

COVID-19 vaccinations in Chile will begin in December 2020

Santiago, December 18th, 2020. Following the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine in the USA last December 11th, the Institute of Public Health (ISP) of Chile authorized the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine on December 16th, 2020.

Separately, Pfizer-BioNTech has confirmed that the first 20,000 doses of vaccines will arrive in an air shipment in Chile later this month. Health staff from Intensive Care Units in the regions across the country with the highest COVID-19 incidence will be the first to be vaccinated. Additional vaccine shipments are scheduled for January, 2021, with vaccines set to be deployed first to health personnel working in Critical Patient Units, followed by the elderly and chronic patients, and then other groups of lower risk.

The vaccine will be voluntary and free of charge.

These recent developments on the approval and availability of the Pfizer-BioNTech, take place in the context of the agreements that the Government of Chile reached other laboratories that have made progress in the development of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. As a matter of fact, the Government of Chile has agreements for a total of 40 million vaccines (for an estimated population of 19 million), conditional on their respective sanitary approvals, including:

- Pfizer-BioNtech: 10 million doses of the vaccine; Phase III results demonstrated that the vaccine candidate was more 95% effective against COVID-19 beginning 28 days after the first dose.
- COVAX Global Alliance, an initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Union and Latin American countries, which will allow access to 7.6 million vaccines validated by the WHO.
- Astra-Zeneca / Oxford: up to 10 million doses, which in interim trial data from Phase III trials has shown up to 90% efficacy.
- Janssen Laboratory with Johnson&Johnson: up to 4 million doses of the vaccine.
- SINOVAC Laboratory: up to 10 million doses of the vaccine.