

## Bolivia and the SARS COV-2 Coronavirus Pandemic

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Bolivia is a country located in the heart of South America. It has a population of 11,633,371 inhabitants distributed on 1,098,581 square kilometers. The gross domestic product per capita is \$ 3,823, with approximately 35% (4 million) are below the poverty line and 17% in extreme poverty. The infant mortality rate is 51 per 1000 live births. On education, 65% complete high school level. On health, Bolivia has 1.65 doctors per 1000 inhabitants, 1.28 beds per 1000 inhabitants, 190 intensive care specialists, and 430 intensive care beds. The country invests 4.51% of its gross domestic product in health, equivalent to 1,434 million dollars a year.

On December 31, 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission (China) notified a cluster of pneumonia cases in the city. The cause is then determined to be a coronavirus. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared a COVID 19 Pandemic.

On February 2, 2020, the Bolivian government established an Emergency Operations Committee was, with the inclusion of WHO and PAHO officials. A clinical protocol was approved to monitor unusual respiratory events. The reason for making this decision was the lack of medical technology, both for diagnosis and treatment. Initially, with an installed capacity of a few thousand PCR tests throughout Bolivia, for diagnosis. Nasal swab tests were started as people manifested symptoms. On March 10, 2020, the first two cases of infection by the COVID-19 pandemic were confirmed in people who returned from Italy.

On March 12, the government declared a sanitary emergency due to COVID-19 and adopted the first measures. The “rigid” lockdown prevented the health system from collapsing due to insufficient capacity in terms of hospital and, particularly, intensive care beds. The same occurred in June 2020. The fatality rate (deaths compared to confirmed cases) is 4%, and the recovery rate is 54%. The lockdown was extended until May 10, 2020. Then, the Bolivian government implemented a “dynamic lockdown strategy” that was in effect until August 31, 2020.

The maximum peak of infection in 2020 occurred on July 18, with 2,036 infected cases. The highest number of deaths occurred on September 7, 2020, with 1656 deaths. The second wave began in mid-December 2020, and reached by January 21, 2021, 2,655 positive cases. The infection rate per 100,000 inhabitants is 14, with a death rate of 85 per 100,000 inhabitants. As of 01/21/2121, the cumulative number of cases infected by Coronavirus SARS Cov-2 is around 200,000 cases and approximately 10,000 deaths.

On January 13, 2021, the Government of Bolivia signed the contract for the purchase of 5 million AztraZeneca/Oxford vaccines. The Serum Institute of India will be in charge of providing it. In addition, the Sputnik-V vaccine was acquired to reach 100% of the population.

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