

WEEKLY REPORT



05/29/21

POLITICS

COVID CPI: HEALTH SECRETARY CONTRADICTS PAZUELLO, CONFIRMS EARLY TREATMENT WITH CHLOROQUINE

The Parliamentary Investigative Committee known as "Covid CPI" on Tuesday, May 25, heard the Ministry of Health's Secretary of Work and Health Education Management Mayra Pinheiro. In almost 7 hours of testimony, the official, known as "Captain Chloroquine," denied having been ordered to prescribe the use of drugs with no proven efficacy for Covid-19, and once again advocated "early treatment." [Read more.](#)

PLANALTO DOCUMENTS SHOW THERE WERE 24 MEETINGS WITH A 'PARALLEL MINISTRY' IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PANDEMIC

Documents from the Civil House of the Presidency of the Republic delivered to Covid's CPI show that people appointed as members of a "parallel ministry" of Health participated in at least 24 meetings to discuss government strategies to combat the pandemic. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE APPROVES PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IN BRAZIL

On Tuesday, May 25, the Brazilian Chamber of Deputy's Constitution and Justice Committee (CCJ) approved the admissibility of the proposed amendment to the Constitution (PEC) providing for administrative reform; this is the first legislative step for the measure that will change the rules in government employment. [Read more.](#)

COVID CPI: PFIZER WARNED DOSES WOULD GO TO OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD BRAZIL NOT REPLY

Messages sent by Pfizer to the Brazilian government, delivered to the Covid CPI (investigative committee), show that the pharmaceutical company alerted that doses reserved for Brazil would be delivered to other countries should there be no response to its proposals. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO FILES SUIT AT SUPREME COURT TO BAR RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY GOVERNORS

On Thursday, May 27, President Jair Bolsonaro asked the Federal Supreme Court (STF) to bar restrictions imposed by the governors of Rio Grande do Norte, Pernambuco and Paraná to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in those states. Bolsonaro has been a harsh critic of these state and municipal initiatives, universally known as among the most efficient measures to contain the pandemic. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO ADVOCATES INTERVENTION IN PETROBRAS AND FUEL PRICE PREDICTABILITY

President Jair Bolsonaro told supporters on Friday, May 28, that he intervened in the change of command of Petrobras and stressed that the new board of the oil company, chaired by General

Joaquim Silva e Luna, is completing studies on a formula to ensure predictability to fuel price readjustments. [Read more.](#)

71% OF BRAZILIANS DO NOT BELIEVE IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN 2021

Approximately 7 out of 10 Brazilians believe that the economic recovery will not occur in 2021, reveals a survey released by Boa Vista (BOAS3) on Friday, May 28. In the overall picture, 29% totally or partially believe that recovery will occur this year. On the other hand, 71% of respondents disagree or are partially against the argument that the recovery will occur in 2021. However, a good part of Brazilians agree that vaccination is a crucial factor for the country to get back on track. [Read more.](#)

ECONOMY MINISTER DENIES LEAVING MERCOSUR, BUT SAYS BRAZIL INTENDS TO MODERNIZE IT

Economy Minister Paulo Guedes on Thursday reiterated that the Brazilian government does not want to leave MERCOSUR, but rather modernize the bloc. "We are not leaving MERCOSUR. We want to pursue integration, but it is not working as it should. We want to modernize MERCOSUR," he said, speaking at an event held by the Industry Coalition. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL IS CHEAP FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS – ECONOMY MINISTER

Brazil's Economy Minister Paulo Guedes argued that Brazil is cheap for foreign investors and said that "gringos" entering Brazil at the moment, with the dollar quoted near R\$5.50, will be able to leave with the currency at R\$3 in "two or three years". [Read more.](#)

UNDER BOLSONARO, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, LOW PRODUCTIVITY AND LEAKS HAMPER BRAZIL'S GROWTH

Brazil's low-income job market is expected to maintain the trend of increasing informality over the past decade. According to experts, this will be one of the main obstacles to the acceleration of growth and to the rescue of millions of Brazilians who have fallen into abject poverty during the pandemic. In the past decade, Brazil had the worst performance in the last 120 years, pushing the last generation into informality - an area of the economy that pays, produces, and grows less, jeopardizing its average evolution. In the pandemic, even informal work was decimated by the paralysis of the service sector, responsible for 70% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and jobs, half of them out of formality. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO ENACTS BRAZIL-U.A.E. AGREEMENT ENDING DOUBLE TAXATION

President Jair Bolsonaro on Wednesday, May 26, enacted the agreement signed between Brazil and the United Arab Emirates to end double taxation on income taxes and prevent tax evasion and tax avoidance. The protocol between the two countries was signed in November 2018 and was then passed by the National Congress. The president's enactment gives efficacy to the agreement, which is now officially in force. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN ARMY'S FAILURE TO KEEP PRUDENT DISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT

After a motorcycle caravan that gathered thousands of people, Bolsonaro climbed on a sound car and delivered a speech in which he once again criticized governors and mayors who decreed lockdowns and said that the Brazilian Army - or "my Army," as he likes to call it - would never take to the streets to force people to stay home. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S VICE PRESIDENT SAYS EDUARDO PAZUELLO SHOULD BE PUNISHED FOR ATTENDING BOLSONARO RALLY

General Pazuello, ex-Minister of Health whose management of the coronavirus pandemic is investigated by the courts and a parliamentary inquiry committee, actively participated this Sunday in a political caravan of bikers led by Bolsonaro. [Read more.](#)

54% OF BRAZILIANS REJECT THE MILITARY IN THE GOVERNMENT – DATAFOLHA SURVEY

The majority of Brazilians reject the appointment of military officers to federal government positions, according to Datafolha. A survey conducted by the institute on May 11 and 12 shows that 54% of respondents are against the presence of the military in these positions, compared to 41% who are in favor. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO LOSING SUPPORT AMONG EVANGELICALS, HIS MOST LOYAL BASE – EXAME/IDEIA POLL

Disapproval of President Jair Bolsonaro's government is at the worst point since he took office in January 2019. Brazilians who rate the administration as bad or terrible account for 50%. This level has been maintained for two months, fluctuating only within the error margin, which is 3 percentage points plus or minus. [Read more.](#)

FHC AND LULA UNITE IN POLITICAL ALLIANCE AGAINST BOLSONARO

A photo of Lula and FHC during lunch at the home of former minister Nelson Jobim surprised the political world. FHC now says he would opt for Lula in a hypothetical second round against Bolsonaro next year. With research pointing to this scenario, the scene of a new union, four and a half decades after the festive meal in a canteen in São Bernardo, is on the horizon, despite the years of heavy criticism from both sides. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO SAYS CHAOS AND PANIC ARE PROMOTED BY THOSE WHO WANT TO RETURN TO POWER

President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday, May 27, again criticized the movement-restriction measures imposed by governors and mayors to contain the spread of Covid-19, and said that "chaos and panic" are being created by those who want to regain power. [Read more.](#)

DATAFOLHA: 90% SAY BRAZIL STILL HAS A CHANCE; 70% ARE STILL PROUD OF THE COUNTRY

Despite the health, political and economic crises, most Brazilians say they are proud of the country and hopeful about the future, according to Datafolha. According to the institute, 70% of respondents say they are more proud than ashamed of Brazil, compared to 26% who said the opposite. One percent could not answer, and another 2% provided other answers. [Read more.](#)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN BRAZIL REACHES 14.7%, THE HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 2012

Unemployment in Brazil reached 14.7% between January and March this year, equivalent to 14.8 million people looking for work, the highest level recorded in the country since 2012, the government reported Thursday, May 27. The unemployment rate in the first quarter of the year increased 0.8 percentage points compared to the last three months of 2020, when it stood at 13.9%, according to data released by the state-run Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). [Read more.](#)

'WE ARE LIBERALS, BUT WE ARE NOT FOOLS,' SAYS BRAZIL'S MINISTER GUEDES ON ECONOMIC OPENNESS

Once again, the Minister listed the measures taken by the government during the Covid-19 pandemic and advocated mass vaccination of the population for a safe return to work. "Brazil is at war with the virus, we can't fool ourselves about that," he reiterated. [Read more.](#)

CORONAVIRUS: THIRD WAVE IN BRAZIL WILL HAVE GREATER POLITICAL IMPACT – CREDIT SUISSE

The third wave of the coronavirus, which is beginning to show its signs in Brazil, will have a greater impact on politics than on the economy, affirms Credit Suisse in a report to clients on Wednesday, May 26. Over the past two weeks, the number of cases has increased in regions such as the South and Midwest, the bank points out. While the rolling average of deaths remained steady at around 2,000 per day last month, that figure is much higher than the peak

in 2020, of 1,050 deaths. "Although economic activity has positively surprised in the second wave and the consensus is that the third outbreak of cases should not stop the resumption of economic activity, it poses serious risks to public accounts and fiscal sustainability and could make the political environment more volatile, which could indirectly hinder GDP growth," Solange Srouf and Lucas Vilela point out. [Read more.](#)

DEFORESTATION IN BRAZIL'S AMAZON WORSENERED IN RECENT MONTHS, VICE PRESIDENT SAYS

Mourão, who is leading the government's Amazon policy, told reporters in a briefing that deforestation this month is "not good" but reaffirmed a commitment to lower deforestation by 15% in the 12-months through July. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

'THE U.S. WILL NOT DONATE VACCINES TO BRAZIL' – BRAZIL'S HEALTH MINISTER

Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga commented on U.S. President Joe Biden's statement on the intention to donate vaccines against Covid-19 to other countries. Queiroga appreciated the pledge, but said that in the case of Brazil, "being pragmatic," the U.S. will not donate the vaccines, "also because Brazil bought these doses from American companies," he said. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL COULD HAVE BEEN WORLD'S 1ST COUNTRY TO START VACCINATION – BUTANTAN DIRECTOR

In testimony to the Covid CPI (parliamentary investigative committee) on Thursday, May 27, Butantan Institute director Dimas Covas, said that in December last year, when the world was starting Covid-19 vaccination, the Butantan Institute had produced 5.5 million Coronavac doses and 4 million were being processed. Neither batch had a contract with the Ministry of Health. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BUTANTAN DIRECTOR FORESEES NEED FOR ANNUAL COVID BOOSTER SHOTS

Brazilians should prepare for annual Covid-19 immunizations to reinforce vaccines currently available, the head of public-sector laboratory Butantan said on Thursday. Annual boosters would add to the burden for Brazil's shaky national vaccination program, which has struggled to speed up immunizations to confront the world's most deadly coronavirus outbreak. [Read more.](#)

STUDY SHOWS THAT 15% OF BRAZILIANS HAVE COVID-19 ANTIBODIES

A new epidemiological study on the spread of Covid-19 across Brazil has found that by the end of April this year, with the contagion curve rising, an average of 15% of Brazilians tested had antibodies to Sars-CoV-2, researchers announced Wednesday. [Read more.](#)

RETURN TO "NORMALITY" TRIGGERS FORMATION OF 3RD WAVE OF COVID-19 IN BRAZIL – FIOCRUZ

The premature resumption of activities in virtually all of Brazil is the main cause for the new wave of Covid-19 in formation. This assessment is contained in the new InfoGripe Bulletin released on Friday, May 28, by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz). [Read more.](#)

MARCH WAS PANDEMIC'S MOST LETHAL MONTH IN BRAZIL'S PRIVATE HOSPITALS – ANAHP STUDY

An unprecedented study by the National Association of Private Hospitals (ANAHP) found that March 2021 was the worst month of the pandemic in Brazilian private hospitals. In March, the

mortality rate of patients with Covid-19 reached 15.1%, surpassing August 2020's 14.9%, until then the worst month since the start of the pandemic in Brazil. [Read more.](#)

PEOPLE UNDER 70 ARE NOW THE MAJORITY AMONG THOSE KILLED BY COVID IN BRAZIL

People aged 69 or less represented 46.72% of the total deaths in January this year, or 21,855. Now this group adds up to 58,260 (170% more) and represents the majority of the dead: 53.78%. This inversion of the death pyramid had already been detected by the SP Covid-19 Info Tracker platform, a tool created by researchers from USP (University of São Paulo) and Unesp (Universidade Estadual Paulista) with support from Fapesp (Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa no State of São Paulo) to monitor the evolution of the pandemic in the state. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO HAVE 43.8 MILLION VACCINE DOSES IN JUNE

Despite less than the earlier projected 54 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines, the Ministry of Health will have the highest number of doses in June since the start of the campaign, in January 2021 - 43.8 million of the 3 immunizers approved by the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (ANVISA). [Read more.](#)

ANVISA WARNS OF RISKS OF INDISCRIMINATE USE OF PARACETAMOL AFTER COVID-19 VACCINATION

The indiscriminate use of paracetamol for pain and fever relief after Covid-19 vaccination can lead to serious adverse events, including drug hepatitis and death, Brazil's health regulatory agency ANVISA has indicated. According to the agency, paracetamol should be used with caution, "always observing the maximum daily dose and the interval between doses, according to the recommendations contained in the package insert, for each age group." [Read more.](#)

EXPERTS ALERT: 17 BRAZILIAN STATES AND THE FEDERAL DISTRICT REGISTER OVER 80% ICU BED OCCUPANCY -FIOCRUZ

Between May 17 and 24, 2021, Covid-19 ICU bed occupancy for adults in the Unified Health System (SUS) either increased or remained stable, at high levels, in virtually all of Brazil. Given this scenario, experts alert to the worsening of the Covid-19 pandemic in the coming weeks. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19: BRAZIL SURPASSES ITALY AND BELGIUM; NOW RANKS 5TH IN DEATHS PER MILLION INHABITANTS

The proportional number of victims has increased almost 20% in May, and the lack of control has made the country surpass the United Kingdom, Italy and Belgium in a month marked by crowds encouraged by President Jair Bolsonaro. On Friday, May 28, Brazil exceeded the 459,000 deaths mark caused by the pandemic, and consequently surpassed Belgium to become the country with the 5th-most victims per million inhabitants, among nations with at least 5 million inhabitants. [Read more.](#)