

Rising inflation and a new wave of Covid-19 dominates current affairs in Latin America

Despite having slowed down its growth moderately in the previous month, inflation is once again accelerating in Latin America. Its impact on fuel and food prices is causing widespread social unrest in the region. The number of positive cases of Covid-19 also rose again but has not translated into higher numbers of hospitalizations or deaths. The situation has led several countries to resume sanitary measures such as the obligation to wear masks in certain circumstances.

In the political arena, the president of Peru, Pedro Castillo, has been left without firm support in the Legislative after announcing his disaffiliation from the party that brought him to power. A complicated position also shared by the president of Ecuador after the National Assembly was on the verge of remove him from office in the context of the indigenous strike that lasted 18 days.

The members of Petro's cabinet in Colombia are gradually becoming known, while the peso continues its devaluation against the dollar. Also, the Chilean currency does the same, where the text of the new constitution that will be soon voted in a referendum is already prepared.

Instability continues to dominate politics in Argentina due to differences between the president and vice-president. In addition, a day of protests against the government has been called. Meanwhile, in Brazil, political polarisation worsens in the run-up to the presidential elections, with Lula da Silva leading the polls.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador met with his US counterpart Joe Biden, calling for the regularisation of migrant workers in the neighbouring country. Finally, the Dominican Republic's economy is resilient despite the context, growing by 5.6% in the first five months of the year.



The president of Peru, Pedro Castillo, is the butt of new investigations for alleged crimes of a criminal organization, influence peddling, and aggravated collusion. In addition, the president announced his dissociation from the party that brought him to power, leaving him without firm support in the legislature. Economic growth projections are being adjusted downwards due to inflation, as a result of a strike carried out by various transport unions. The fourth wave of coronavirus infection officially arrives in the country, so the use of face masks in public spaces is obligatory once again.

The Ecuadorian government and the social movements began the round-table discussions established after the national strike, which lasted 18 days and was led by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador. The economic impact of the mobilizations has left a negative balance of USD 1 billion in losses, mainly affecting the private sector with around USD 800 million. Besides, the National Assembly tried to impeach President Guillermo Lasso, but the necessary votes were not reached. These events took place in the midst of the sixth wave of Covid-19 infections.

In Colombia, the ministers who will make up the cabinet of the elected president Gustavo Petro are beginning to be announced, with a high female presence. José Antonio Ocampo will hold the strategic finance portfolio. Meanwhile, the Colombian peso continues to devalue against the dollar, exceeding COP \$4,500 per USD. This trend is reflected in inflation, which is once again rising sharply, reaching the maximum in the last 18 years. The country is going through a new wave of Covid-19 and is forcing the authorities to rethink the current sanitary measures.

Argentina's president Alberto Fernández continues to lose support, both in Congress and within his cabinet. Cristina Fernandez has influenced decision-making and her pressure has led to the resignation of the finance minister, who has been replaced by Silvina Batakis, who is close to the vice-president. This change has not prevented the country from continuing to comply with the agreements it has with the IMF, which entail a path of austerity. On Independence Day, demonstrations were held against the government and Covid-19 cases increase again.

Chile already has the final text of the new constitution, which will be put to a plebiscite vote on 4 September. It would be one of the most extensive in the world and, despite the support given by Boric, the polls reflect rejection by the population. The Chilean peso is devaluing against the dollar and inflation continues to rise. The government has announced new measures to help families with the rising cost of living. The country is facing heavy rains that have collapsed traffic and there is an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases.

The Dominican Republic's economy is resilient, growing by 5.6% in the first five months of 2022. In addition, GDP increased by 12.3% in 2021 and by 5% over previous levels in pandemic. The International Monetary Fund positively assessed the expansionary economic policy carried out by the Central Bank. Joel Santos has been appointed acting Minister of the Presidency to replace Lisandro Macarrulla and tourism is expected to generate USD 8 billion by 2022.



Political polarisation is worsening in Brazil and recently a Workers' Party militant was murdered by a Bolsonaro supporter. Meanwhile, ahead of the presidential elections, polls continue to show a significant advantage for Lula da Silva over the current president, both in the first round and in the second. Inflation continues to rise, reaching 10.06% in 2021, and according to forecasts, in 2022 and 2023 it is expected to exceed the established inflation targets. The number of people living in poverty and the number of infections and deaths from the coronavirus are also on the rise.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador met with Joe Biden in Washington D.C. to discuss issues such as migration and to evaluate measures to contain inflation, which reached 7.99% in June. The president called on the US government to regularise the status of migrants who have been working in the neighbouring country for years. Mexico began negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom and Covid-19 cases are on the rise again.



Peru

POLITICAL CONTEXT

The Public Prosecutor's Office announced an official investigation against President Pedro Castillo for alleged crimes of criminal organisation, influence peddling and aggravated collusion. According to the prosecutor's hypothesis, the president is allegedly implicated in acts of corruption involving a former minister, a businessman and a person close to the president's entourage.

In the midst of these investigations, Castillo announced his dissociation from the party that brought him to power: Peru Libre. The main reason was the confrontation of proposals between the Executive and the party's bench, as well as his distance from the party's leader, Vladimir Cerrón. This decision leaves the president even more alone in the legislature, as the party's bench would no longer support his administration.

Meanwhile, Congress has begun to discuss and draft a series of proposals for constitutional reform. These include a return to bicameralism, changes in the relationship between the executive and the legislature, presidential vacancy and the way in which authorities in autonomous constitutional bodies are appointed. The aim is to implement these measures without consulting the population and in the shortest possible time.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Economic growth projections are diluted by rising domestic prices and the absence of effective macroeconomic policies. On the one hand, the Central Reserve Bank readjusted its GDP growth outlook to 3.1% for 2022, down 0.3% from its March projection. The main reason for this readjustment would be the mining conflicts in the south of the country registered in June.

On the other hand, the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) indicated that inflation at the national level accumulated an annual increase of 9.32% in June, which represents a maximum value in 10 years. Similarly, in Lima, annual inflation rose to 8.81% last month, the highest in 25 years.

SOCIAL CONTEXT

Various heavy haulage transport unions in the agricultural sector and interprovincial transit carried out a national strike in the last week of June. The main reason for this conflict was the increase in fuel prices at the national level despite the economic measures implemented by the government. Also, the hauliers demanded the regulation of tolls and greater benefits for the mining sector. An estimated 400,000 trucks were paralysed during the strike.

Despite the magnitude of the mobilisations, there were no food shortages in the different national markets or road blockades. The protests came to an end after the government announced agreements with the unions and the reduction of fuel prices through economic measures.

COVID-19 CONTEXT

At the end of June, the Minister of Health, Jorge López, confirmed that the country is in a fourth wave of Covid-19, as a result of the accelerated increase in infections in the previous weeks. The mutations with the greatest presence in the cases detected are BA.4 and BA.5 of the Omicron variant. According to health authorities, there could be more than 2 million cases during this fourth wave, but mortality and hospitalisations would not reach past levels. As a result, the use of face masks in public places has been made mandatory again.

Amid the increase in coronavirus cases, the Ministry of Health reported 29 cases of monkeypox in 12 districts of Metropolitan Lima, including Surco, Jesús María, Pueblo Libre, Cercado de Lima, San Martín de Porres, Los Olivos, Santa Anita, San Miguel, San Borja, Surquillo, Rímac, San Isidro and 01 de Lima Provincias, in Barranca. Those infected, mostly young people between 20 and 39 years of age, are reportedly stable and there is no worrying projection of cases in the short term.



Ecuador

POLITICAL CONTEXT

After 18 days of mobilizations led by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), the country is relatively calm. Dialogue between the government and social movements has begun and will last 90 days. However, tensions are still high after President Guillermo Lasso accused indigenous organisations of receiving funds from drug trafficking. Added to this is the Assembly's failed attempt to remove the president from office, which, despite having a majority of votes, failed to get the necessary votes.

Changes were also made in the cabinet: Pablo Arosemena is the new Minister of Economy, Gabriela Aguilera took over the Housing portfolio, Darío Herrera is in charge of Transport and Public Works, Andrea Montalvo is the Secretary of Higher Education, José Ruales is in charge of Health and Alfredo Ortega now presides over the IESS.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The strike resulted in the loss of around USD 1 billion for Ecuador. Some USD 800 million corresponds to the private sector, while USD 200 million to the public sector. Among the industries most affected were livestock, with USD 30 million in losses, poultry with USD 70 million and floriculture with USD 30 million. Tourism, which continued to be weakened by the pandemic, reported a decline of USD 2-5 million per day. In the oil sector, 952 wells are now operational and production is growing, representing a 77% recovery, with 190 wells still to be activated.

The cost of the basic family basket of 75 products reached USD 751.04 in June 2022, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), while inflation reached 4.23%.

SOCIAL CONTEXT

Insecurity is still one of the main concerns of Ecuadorians due to the increase in common and organised crime. For example, in Quito, robberies increased by 29% during the first four months of 2022 compared to 2021.

The former mayor of Guayaquil and Social Christian leader Jaime Nebot proposed that Ecuador become a federal state through a constitutional reform, a proposal that has generated multiple debates. Luis Pachala resigned from the Secretariat of Management and Development of Peoples and Nationalities, an institution created by President Lasso. The former indigenous official left his position after the mobilisations and his replacement is not yet known. Meanwhile, the indigenous leader and president of CONAIE, Leonidas Iza, attended the hearing of his trial for paralysis of public service, but it was declared unsuccessful and his reinstatement is awaited.

COVID-19 CONTEXT

The Covid-19 pandemic is once again worrying the authorities. Two months after eliminating the obligation to wear masks, there has been an upsurge in infections and the country is experiencing its sixth wave.

Ecuador was registering an average of 62 new infections per day but this has risen to 566, reaching a peak at the end of June when an average of 1,579 infections were recorded. The Ministry of Health assures that one of the indicators showing that the pandemic is being controlled is the low level of hospital occupancy, at 6% in hospital beds and 8% in intensive care for Covid-19. So far, 6.5 million people have received the third dose, while 87.28% of the population has received the first dose and 83.67% the second one. More than 759,000 people have already received the fourth dose.



Colombia

POLITICAL CONTEXT

President-elect Gustavo Petro has begun to choose who will be in charge of the different state portfolios during his government. Although several appointments have yet to be made, the most eagerly awaited appointment has fallen to José Antonio Ocampo, who will head the Ministry of Finance. He will be responsible for bringing to fruition the tax reform, Petro's main campaign proposal, through which he hopes to raise up to 75 billion pesos.

Carolina Corcho has been appointed health minister, which has generated criticism for being the person who will promote a modification of the health system that would entail the disappearance of health service companies, as well as reforming the pension system.

The appointments announced by Petro have generated interest due to the high number of women, fulfilling the announced intention of having a government with a "woman's face".

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Since the presidential elections, the dollar has continued to rise against the Colombian peso, surpassing COP \$4,500 per USD unit.

This trend is reflected in the inflation registered in June, with the highest value in the last 18 years. According to the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), it stood at 9.67%, affecting the cost of living of Colombians and continuing to rise. The cost of restaurants, hotels and food has had an important influence on the consumer price index, as has the cost of basic services such as gas, electricity and water.

In the next few days, the Ministry of Mines and Energy will announce an adjustment plan in which it will propose measures to react to the increase in fuel prices.

SOCIAL CONTEXT

The National Liberation Army (ELN) had shown its support for the now-elected president Gustavo Petro, stating that if he won, they would be willing to negotiate in order to reach a peace agreement. It should be recalled that in 2016 the Colombian government signed an agreement with the FARC, which was submitted to a plebiscite and rejected. Even today it continues to receive strong criticism, as certain social sectors consider that it has not yielded the expected results.

During the campaign, Petro expressed his special interest in continuing to comply with the existing peace agreement, as well as reaching a new one with the ELN. The Catholic Church, which has already participated in several dialogues of this nature in the country, has indicated its willingness to contribute to the negotiations necessary for the armed group to finally lay down its arms (after five previous failed attempts).

COVID-19 CONTEXT

The Minister of Health, Fernando Ruiz, indicated that in view of the increase in Covid-19 cases, it is essential to return to self-care and once again consider the use of face masks, especially in enclosed and crowded spaces. He also invited citizens to continue with vaccination, completing their vaccination schedules and receiving the booster doses required to deal with the virus.

Omicron is the most prevalent variant of the virus in the country and has a high infection rate. It is estimated that this new peak will continue throughout the month of July.



Argentina

POLITICAL CONTEXT

President Alberto Fernandez finds himself increasingly without backing, losing support both in Congress and within his own cabinet. The economic crisis that Argentina is going through and the constant criticism by Cristina Fernández of the management of the finance minister, Martín Guzmán, have led to the resignation of the official who has been in charge of this state portfolio since December 2019. The opposition, led by the vice-president, had indicated that it wanted a minister with a different vision and a new economic policy. This infighting put pressure on the president, who appointed Silvina Batakis as Guzmán's successor. She is an economist and a former minister of the province of Buenos Aires, as well as being close to Cristina Fernández, which is believed to have influenced her appointment.

Batakis will have to manage the economy and deal with inflation that is running at 60 per cent. She will also have to honour the agreement reached with the IMF, which gave the country some breathing space. On the other hand, Argentina is seeking to join the BRICS group, made up of countries with developing economies whose main support comes from China and Brazil, which would allow it to access financing programmes of up to USD 30 billion.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The country made a new disbursement, this time of USD 1.286 billion, to the International Monetary Fund as part of its debt with the organisation. On the other hand, after being sworn in, the new Minister of Finance announced at a press conference the measures that will be adopted by the institution to counteract the economic crisis that the country is going through. Among the decisions announced, she confirmed that progress will be made with the segmentation of tariffs and subsidies, according to the income level of citizens, in order to reduce spending. She also announced that a re-evaluation of real estate appraisals will be carried out in order to unify criteria throughout the country.

The minister informed that a process focused on fiscal austerity will be initiated, prohibiting the hiring of personnel in public institutions. The aim of these measures would be to reach the targets set with the IMF, including a primary deficit of 2.5% of GDP.

SOCIAL CONTEXT

Thousands of people were called through social networks to participate in a day of demonstrations against the government. Dubbed "El Argentinazo" (The Argentinazo), the protest specifically targeted the administration of Alberto Fernández and Cristina de Kirchner. It took place on 9 July, coinciding with the commemoration of Argentina's Independence Day.

Demonstrators gathered at the Obelisk in Buenos Aires and then moved to the Casa Rosada, carrying signs and shouting slogans such as "Argentina without Cristina". Protests also took place in various provinces and cities such as Rosario, La Plata and Mendoza. Meanwhile, the political crisis that the country is going through due to the rift between the president and the vice-president is occurring at the same time that the vice president is facing the final stage of the trial against her for alleged irregularities in the awarding of contracts.

COVID-19 CONTEXT

The number of Covid-19 cases in the country continues to rise, with an increase of 17.27% in the last few days compared to the previous month. Possible causes include the onset of the winter season and the relaxation of some health measures.

The authorities have warned that, although the fourth wave had its highest peak at the end of May, in the last few weeks the presence of more contagious variants of Omicron has been identified, so it is necessary to be alert to the possibility of a new wave. For now, hospitals and health care centers are well equipped with the necessary staff and supplies to care for patients.



Chile

POLITICAL CONTEXT

The Constituent Assembly completed its work of drafting the text of the new constitution, which will be voted on 4 September. The new one, which if approved would be one of the most extensive in the world, has 388 articles and 54 transitory norms.

Even though a large majority of Chileans supported the need for a new constitution, the percentage of those who do not approve of its content is currently higher. The new law outlines the creation of a new universal health system, the strengthening of public education, the protection of the environment and the guarantee of the rights of indigenous peoples.

On the other hand, the opposition has expressed its dissatisfaction with what it considers an excessive intervention by the President of the Republic in the campaign to support the new text. Boric called on citizens to vote in favour of the constitution, for Chile, not for his government.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

While the Chilean peso continues to depreciate against the dollar, inflation is once again high, closing June with an increase of 0.9%. The consumer price index (CPI) is at its highest level since 1994, reaching 7.1% so far this year. Despite this, the authorities are optimistic, pointing out that a downward trend can be expected.

The products and services with the highest increases are transport, airline tickets and food. The government has announced the measures it will take to contain the pressure on the economy of Chilean families. Among them, the delivery of a direct transfer bonus of 120,000 pesos that will benefit 7.5 million people, the extension of the labour IFE, which is a benefit for more people to join the formal labour market, and the extension of post-natal coverage to 60 days.

SOCIAL CONTEXT

Chile is going through its winter season with a high level of rainfall. In previous days, nearly 40 millimetres of water fell in the metropolitan region, affecting a large part of the country. The transport system suffered complications and therefore mobility. The most serious event was the failure of the electricity supply, depriving more than 20,000 homes of electricity. The downpour has caused flooding, downed trees and isolated and cut off people. According to the Meteorological Directorate, the rains will continue during July, so it warned that people should be prepared, taking into account the effects experienced in recent days.

COVID-19 CONTEXT

Chile has recorded an increase in Covid-19 cases for several consecutive days and the positive percentage exceeds 15.19%, so the authorities have ruled out that the current restrictions will be lifted. Since June there has been an increase in the number of cases, again exceeding 2 figures.

Currently, the mandatory use of face masks indoors is still in force, but restrictions for tourists have been relaxed. More than 80% of the population is vaccinated with the full vaccination schedule and a booster dose. In recent weeks there has also been an increase in respiratory illnesses due to the winter, forcing the school holidays to be brought forward.



Dominican Republic

POLITICAL CONTEXT

The President of the Republic, Luis Abinader, announced on 11 July that Joel Santos will occupy the Ministry of the Presidency on an interim basis, replacing Lisandro Macarrulla, who took a leave of absence. Until now, Santos was the general manager of the AFP Reservas company and special advisor to the Executive Branch on tourism.

The president had a meeting with Abdulla Shahid, the president of the United Nations General Assembly, in which they discussed the sustainability of tourism, the recovery of the sector and the effects it has on climate change.

The Ministry of Finance reported that the government has allocated USD 622 million in subsidies during the first six months of 2022 to counteract the rise in prices of products and services such as fuel, food and transport.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The Dominican economy grew 5.6% in the first five months of 2022. According to a report by the Central Bank, the International Monetary Fund positively assessed the role of expansionary monetary policy as a strategy to support the recovery and reduce inflation. The country's economy appears dynamic and resilient, with GDP growth of 12.3% in 2021 and 5% over pre-pandemic levels.

Tourism could be worth USD 8 billion by the end of 2022. The projection is based on the fact that the Dominican Republic received 3.5 million visitors during the first quarter of the year, which generated USD 4 billion.

On the other hand, the Monthly Economic Activity Indicator (IMAE) registered an inter-annual growth of 4.8% in the month of May and an accumulated variation of 5.6% during the first five months of 2022 when compared to the same period of 2021. According to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Mipymes (MICM), Free Trade Zones represent one of the main generators of formal employment and local manufacturing.

SOCIAL CONTEXT

Although the Dominican population is relatively young, the country is experiencing a steady ageing process, with the number of people over 65 having doubled in the last two decades, according to the United Nations Population Fund. On the other hand, the unemployment rate fell from 8% to 6.4% between the first quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022.

The Ministry of Education launched 97 bidding processes by price comparison aimed at Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for the equipment at full cost of an equal number of educational centers with the technical modality, with an investment of over USD 7 million.

Health tourism represents an income of USD 235 million a year for the country. According to Alejandro Cambiaso, president of the Dominican Association of Health Tourism, 117,000 international patients are treated annually, 47,700 for medical tourism and around 69,000 for medical tourism.

COVID-19 CONTEXT

The increase in Covid-19 cases has led the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention to add the Dominican Republic to the level 3 category of countries at high risk of infection. Daily positivity reached 21.87%, but the mortality rate stood at a low 0.73%.



Brazil

POLITICAL CONTEXT

Polarisation during presidential elections has tended to be a constant in Brazil, but the degree of radicalisation in these elections is becoming greater. Recently, a Workers' Party militant was murdered by a Bolsonaro supporter.

In his media appearances, political scientist and director of Ipespe (Institute for Social, Political and Economic Research), Antonio Lavareda, has recalled the tense electoral duels of the past, which also featured Lula da Silva. However, he believes that the current struggle between President Bolsonaro and Lula has gone beyond the limits of a normal political dispute, provoking violent confrontations between voters. According to Lavareda, the Electoral Court, society and the media should be alert and adopt a critical stance against all radical practices (offensive and violent) during the electoral process.

According to the polls, Lula is still in the lead with 45% of the vote in the first round, a 14% advantage over the current president. In the second round, the leftist politician would receive 53% of the vote compared to Bolsonaro's 34%.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Economic difficulties have worsened in Brazil since 2021, in a context of rising commodity prices in international markets, so that the country closed the year with inflation of 10.06%. The figure was above the central bank's target of 3.75%, with a tolerance margin of 1.5%. In practice, inflation could vary between 2.25% and 5.25%, which would be within the target, but it seems that the situation could worsen.

Financial market and central bank projections indicate that in 2022 the 5 per cent target would be missed again, with inflation expected to reach between 7.96 and 8.8 per cent. The same situation would occur in 2023, despite the target of between 1.75% and 4.75%. All this would put Roberto Campos Neto, head of the Central Bank, in serious trouble.

SOCIAL CONTEXT

A survey conducted by the Fundação Getúlio Vargas indicated that the number of people living in poverty reached a record high in the country. Almost 10 million Brazilians fell into poverty between 2019 and 2021, which corresponds to the total population of Portugal, for example.

Around 63 million people live in households where the income per person does not exceed R\$ 497 (around USD 93) per month. This is not enough to buy a basic food basket in any capital city in the country. The survey also shows an increase in those living in extreme poverty, with 33 million Brazilians living on less than R\$ 289 (about USD 54) a month. The survey indicates that this is the worst data since it began to be collected in 2012.

COVID-19 CONTEXT

According to the Ministry of Health's Covid-19 vaccination platform, 453.2 million doses of vaccine have been administered up to July this year, of which 177.5 million would be for the first inoculation, 158 million for the second inoculation and 4.9 million for the single inoculation. The booster dose has already been administered to 96.4 million people and the second (fourth) extra dose to 11.9 million. These figures come at a time when there has been an increase in cases and deaths from the coronavirus.



Mexico

POLITICAL CONTEXT

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador travelled to Washington D.C. to meet with his US counterpart Joe Biden, the second time they have met face-to-face. They discussed issues such as the protection of Mexican migrants and the challenges in the areas of security, energy and the management of migratory flows.

The Mexican president called on the US government to regularise the status of migrants who have been working in the neighbouring country for years. He asked that workers, technicians and professionals, nationals and Central Americans, be allowed to come to the United States and obtain temporary work visas. He also called for the evaluation of measures to contain the escalation of inflation and to promote cooperation for the development of both nations.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

According to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), inflation recorded its highest rise in 21 years, specifically since January 2001. At the end of June it stood at 7.99%. On the other hand, the Bank of Mexico reported that the exchange rate stood at 20.8711 Mexican pesos against the US dollar.

Mexico and the United Kingdom began the first round of negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries this July. They hope to conclude the talks later this year so that it can enter into force before the modernisation of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Mexico (EU-Mexico FTA). The UK is the country's 16th largest trading partner, with bilateral trade exceeding USD 5 billion in 2021. It is also the eighth largest source of foreign direct investment in Mexico.

SOCIAL CONTEXT

The Mexican government has sent an initiative to the Congress of the Union that seeks to eliminate summer schedule, stating that the current system does not generate energy savings and causes health problems. If approved, it could come into force as of 1 November 2022.

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat) published in the Official Journal of the Federation (DOF) the declaration of the start of an emergency due to "occurrence of severe, extreme or exceptional drought in basins for the year 2022". It affects 26 water basins in the country and aims to guarantee access to and supply of water. According to the latest report of the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), the states with extreme drought are mainly in the north of Mexico.

COVID-19 CONTEXT

In the framework of the fifth wave of Covid-19, the Ministry of Health is in the process of inoculating children aged 5 to 11 with Pfizer vaccine. The Secretary of Health, Jorge Alcocer Varela, considered that "the best thing would be" to return to the use of masks in enclosed spaces, however, it is up to the state governments to decide whether to make it obligatory or to issue restrictive measures.

In order to make it easier for affiliated workers to process their disability due to Covid-19 infection without having to go to the doctor and to break the chains of infection, the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) activated the digital tool Permiso COVID-19, version 4.0, on 6 July.



Latin American Keys presents a monthly report about the political, economic, and social situation of Latin America. Through this report, ATREVIA's Analysis and Research team provides companies with a first-hand perspective regarding the evolution of the political-institutional scene in the region.

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