

# WEEKLY REPORT



11/27/20

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## POLITICS

### **BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO SAYS HE WILL NOT TAKE CORONAVIRUS VACCINE**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday evening, November 26th, that he will not take a coronavirus vaccine, the latest in a series of statements he has made expressing skepticism toward coronavirus vaccination programs. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS THAT STATES MAY REQUIRE VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19 IF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH DOES NOT DECIDE**

The Attorney General of the Republic, Augusto Aras, stated in an opinion sent this Wednesday (25th) to the Federal Supreme Court that, in certain situations, Brazilian states can force the people to be vaccinated against Covid-19. In another opinion presented to the Court on the same day, Aras said that a person could not be taken by force to get the vaccine. In case of refusal, according to him, judicial liability is required. [Read more.](#)

### **SÃO PAULO GOVERNOR COULD REINSTATE RESTRICTIONS TO CONTAIN COVID-19 SURGE**

With a high rate of coronavirus transmission and hospitalizations in the state of São Paulo, the contingency center will propose to the João Doria government that it again harden social isolation measures. Folha newspaper found that part of the group advocates that the whole state should revert to the yellow phase, which allows the opening of establishments but limits the working schedule. The proposal was submitted to Doria on Thursday, November 26th. [Read more.](#)

### **EXAME/IDEIA: BOLSONARO APPROVAL RATE AT 41 PERCENT, HIGHEST IN NEARLY TWO YEARS**

President Jair Bolsonaro's approval rate stands at 41 percent, the highest since February 2019. In the last survey, conducted in early November, the rating stood at 38 percent and fluctuated positively at the limit of the survey's error margin, which is three percentage points plus or minus. Disapproval decreased from 34 to 31 percent. Those who neither approve nor disapprove of the President add up to 27 percent. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL ELECTS MAYORS, WITH EYES ON PRESIDENTIAL RACE**

Brazil votes Sunday, November 29th, in municipal runoff elections marked by the coronavirus pandemic that will give a preview of where its political players stand going into 2022, when far-right President Jair Bolsonaro is up for reelection. Bolsonaro upended Brazilian politics when he stormed to victory in the 2018 presidential race, but the so-called "Tropical Trump" looks more vulnerable after the first-round municipal vote on November 15th, when just a handful of the candidates he endorsed won. [Read more.](#)

### **BOLSONARO CALLS "FIGHT FOR EQUALITY" AND "SOCIAL JUSTICE" EFFORTS TO IMPORT RACIAL TENSION**

In his speech during the G20 conference, the President pursued the denialist approach to racism adopted by the government after the murder of João Alberto Silveira Freitas at a Carrefour supermarket in Porto Alegre. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZILIAN SENATE PASSES HIGHER PENALTY FOR CRIMES BASED ON COLOR, RACE OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

On Wednesday, November 25th, the Senate passed a bill that provides a higher penalty for crimes committed based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. With the approval, the bill will be put to a vote in the Chamber of Deputies. However, the text does not define the length of time the sentence may be extended in these cases. [Read more.](#)

### **CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN BRAZIL FELL IN NOVEMBER: CONCERN OVER COVID-19 AND END OF EMERGENCY TRANSFERS**

Consumer confidence in Brazil fell in November for the second month in a row, a survey showed on Wednesday, reflecting growing concern over the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy, and the looming end of emergency government income transfers. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S JOBLESS RATE HITS RECORD 14.6%: GOVERNMENT**

Brazil's unemployment rate has hit a record 14.6% as the pandemic slammed Latin America's largest economy, the government reported Friday, November 27th. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S ECONOMY MINISTER: GOVERNMENT NOT PLANNING EMERGENCY AID IN 2021**

Minister of Economy Paulo Guedes said on Monday, November 23rd, that Brazil is rebounding strongly from the novel coronavirus pandemic and that, as there is no evidence of a second wave of infections, the extension of the emergency aid is not in the government's plans. The focus from 2021, with the end of urgent measures to tackle Covid-19, will be to progress on the liberal agenda, with reforms and privatizations, which are dependent on "political timing," he explained. [Read more.](#)

### **FINANCING NEEDS: BRAZIL COULD JOIN EMERGING MARKETS BOND ISSUANCE WAVE**

Brazil could issue foreign denominated bonds still in 2020, in the wake of the increase in emerging countries placements, amid strong investor appetite for higher risk assets. Debt of Latin America's largest economy has ballooned to unprecedented levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the government faces a US\$112 (R\$600) billion refinancing cliff early next year, with April's funding needs the highest ever for a single month. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S ECONOMY MINISTER EXPECTS NET 300,000 JOBS LOST IN 2020**

Minister of Economy Paulo Guedes said yesterday, November 23rd, that Brazil should lose approximately 300,000 formal jobs this year. Despite the resumption of new job creation in recent months, the Minister expects a slowdown until the end of 2020. [Read more.](#)

### **PANDEMIC PROMPTS MASSIVE FOREIGN INVESTMENT DECLINE IN BRAZIL**

The crisis triggered by the novel coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19) has led to a reduction in foreign direct investment in Brazil's productive sector. However, portfolio investments in stocks, bonds and investment funds seem to be reacting, according to Central Bank (BC) data released yesterday, November 25th. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S REAL JUMPS 1% ON WEDNESDAY: 7% GAIN IN NOVEMBER**

Worries about Brazil's fiscal health, record-low interest rates and a second wave of coronavirus cases have hammered the real this year, but a brighter global mood has boosted the currency by more than 7% in November. [Read more.](#)

### **INFLATION WARNING: BRAZIL RECORDS HIGH WHOLESALE PRICE RISE IN 2020**

With no slack in wholesale price rises and with negative news on climate and the reorganization of administered rates, concern about inflation in 2021 is growing in the financial market, contrasting with the Central Bank (BC) argument that the shock seems temporary. This week, the Focus Report, which includes financial market analysts' projections, showed a new increase in the estimate for next year's Broad Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 3.22% to 3.40%, moving increasingly closer to the target center pursued by the Central Bank (3.75%). Moreover, institutions which see inflation exceeding the central target in 2021 are no longer scarce, with estimates at 4.0%. [Read more.](#)

### **ANALYSIS: BRAZIL FACES US\$112 BILLION REFINANCING CHALLENGE IN EARLY 2021**

Publicly, Treasury officials insist there will be no problem getting investors to extend their loans. Almost all of Brazil's debt is denominated in reais and over 90% of it is held by domestic investors. [Read more.](#)

### **BOLSONARO AGREES TO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**

Over the past few months, the environmental factor has become crucial to the future of the Bolsonaro government. On one hand, Joe Biden, victorious in the U.S. elections, is considering the establishment of a group of 'climate criminal' countries, of which Brazil could be part. On the other, the MERCOSUR agreement with the European Union could fail due to the rise in deforestation rates in the Amazon. [Read more.](#)

### **BEIJING ACCUSES EDUARDO BOLSONARO OF THREATENING BRAZIL-CHINA RELATIONSHIP**

The Chinese Embassy in Brazil is protesting to Itamaraty [Brazil's Foreign Office], accusing Eduardo Bolsonaro, the son of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, of making "vile" remarks and endangering the relationship between the two countries. The new crisis occurred after the federal deputy criticized Beijing on November 23rd, calling China's Communist Party the "enemy of freedom", and hinted at invasions and violations of private information of citizens and companies. [Read more.](#)

### **U.S. CONSIDERS REOPENING BORDERS FOR TRAVELERS FROM BRAZIL**

The United States is considering lifting entry restrictions for non-U.S. travelers recently passing through Brazil or 31 European countries, Reuters reported on Wednesday, November 25th, quoting five Washington and U.S. airline industry officials. In addition to Brazil, the countries mentioned in the White House internal talks are The United Kingdom, Ireland and the 29 members of the Schengen Area, a free movement zone for people that includes part of the European Union, such as France and Germany, and some countries outside the bloc, among them Norway. [Read more.](#)

## **HEALTH**

### **BRAZIL'S HEALTH MINISTER ACCEPTS COVID-19 CASE SURGE FOR FIRST TIME, EXCEEDING 6.2 MILLION INFECTIONS**

Brazil recorded 37,614 new cases and 691 deaths from Covid-19 in the past 24 hours and now totals 6,204,220 infections and 171,460 deaths from the disease. The country has been experiencing an increase in contagion in several locations in recent weeks, as shown by data on hospitalizations for severe acute respiratory syndrome and even reported cases. The Minister of Health is refraining from speaking of a second wave of the pandemic and refers to the increased number of hospitalizations and cases in some regions of Brazil as "new peaks". [Read more.](#)

**BRAZIL SIGNS LETTER OF INTENT TO PURCHASE FIVE COVID VACCINES**

Brazil's health ministry said on Sunday, November 22nd, it will sign non-binding letters of intent to purchase coronavirus vaccines from four companies and Russia's sovereign wealth fund, adding that any purchase will depend on the approval of the nation's regulators. [Read more.](#)

**SÃO PAULO GOVERNOR FLOATS USING CHINESE SINOVAQ VACCINE WITHOUT BRASILIA'S APPROVAL**

São Paulo could roll out a COVID-19 vaccine developed by China's Sinovac without approval from the national health regulator, Governor João Doria said in an interview on Thursday, November 26th, pressuring Brasilia to greenlight the vaccine. Health experts said Doria's comments were an empty threat, as no drugs or vaccines can be used legally in Brazil without clearance from health regulator Anvisa, which pushed back against the comments. Still, his statements reveal growing tensions over the vaccine rollout in Latin America's biggest country, with the world's second highest COVID-19 death toll. [Read more.](#)

**AMID PRESSURE FROM PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES, ANVISA EVALUATES POSTPONE DRUG TRACEABILITY**

Discussed more than ten years ago, subject to successive postponements and now scheduled for 2022, the creation of a drug traceability system returned to the discussion table at Anvisa (National Health Surveillance Agency), which must now evaluate a possible change in deadlines or in the product list. The idea of the system is to create a type of traceability for each drug, using a two-dimensional code and other data that would be placed on the packaging. With that, it would be possible to follow the path of these products from the industry to the sale in pharmacies. The goal is to increase the control of medicines and avoid counterfeiting, for example. [Read more.](#)

**ANS PROPOSES REVISION OF THE LIST OF PROCEDURES EVERY 6 MONTHS**

On Tuesday (24), the Supplementary Health Chamber (CAMSS) of the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) held the 3rd technical meeting on the review of the process of updating the List of Procedures and Events in Health. After three technical meetings, the General Management of Assistance Regulation (GGRAS) of the Directorate of Standards and Product Qualification (DIPRO) of ANS presented a new proposal on updating the List of Procedures. The proposal, as presented, is that activities related to decision-making take place every six months, with the possibility of submitting proposals and technical analyzes of eligible proposals on an ongoing basis. According to the technical team, the objective is to reduce the periodicity (two years nowadays) without compromising technical quality, transparency in decision-making and broad social participation. In this proposed model, submissions with technical analyzes have been completed will be considered every six months. [Read more.](#)

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND CNJ CELEBRATE TECHNICAL COOPERATION TERM TO EXPEDITE LEGAL DEMANDS**

Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello and Minister of the Supreme Federal Court and President of the National Council of Justice (CNJ) Luiz Fux signed on Tuesday (24) the Term of Technical Cooperation with the objective of providing the Courts of Justice (TJ) and Regional Federal Courts (TRF) technical subsidies for decision-making based on scientific evidence in health-related actions. With the action, the Ministry of Health hopes to speed up the processes and qualify the legal analysis. For this year alone, the estimate is more than 34 thousand lawsuits related to health. "The Unified Health System (SUS) is large, it is a world, but it is not perfect yet. Judicialization is a reality and we must know how to deal with it naturally and above all with partnership. This institutional relationship needs to be sculpted. It needs to be permanent to leave a judicial legacy as well as for health management in our country", said Minister Eduardo Pazuello. [Read more.](#)

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPEALS AND ASKS FOR REFUND OF AMOUNT PAID FOR MOST EXPENSIVE MEDICINE IN THE WORLD**

The Attorney General's Office (AGU) decided to file an appeal with the Superior Court of Justice (STJ) for the family of the Brazilian baby Kyara Lis de Carvalho Rocha to return to the public coffers the millionaire amount to cover the difference in value for the purchase of the medicine considered "the most expensive in the world". The judicial questioning of the official representative of the federal government occurs a few days after the child has received the application of Zolgensma, a medicine estimated at around R \$ 12 million and which inhibits the development of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (AME), a degenerative disease diagnosed in the baby. The amount of R \$ 6.6 million was deposited on October 21 and almost a month later, on November 19, the remedy was applied to the child in Curitiba (PR). For the Federal Government, however, Minister Napoleão Nunes Maia Filho's injunction disputes the STJ's own understanding of the legal determination to release funds for this purpose. [Read more.](#)

## **HEALTH PRICE SYSTEM ASSISTS IN GOVERNMENT PURCHASES OF INPUTS AND MEDICINES**

The Coronavirus pandemic, which affected Brazil as of February 2020, further highlighted the importance of the Health Price Bank (BPS) system and the Material Catalog (CATMAT) for public health managers and control bodies. The large price variations observed in the acquisition of different items associated with the Covid-19 confrontation made explicit the need to monitor the public health procurement market and the importance of BPS as a tool to promote transparency and management. References to the BPS in manifestations of the Public Ministry and Courts of Accounts, as well as in judicial decisions, especially in actions that determine overpricing in public purchases of medicines and health supplies, have been increasingly frequent. Likewise, the use of BPS by public agencies has been growing. Today the system registers an average of 4,500 consultations per month and more than 4,000 municipalities already have institutions registered in the system, making a total of 45,000 users from the three levels of SUS management and from all regions of the country. Developed by the Ministry of Health and in mandatory use since 2017, the BPS aims to allow research and comparison of prices of medicines and health products nationwide and is the only public and free system that gathers information on Union purchases, states, municipalities and the Federal District. It is a system that provides transparency and allows the monitoring of a market that moves tens of billions of reais per year and its use translates, in terms of SUS management, in the saving of resources in the acquisition of medicines and products for the within the scope of SUS. [Read more.](#)

## **HEALTH-ORIENTED STARTUPS BOOM DURING PANDEMIC**

Health-care startups that were able to adapt quickly to the rising demand for care and the change in legislation had surprising results in the pandemic months. This is because social isolation has accelerated processes for technological alternatives for health care. The search for medical care grew by virtual means, while at first offices were empty and treatments for many diseases decreased. Added to this is the fact that at the beginning of the pandemic, the federal government authorized, on an emergency basis, telemedicine - an old demand in the sector and for which many companies were already preparing. As a result, virtual care applications and services have boomed in recent months. The solutions go beyond offering teleconsultations, and include electronic medical records, the use of artificial intelligence for drug prescriptions and office management. [Read more.](#)