

9. Metropolitan Region of Santiago, Chile

COVID-19 Vaccination Plan: Mobile Vaccinations

Challenges

Although the vaccine rollouts globally promise to help to contain and eventually eradicate the pandemic, there are still enormous challenges ahead. As of December 1, 2021, Chile had a total of 1,764,274 cases of COVID-19. That included both confirmed and suspected cases, with an incidence rate of 9,066.9 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. The number of deaths reached 38,356 and a recovered cases of 1,708,314.¹⁰ The Metropolitan Region of Santiago had 742,257 cases (confirmed and suspected) of COVID-19 and 19,688 deaths.¹¹

A mass vaccination campaign began on 22 February 2021 in the Metropolitan Region of Santiago, reaching, by December 2021, a coverage of 90.1 per cent of the adult population aged 60 years and over and 87.3 per cent of adults between 18 and 59 years of age. Nevertheless, with the constant mutation of the virus and the rapid spread of the new variants, the region requires more and urgent actions to increase coverage and achieve the objective of full vaccination and immunization. One of the major challenges facing the campaign, however, is the difficulty of obtaining detailed information on the residential location of each vaccinated person and those who are lagging.

Towards a Solution

To address this challenge, the Metropolitan Region of Santiago adopted the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan: Mobile Vaccinations initiative to speed up the vaccination campaign. The initiative, which was framed within the context of the vaccination campaign against COVID-19, seeks to support the communes that have deficient coverage (less than 80 per cent). To achieve this aim, the following strategies were developed:

- identification of areas with low coverage and prioritization of the implementation of mobile vaccinations in the areas of lagging populations; and
- planning of health actions complementary to immunization such as improving communication on risk and facilitating access to information regarding the vaccination process in areas of vulnerable populations.

The implementation of these strategies aims to reduce the risk of contagion of COVID-19 in vulnerable populations, improve the health status of the people, and reduce the risk of hospitalization and death due to the virus.

The methodology used included the following:

- management coordination between the National Immunization Programme and the different health services that request support and application of these strategies.
- technical coordination between the referents of the health services who are responsible for managing the territorial information and compiling the table of the Spatial Health Data Infrastructure of the Santiago Metropolitan Region; and
- access to the residential information of users of the health services to geolocate and define their vaccination status.

It was necessary for the Metropolitan Administration of the region and the Regional Ministerial Office (SEREMI) to work together through their geolocation teams, and the referents of the health services of the entire Metropolitan Region of Santiago. The strategies also required coordination at the community level from the health services and at the regional level from SEREMI to obtain the necessary data and later carry out its dissemination at the regional level in coordination with City Hall.

10. <https://www.minsal.cl/nuevo-coronavirus-2019-ncov/informe-epidemiologico-covid-19/>

11. Ibid



Source: Government of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago

The Mobile Vaccinations initiative was developed by the Municipality of Santiago in the Metropolitan Region, which is responsible for its financing. It seeks to contribute to the public policy on vaccination in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative began on 2 June 2021 and has a total of 20 mobile units: 4 buses, 16 vaccination minibuses and 10 vaccine distribution cars. These mobile units are assigned to the neighborhoods and health services that request support regarding the vaccination campaign from Monday to Sunday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. The effective implementation of

this initiative has enabled the disaggregation of the information on the vaccination status at the census level, in turn enabling the identification of adverse health situations (vaccination status, housing conditions and socioeconomic situation), determining the health conditions of the people lagging behind in the vaccination program and the epidemiological situation of the neighborhood. It has also focused the work and health actions carried out in the context of the pandemic and the vaccination process while managing the available resources more effectively.

Project title	COVID-19 Vaccination Plan: Mobile Vaccinations
Spatial scale of the initiative	Metropolitan Region of Santiago, Chile
Population involved	Adult population in the Santiago Metropolitan Region
Cities/Provinces/Countries/Territories/Regions involved	Census zones of the Santiago Metropolitan Region, Chile
Sustainable Development Goal target(s)	3.8, 3.b, 9.5
Supported/Funded by	Government of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago
Implementing entities	Family health centres of the municipalities of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago
Project status	Ongoing
Project period	N/A
URLs of the practice	Unavailable



Source: Government of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago