



VRIC MEDICAL DIPLOMACY

September 2021

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on the VRIC's medical diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean in September 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.

- State media reports Mexico's Foreign Ministry highlighted the importance of China's cooperation in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic in a book on Mexico's international strategy to manage the health crisis. "Even amid the global shortages sparked by the pandemic, the strength of the relationship between the two countries was key to accessing specialized supplies," said the book titled "Mexico's International Strategy in the COVID-19 Pandemic, March 2020-September 2021," referring to the air bridge between the two countries from April to July 2020 as "the main source of health protective equipment from abroad." - [China People's Daily on 21-SEP](#)
- State media reports Cuba has received a new shipment of health supplies donated by the Chinese Government to support it in its efforts to face the Covid-19 pandemic, diplomatic sources confirmed. - [Prensa Latina on 15-SEP](#)
- State media reports Chile's Institute of Public Health (ISP) on Monday approved the emergency use of Sinovac CoronaVac vaccines made by Chinese pharmaceutical firm Sinovac Biotech for children and adolescents aged from 6 to 17. - [CGTN on 8-SEP](#)
- State media reports a new shipment of second doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine arrived in Venezuela on board a plane from Consorcio Venezolano de Industrias Aeronauticas y Servicios Aéreos S.A. (CONVIASA). - [Prensa Latina on 06-SEP](#)

- Cuba received a donation of three tons of medical supplies from Argentina, destined to face the severe outbreak of COVID-19 that currently affects the island. - [Swiss Info on 05-SEP \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- State media reports Russia's Ambassador to Venezuela Serguei Melik-Bagdasarov confirmed that his country would resume shipping doses of the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine to Venezuela. - [TeleSUR on 01-SEP](#)
- State media reports Cuba received medical supplies donated by the Chinese government to help it combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the island faces the sharpest rise in cases, deaths and hospitalizations. The medical supplies include rapid COVID-19 antigen testing kits, surgical gloves and protective suits, adding to the ventilators and oxygen concentrators donated by China recently. - [China People's Daily on 30-AUG](#)
- Cuba, which to date had deployed exclusively its homegrown COVID-19 vaccines, will also start using the Sinopharm vaccine of its Communist-run ally China in its bid to battle one of the worst coronavirus outbreaks in the world. - [Reuters on 27-AUG](#)
- State media reports a Russian cargo plane arrived in Cuba with 41.5 tonnes of humanitarian aid as the island nation is going through hard times due to the tightening of the US economic embargo. - [Sputnik on 13-AUG](#)