



# HEALTH SYSTEMS RESILIENCE: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic

June 16, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. (EDT)

[Registration Link Zoom](#)

## Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted health, lives and livelihoods world-wide, and has generated a social and economic crisis characterized by mass unemployment, increased levels of impoverishment, and exacerbation of longstanding inequities in health. As COVID-19 vaccines are deployed globally, a progressive transition from pandemic response to recovery will require renewed focus on building sustainable, resilient health systems, informed by the COVID-19 response.

Resilience, a system's ability to adjust its activity to retain its basic functionality when challenges, failures, and environmental changes occur, is a defining property of many complex systems. Health system resilience refers to the ability to absorb disturbances, respond and recover with the timely provision of needed services. It is the capacity of all stakeholders in the health to prepare for and effectively respond to crises, adapt lessons learned, reorganize, and transform if conditions require it. It is an attribute of a well performing health systems moving towards the achievement of Universal access to health and universal health coverage (Universal Health), and a prerequisite for preparedness and response against future global public health emergencies.

This PAHO/WHO, the Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development (OECD), and The World Bank webinar will examine how health systems globally have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, exploring actions to build health systems resilience in a manner that will improve capacity in preparedness and response against future pandemics, while moving towards our overarching goal of ensuring Universal Health.

## Agenda

### Moderation and Introduction:



**Amalia Del Riego**

Chief, Health Services and Access Unit,  
PAHO/WHO

### Panelists:



**Health Systems Response and Resilience:**

Experiences and Lessons from the OECD

**Francesca Colombo**

Head of the Health Division,  
OECD



**Resilience in Health Systems:**

A perspective from The World Bank

**Zara Shubber**

Team Leader, Health Systems Resilience,  
The World Bank



**Strategy for Health Systems Resilience in the Americas**

**James Fitzgerald**

Director, Health Systems and Services,  
PAHO/WHO

### Discussion

**Languages:** The session will be in English and Spanish, with simultaneous translation to both languages.