



VRIC MEDICAL DIPLOMACY

March 2021

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on the VRIC's medical diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean in March 2021. This is not a complete list of media reports on the VRIC's medical diplomacy in Latin America but are some of the most relevant articles and reports selected by SFS researchers and fellows. The monitor does source a limited amount of media reports from state-owned or -controlled media outlets, which are carefully selected and solely intended to report on news that is not reported on by other media and is relevant for understanding VRIC influence in the region. This report is produced as part of our VRIC Monitor published monthly by the Center for a Secure Free Society (SFS), a non-profit, national security think tank based in Washington D.C.

- Uruguayan Vice President Beatriz Argimón and Minister of Public Health Daniel Salinas received the first dose of China's CoronaVac vaccine. - [Daily News Egypt on 09-MAR](#)
- State media reports Maduro is the latest world leader to take his first dose of Russia's Sputnik-V coronavirus vaccine. A masked Maduro took his jab in a video shared by TeleSUR, with the network saying that Maduro received his shot after healthcare workers in the Latin American country. - [RT on 06-MAR](#)
- Venezuela has approved the use of China's Sinopharm vaccine against the novel coronavirus, the South American country's health ministry said, after it began administering Russia's Sputnik V vaccine last month. - [Reuters on 01-MAR](#)
- State media reports handover ceremony for the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines donated by China to Dominica was held in Dominica's capital Roseau on Thursday, March 4th, after the vaccines arrived in the Caribbean country late Wednesday, March 3rd. - [Xinhua on 05-MAR](#)
- State media reports Iran's Coronavirus Headquarters says the phase three of the human trial of a COVID-19 vaccine jointly developed by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba will get underway in three weeks' time. - [Iran Front Page on 01-MAR](#)
- State media reports the second batch of China's Sinovac vaccine arrived in Mexico on Saturday, February 28th, the Mexican Ministry of Health said. Mexican Foreign Minister

Marcelo Ebrard thanked China for supporting the country by providing the vaccine and said that the arrival of the vaccine has helped the government continue its vaccination campaign. - [Global Times on 01-MAR](#)

- Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle Pou thanked China for its support in providing COVID-19 vaccines. Lacalle Pou expressed his gratitude during a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Uruguay Wang Gang, according to Secretary of the Presidency Alvaro Delgado. According to the authorities, Uruguay will launch a vaccination campaign on March 1 to combat COVID-19 following the arrival of vaccines made by Chinese pharmaceutical firm Sinovac. - [China People's Daily on 27-FEB](#)
- Argentina has received 904,000 doses of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine in its first delivery from the Chinese drugmaker, the government said on Thursday, February 25th, which should help the country accelerate its inoculation program. The delivery, part of a deal for 1 million doses of the vaccine, arrived on a plane of Argentina's state carrier from Beijing late in the evening the same day. - [Merco Press on 26-FEB](#)
- State media reports "RDIF announces registration of the Russian coronavirus vaccine Sputnik V by the Health Regulatory Agency of the Republic of Honduras. Registration of the vaccine took place under an emergency use authorization (EUA)," the fund said. - [Sputnik on 24-FEB](#)
- Nicaragua received its first vaccines against COVID-19 with an initial donation of Russia's Sputnik V product, Vice President Rosario Murillo said. Making the announcement in a statement, Murillo did not specify how many doses of the vaccine had arrived. - [Reuters on 24-FEB](#)
- India dispatched 15 tonnes of five different medicines to combat COVID-19 pandemic to South American nation Bolivia. A special plane of the national airlines — BoA (Boliviana de Aviación) came all the way from Bolivia to Mumbai and collected medicines which were later delivered in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, in that country. - [Finacial Express on 22-FEB](#)
- State media reports the tenth flight of the permanent air bridge established with the People's Republic of China arrived in Venezuela, within the framework of the technical cooperation in prevention and control of COVID-19 for the benefit of the Bolivarian people, which with this cargo of around 25 tons exceeds 246 tons of supplies since March 2020. - [TeleSUR on 23-FEB](#)
- The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF, Russia's sovereign wealth fund) announced the delivery of the first batch of Sputnik V vaccine against coronavirus to Mexico. - [PR Newswire on 23-FEB](#)
- Paraguay will have received approximately 4,000 doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19 by February 25th, its health minister said, allowing it to kick-start its immunization program next week. - [Reuters on 16-FEB](#)