

Mexico rises above 2 million confirmed coronavirus cases

February 17 2021



A woman gets her shot of the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine at the Magdalena Contreras borough of Mexico City, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, as Mexico begins to vaccinate people over the age of 60 against the new coronavirus. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

Mexico topped 2 million confirmed coronavirus cases and 175,000

deaths related to COVID-19 on Tuesday, though officials concede that the country's extremely low rate of testing means the real figures are much higher.

The Health Department said 8,683 cases and 1,329 deaths had been confirmed in the previous 24 hours.

Mexico's 175,986 test-confirmed deaths so far in the pandemic is the third-highest toll in the world, behind the U.S. and Brazil. But estimates of the country's excess deaths for 2020 suggest the real [death](#) toll from the pandemic is more than 220,000. And excess death figures for January and early February—when the highest wave of cases came—have not yet been posted.

Mexico has barely begun vaccinating the elderly, and the department said about 189,000 doses had been administered in the first two days of the campaign. There are about 15.7 million people over 60 who need the shots.

Mexico has received only about 1.9 million doses of the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines so far, enough for about 1 million people in a nation of 126 million.

Earlier Tuesday, Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said Mexico would bring up the issue of unequal access to vaccines among nations at the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday.



Elderly people who had their shot of the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine wait in the observation area at the Magdalena Contreras borough of Mexico City, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, as Mexico begins to vaccinate people over the age of 60 against the new coronavirus. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)



A woman gets her shot of the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine at the Magdalena Contreras borough of Mexico City, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, as Mexico begins to vaccinate people over the age of 60 against the new coronavirus. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)



A health worker prepares a dose of the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine to be administered at the Magdalena Contreras borough of Mexico City, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, as Mexico begins to vaccinate people over the age of 60 against the new coronavirus. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)



An elderly man who got a shot of the AstraZeneca vaccine against COVID-19 is taken to an observation area in the Magdalena Contreras area of Mexico City, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, as Mexico begins to vaccinate people over the age of 60 against the new coronavirus. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)



Elderly people wait to get the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine at the Magdalena Contreras borough of Mexico City, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, as Mexico begins to vaccinate people over the age of 60 against the new coronavirus. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

Ebrard complained that countries that produce vaccines have had far greater access to the shots than those that don't.

Mexico wants vaccines concentrated under a U.N. distribution program that would ensure more [equal access](#).

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