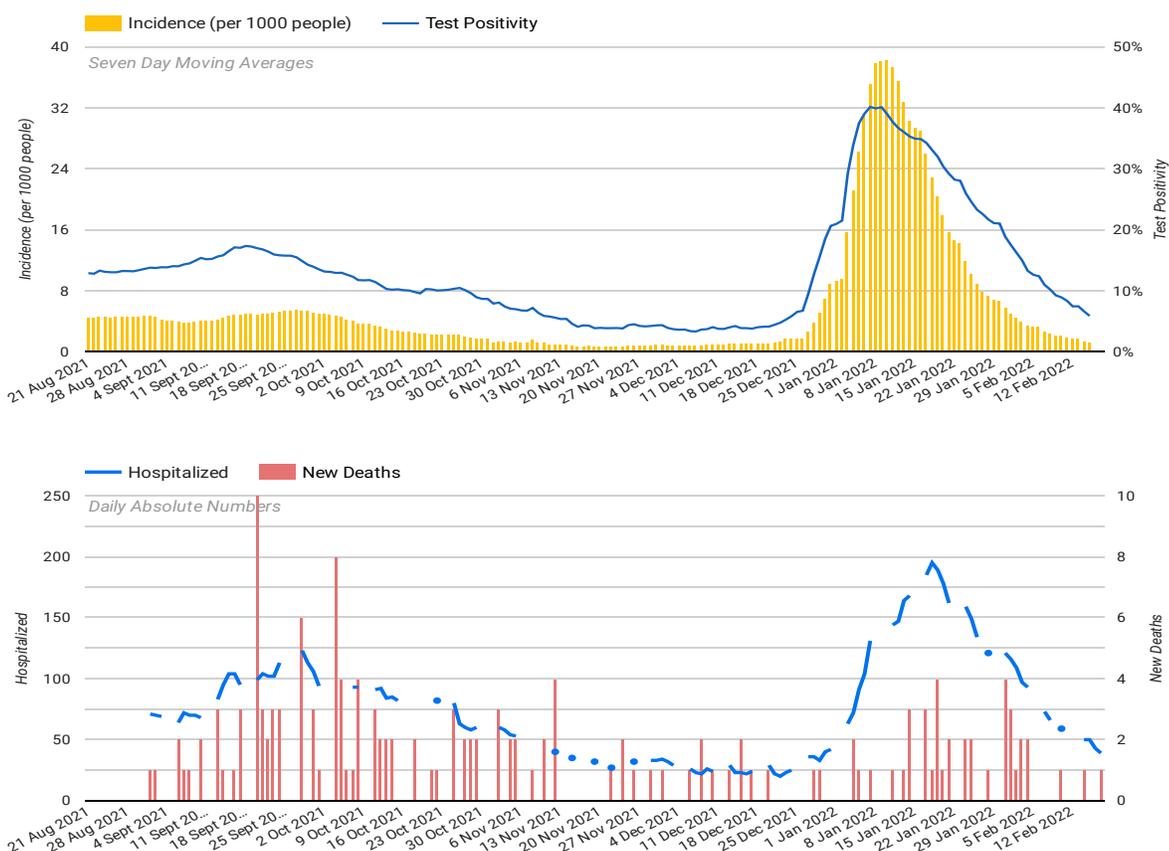
Tests
5,241
↓ -19.1%

Deaths
2
↓ -33.3%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
29.8%
↑ 0.1%

2nd Dose / Fully
26.5%
↑ 0.2%





Grenada

Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
319
↓ -19.8%

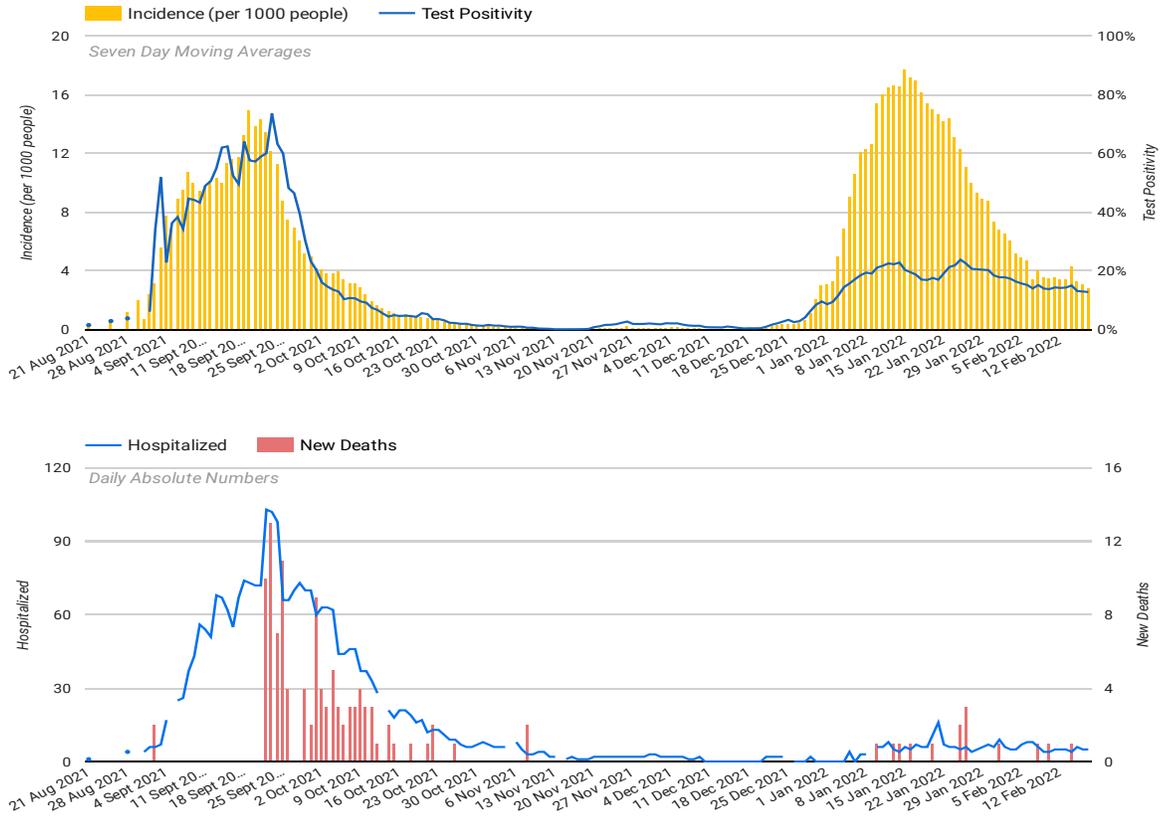
Tests
2,498
↓ -13.6%

Deaths
1
↓ -50.0%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
38.0%
↑ 0.1%

2nd Dose / Fully
33.1%
↑ 0.2%



Guadeloupe



Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
4,292
↓ -26.5%

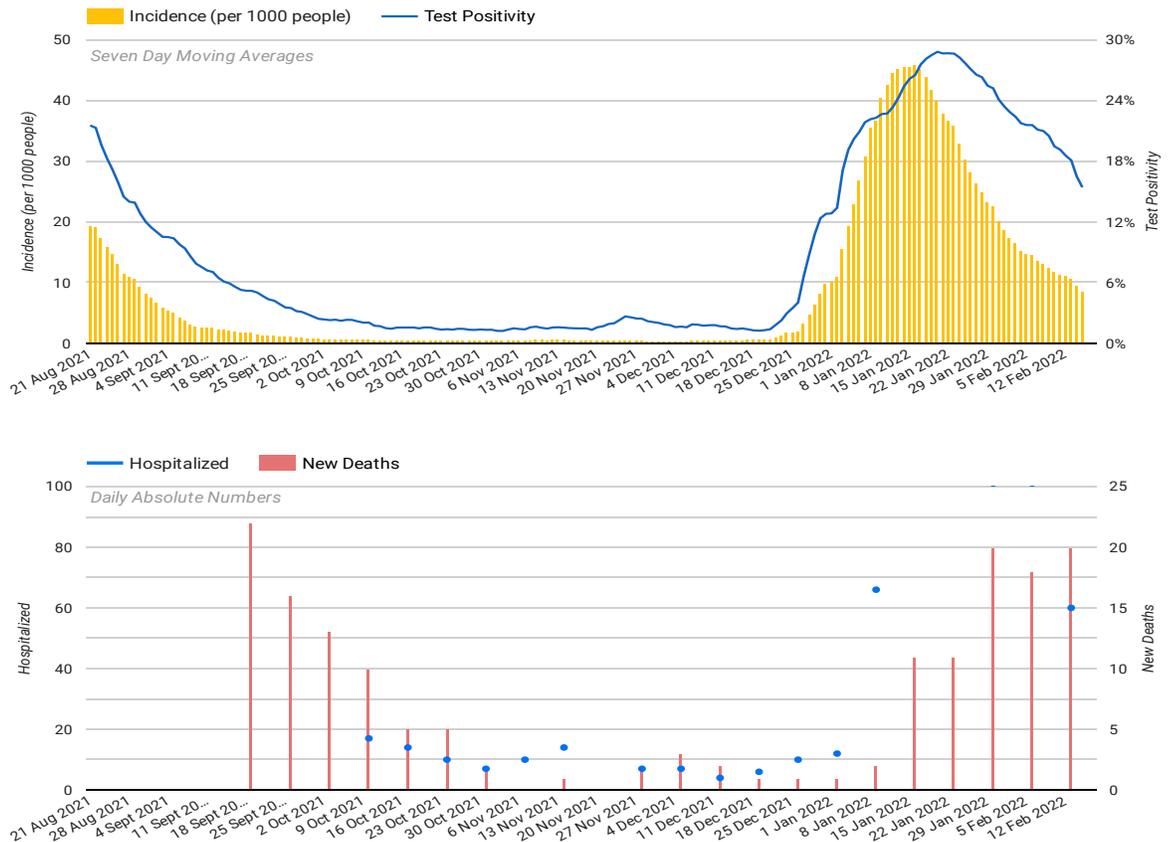
Tests
23,712
↓ -12.4%

Deaths
20
↑ 11.1%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
36.9%
↑ 0.2%

2nd Dose / Fully
35.0%
↑ 0.2%





Martinique

Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
6,381
↑ 20.5%

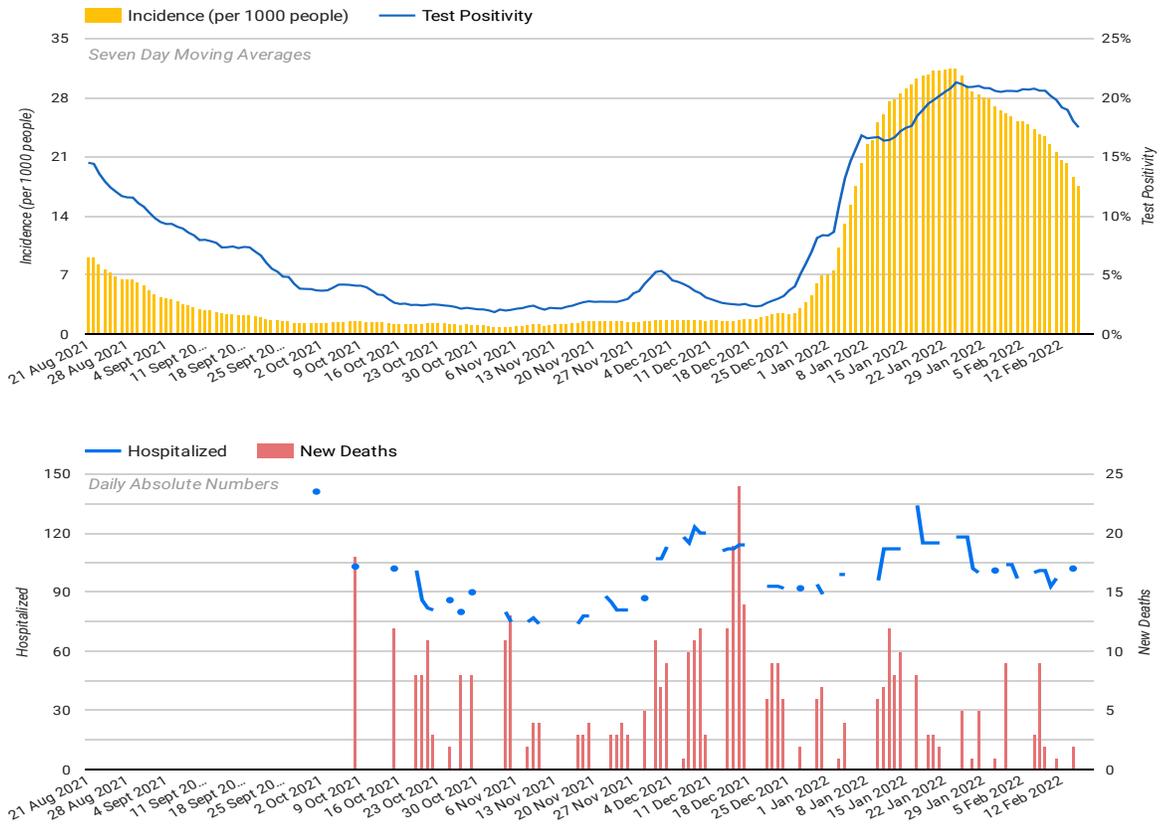
Tests
No data
No data

Deaths
14
↑ 16.7%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
39.6%
↑ 0.1%

2nd Dose / Fully
35.5%
↑ 0.2%



Montserrat



Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
0
N/A

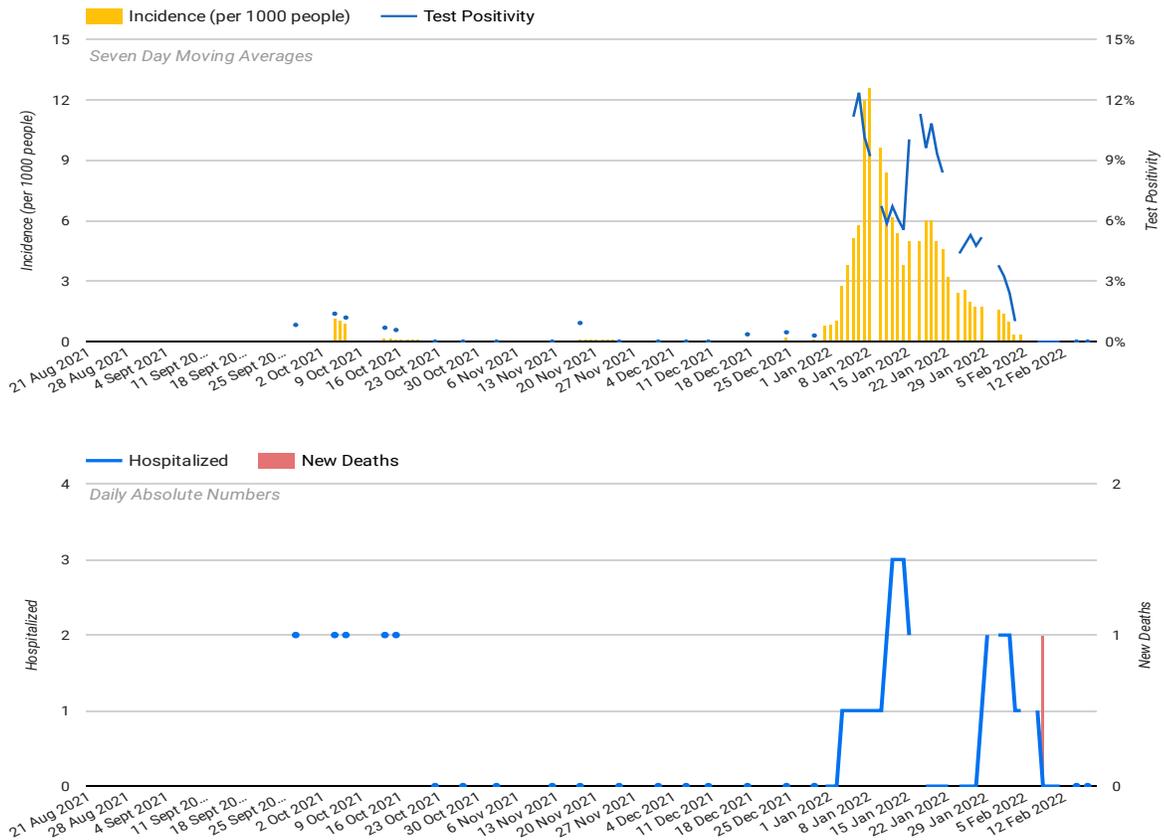
Tests
151
↑ 6.3%

Deaths
0
↓ -100.0%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
37.6%
↑ 0.8%

2nd Dose / Fully
34.9%
↑ 1.4%





St. Lucia

Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
553
↑ 34.5%

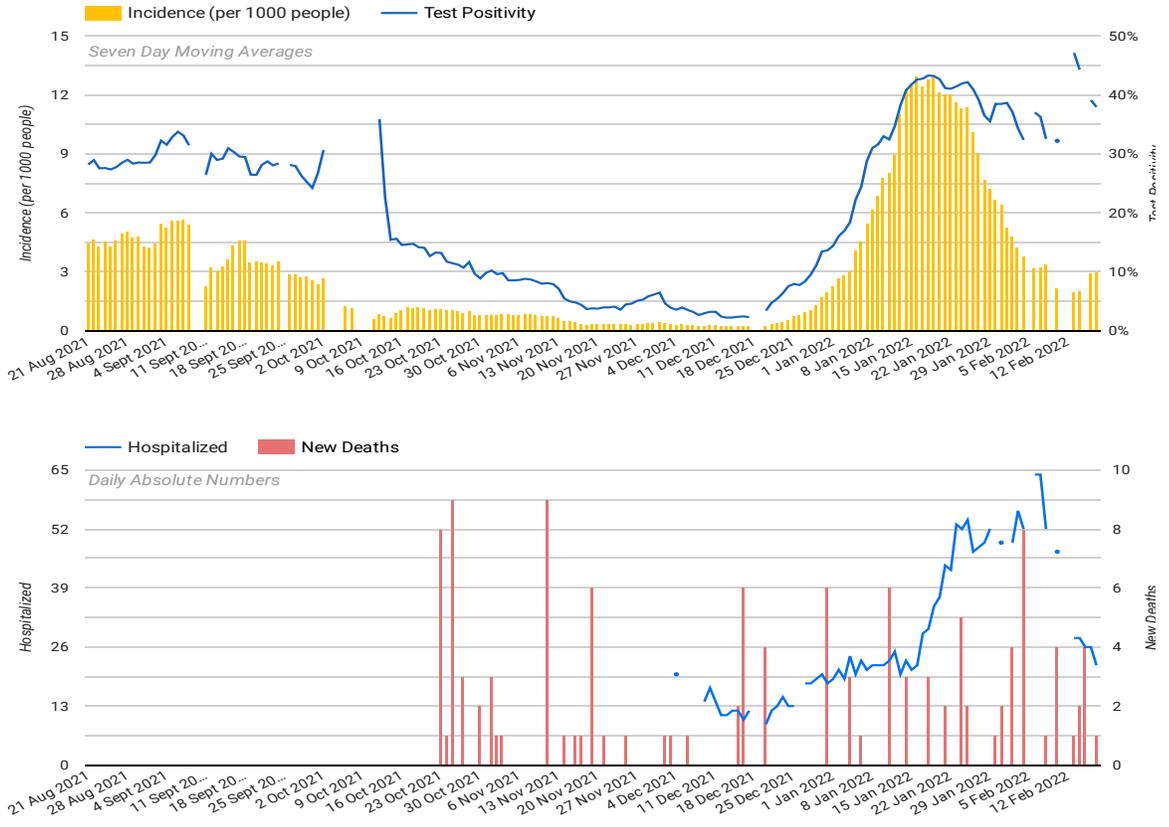
Tests
1,457
↑ 14.2%

Deaths
8
↓ -38.5%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
31.3%
↑ 0.1%

2nd Dose / Fully
28.2%
↑ 0.2%



St. Kitts & Nevis



Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
15
↓ -46.4%

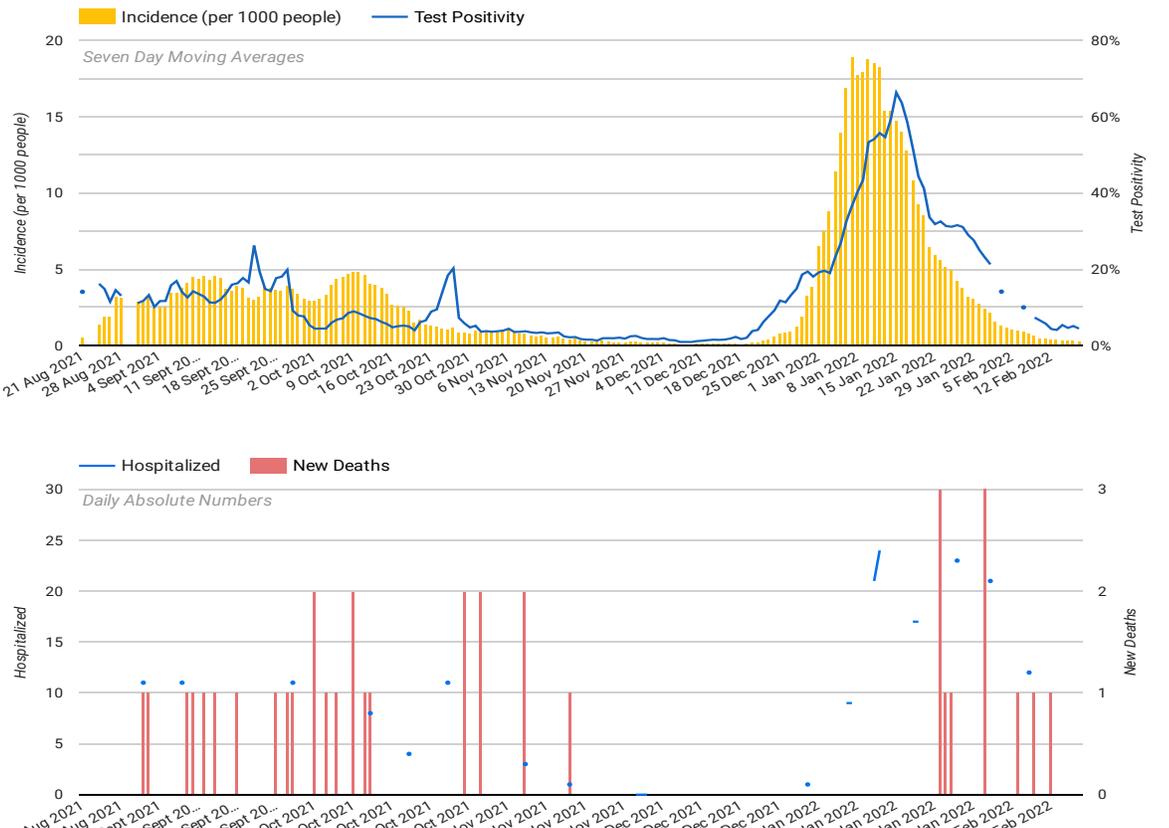
Tests
337
↓ -21.1%

Deaths
1
↓ -50.0%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
58.1%
↑ 0.2%

2nd Dose / Fully
49.0%
↑ 0.1%





St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Last 7 Days
Change compared to previous week

Cases
101
↑ 53.0%

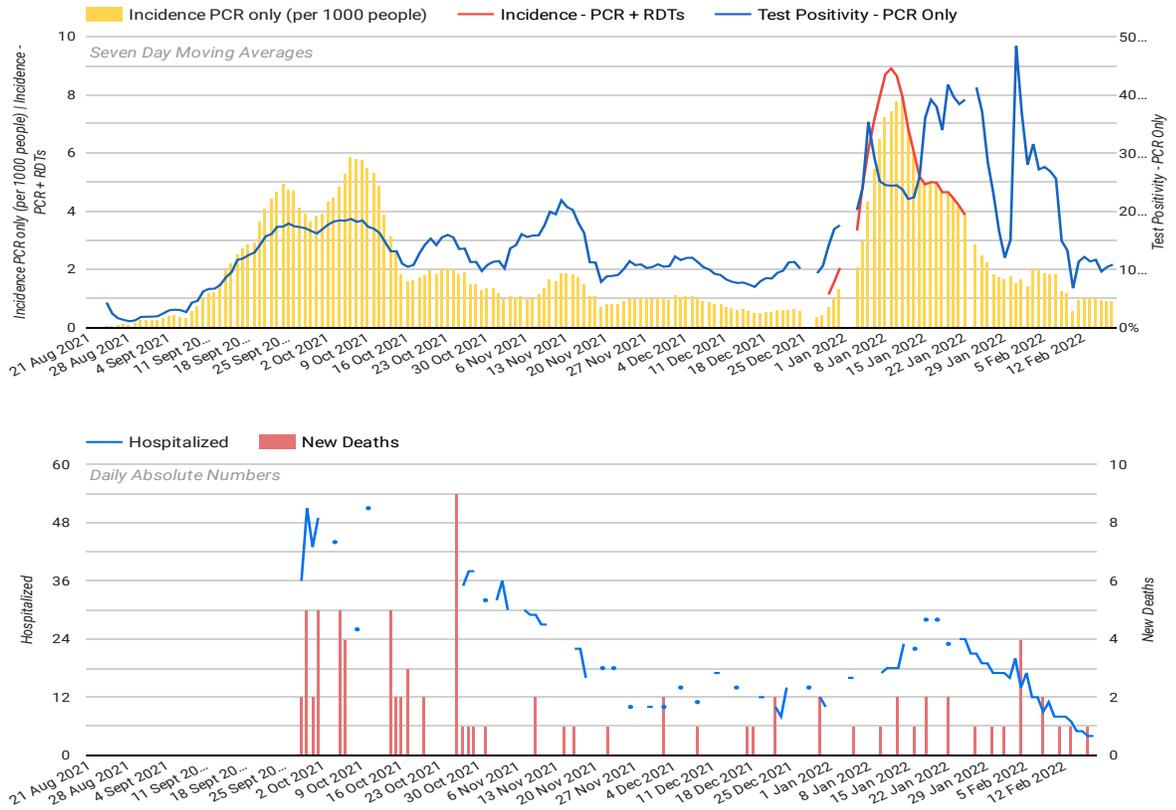
Tests
934
↓ -4.5%

Deaths
3
↓ -50.0%

Vaccination Coverage

1st Dose
31.6%
↑ 0.2%

2nd Dose / Fully
26.1%
↑ 0.3%



Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, French Territories and United Kingdom Overseas Territories

COUNTRY	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	TOTAL # OF TESTS	FULLY VACCINATED	STATUS OF SCHOOLS	MASKS MANDATORY	COVID-19 WEB ADDRESS AND HOTLINE
ANGUILLA	2,506	9		9,500	Face to face	Yes	https://beatcovid19.ai/ (264) 476-7627
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	7,400	135		60,963	Hybrid - both face to face and online	Yes	https://ab.gov.ag/detail_page.php?page=42 (268) 462-6843
BARBADOS	53,253	307	574,219	148,787	Face to face effective 21 February 2022	Yes	https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/covid-19/ (246) 536-4500
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	6,050	62		17,307	Face to face	Yes	https://bvi.gov.vg/covid-19 (284) 852-7650
DOMINICA	10,752	57	161,409	29,400	Online	Yes	http://dominica.gov.dm/corona (767) 448-2151
FRENCH GUIANA	77,414	386		85,716		-	
GRENADA	13,452	214		37,269	Face to face	Yes	https://covid19.gov.gd/ (473) 458-4787 / (473) 538-4787
GUADELOUPE	118,177	889		148,725		-	https://www.guadeloupe.ars.sante.fr/
MARTINIQUE	107,144	859		140,381		-	https://www.martinique.ars.sante.fr/
MONTSERRAT	163	2		1,711	Face to face	Yes	https://www.gov.ms/covid-19/
SAINT BARTHELEMY	3,633	4				-	
ST KITTS & NEVIS	5,511	40		26,141	Face to face from 24 January	Yes	https://www.covid19.gov.kn/
SAINT LUCIA	22,426	267		51,945	Face to face	Yes	https://www.covid19response.lc/
SAINT MARTIN	9,732	44				-	https://www.stmartinweek.fr/
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	8,468	103	97,677	28,798	Hybrid - both face to face and online	Yes	http://health.gov.vc/health/index.php/c (784) 534-4325

Table 1: COVID-19 and vaccination status in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, French Territories and United Kingdom Overseas Territories. *Disclaimer:* Data is updated by 5:00PM each day and there could be delays in reporting. Any discrepancies from national data figures will be edited on the next issue.

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Washington D.C. 17 February 2022 (PAHO) – Today, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) kicks off its anniversary campaign to celebrate 120 years of active work promoting health and wellbeing throughout the Americas, with a calendar of events set to catalyze dialogue around the region’s pressing health challenges.

Founded in 1902 under the guiding principle that health is not a privilege but a fundamental human right, PAHO has worked tirelessly over the past 120 years to combat disease, lengthen life and to promote the physical and mental health of all people in the Americas, leaving no one behind.

“We have reached our 120th anniversary during some of the most challenging times the region, and the world, have ever seen a COVID-19 pandemic, the likes of which we have not experienced for a century, and one which has laid bare some of our most striking health inequalities,” PAHO Director Carissa F. Etienne said.

“As we begin to look towards rebuilding and recovery, never before has PAHO’s leadership been more crucial and more relevant,” she added.

The 120th Anniversary campaign aims to spur efforts to champion pro-equity strategies for universal health access and coverage, and to promote the urgent need

for robust health systems that are sufficiently ready and resourced to meet current and future health challenges.

A full set of events is planned, starting with a virtual dialogue on “The interdependency between health, social protection and economy” in March 2022.

High-level discussions will also be held on issues such as equity and gender and expanding medical manufacturing capacity in the region, highlighting the longstanding collaboration between PAHO and its Member States.

In November, PAHO will bring together senior officials from leading tech organizations and health experts to discuss how to harness technology and innovation for health using a digital- and data-driven approach to recovery and rebuilding.

The 120th Anniversary campaign will also include a dedicated website and promotional products that can be used by partners to mark the anniversary throughout the year.

PAHO was founded as the International Sanitary Bureau on 2 December 1902 to address the spread of infectious diseases during a time of rapid maritime transport expansion. It was renamed the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in 1923, and subsequently the Pan American Health Organization in 1958. PAHO is both the World Health Organization’s Regional Office for the Americas, and the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System.

Throughout its 120-year history, PAHO has helped the region overcome significant health challenges while promoting a vision of health as central to development, national security, trade, and social welfare.

PAHO has led the Americas in becoming the first region in the world to eradicate smallpox and poliomyelitis, and to eliminate the indigenous transmission of measles and rubella, and neonatal tetanus.

[Read more...](#)

[Link to previous Situation Updates](#)



www.paho.org/coronavirus



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