

**TO: Robin M. Ikeda: Associate Director for Policy and Strategy at the CDC**

**FROM: Andres Alvarez**

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**SUBJECT: Mexican COVID-19 Cases on the Rise**

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## **VOLATILE MEXICAN COVID-19 CASES COULD AGGRAVATE U.S. RATES THROUGH TOURISM**

***Mexican Health Ministry reports monthly high COVID-19 cases, raising concerns over pandemic response methods, potentially compromising the health safety of U.S. citizens amid border reopening and expected tourism.***

On July 8<sup>th</sup> the Mexican health ministry reported 9,452 new Covid-19 cases<sup>1</sup>. The cases represent a 65% percent increase over the last 14 days<sup>2</sup>. While July biweekly confirmed deaths have stabilized to under 20 deaths per million people, spikes into the '50s during June suggests that the virus poses a persistent threat<sup>3</sup>. Hugo Morales, president of the state Human Rights Commission, has criticized the government's response concerning the varying effectiveness of the 6 different vaccines, the inequality of vaccination sites between wealthy and poor neighborhoods, and the unutilized facilities of private healthcare companies<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Angulo, Sharay. "Mexico Reports over 9,400 New COVID-19 Infections as Cases Jump." Reuters. Thomson Reuters, July 8, 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/mexico-reports-over-9400-new-covid-19-infections-cases-jump-2021-07-08/>. \*Reuters is a global news agency that leans left

<sup>2</sup> Ritchie, Hannah, Esteban Ortiz-Ospina, Diana Beltekian, Edouard Mathieu, et al. "Mexico: Coronavirus Pandemic Country Profile." Our World in Data, March 5, 2020. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus/country/mexico>. \*Our World in Data is a scientific online publication that compiles government sources

<sup>3</sup> Ritchie, Hannah, Esteban Ortiz-Ospina, Diana Beltekian, Edouard Mathieu, et al. "Mexico: Coronavirus Pandemic Country Profile." Our World in Data, March 5, 2020. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus/country/mexico>. \*Our World in Data is a scientific online publication that compiles government sources

<sup>4</sup> "Mexico's Vaccine Campaign Faces Problems, Successes." AP NEWS. Associated Press, April 6, 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/mexico-coronavirus-pandemic-coronavirus-vaccine-mexico-city-888388cff850dfd8f771f4e4a57ca3f9>. \*Associated Press is a news cooperative that is rated as having center bias

Current travel restrictions prohibiting non-essential travel, including tourism into the U.S. from Mexico are due to expire on 21 July<sup>5</sup>. Prior to the travel restrictions, the U.S. received an estimated 18.5 million Mexican tourists a year, with many of those travelers being between the ages of 18 and 39, the same age fueling the upsurge of new infections in Mexico<sup>6</sup>. Most 18-39 year olds in Mexico are currently not vaccinated against the covid-19 virus<sup>7</sup> and pose a potential threat to spreading the virus in the U.S. if travel restrictions are lifted, adding to the current increase in U.S. infections and potentially augmenting the number of U.S. covid-19 related deaths.

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<sup>5</sup> "Travel Restrictions - Fact Sheet." U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Mexico, June 23, 2021. <https://mx.usembassy.gov/travel-restrictions-fact-sheet/>. \*U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Mexico is an official government site.

<sup>6</sup> "International Visitations to the U.S. from Mexico." U.S. Travel Association, 2019. <https://www.ustravel.org/research/travel-facts-and-figures>. \*U.S. Travel Association is a non-profit organization which reports on travel.

<sup>7</sup> Vega, Andrea. "Delta Se Propaga En México Con Sólo 26.8% De La Población Inmunizada." Animal Político, July 12, 2021. <https://www.animalpolitico.com/2021/07/covid-delta-propaga-mexico-porcentaje-poblacion-vacunada/>. \*Animal Politico is a Mexican independent digital news outlet.