



Ministerio de  
Salud

Gobierno de Chile

# *The impact of COVID-19 on the immunisation programmes and how to correct the situation*

## Country perspective: Chile

ADVAC Alumni meeting

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Ministerio de Salud

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# Chile's National Immunisation Programme, CL-NIP

## Deliverables

- Contribution to the eradication of vaccine preventable diseases.
- Vaccination coverage  $\geq 95\%$  (achieve and maintain). Real-time monitoring.
- Strengthened National Immunisation Register
- Immunisation network accountability (state, regional and local levels).
- Adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) and immunisation errors surveillance.
- Communication with the community & transparency.
- Ensure biologicals and immunisation supplies in a timely manner.
- Technical cooperation strategic alliances.

# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *a. 2020 Seasonal Influenza Campaign*

- Seasonal influenza vaccination campaign implemented annually since 1982.
  - Aims:
    - Deaths and serious morbidity prevention in high-risk groups
    - Health system integrity preservation
- Annual increase of influenza vaccines made available during the campaign
  - Local demographic and epidemiological changes
  - New safety and immunogenicity evidence of vaccines

# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *a. 2020 Seasonal Influenza Campaign*

- In **2020**, the influenza **campaign had to be re-planned while in progress** due to the addition of **new high-risk** groups to be vaccinated in accordance with the national **SARS-CoV-2 pandemic** health alert requirements.
- CL-NIP increased the available doses of influenza vaccines by nearly 20% thus guaranteeing high-risk groups access to State funded influenza vaccination.



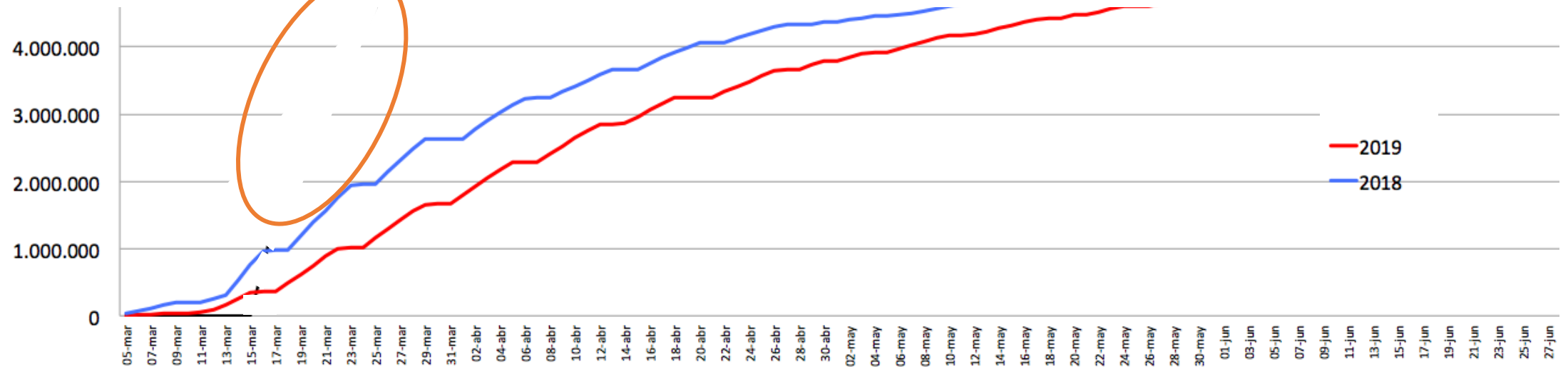
# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## a. 2020 Seasonal Influenza Campaign

- Chile Health Authorities called seasonal influenza risk groups to adhere to vaccination promptly and this way avoid SARS-CoV-2 coinfection.



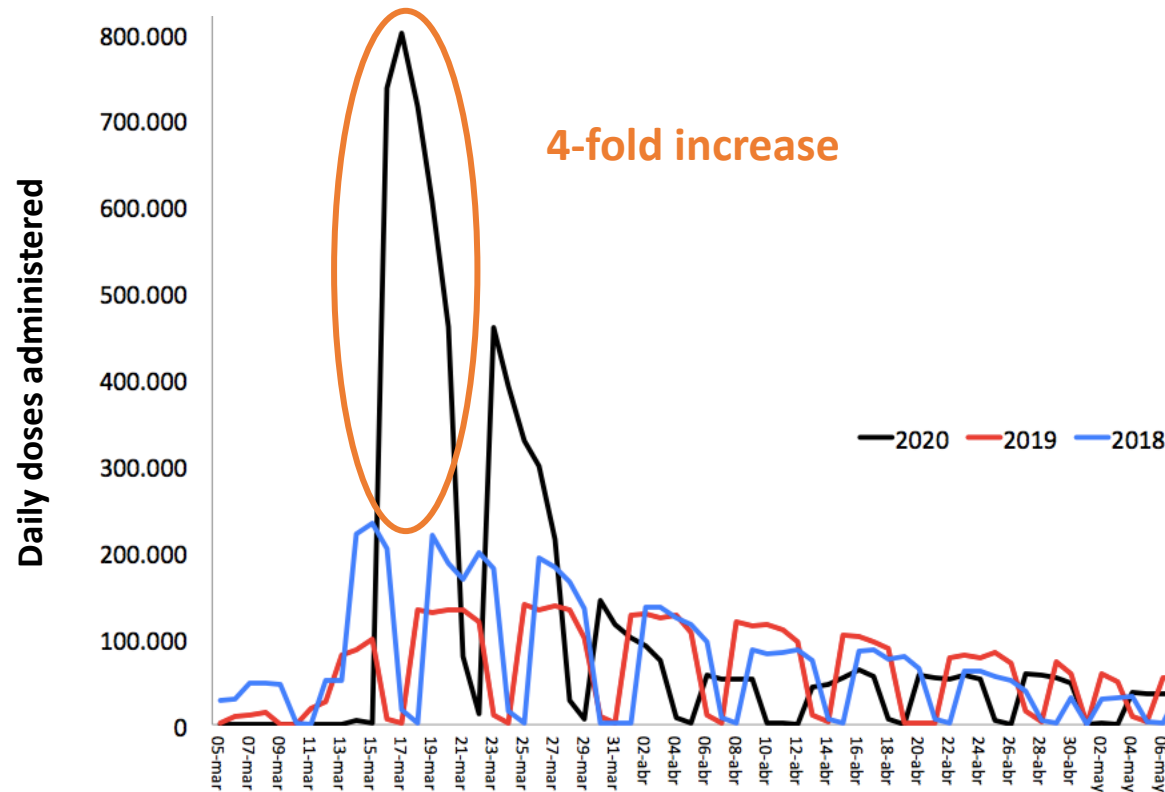
Accumulated doses administered



# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## a. 2020 Seasonal Influenza Campaign

- Chile Health Authorities called seasonal influenza risk groups to adhere to vaccination promptly and this way avoid SARS-CoV-2 coinfection.







# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## a. 2020 Seasonal Influenza Campaign

Lessons learnt:

- Scheduled access to 2021 influenza vaccination: State level coordination of a vaccination calendar by risk group, i.e age, essential occupations, comorbidities.

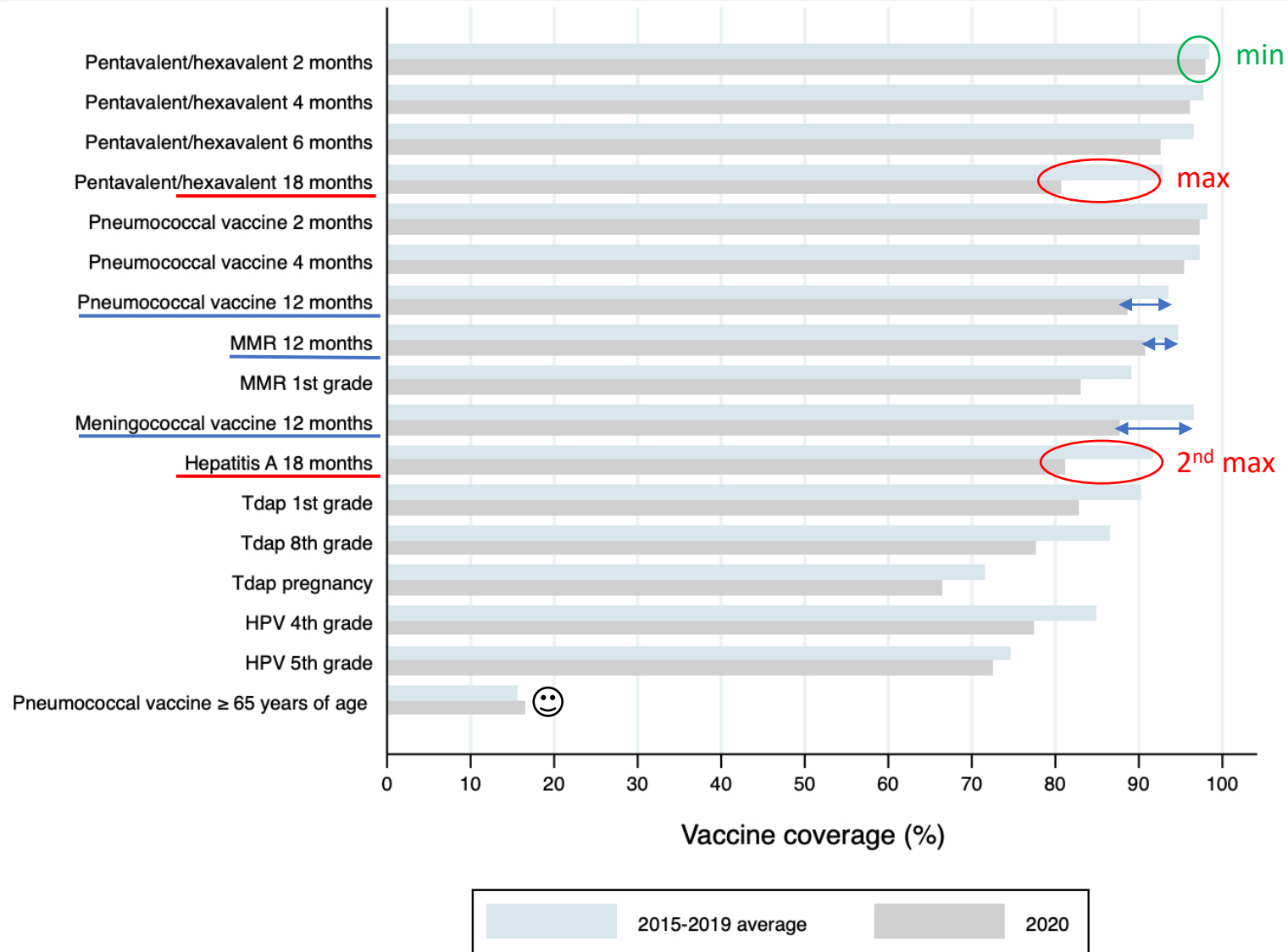
VACUNACIÓN CONTRA LA INFLUENZA CALENDARIO SEMANA 5 AL 11 DE ABRIL				
ABRIL				
Lunes 5	Martes 6	Miércoles 7	Jueves 8	Viernes 9
Personas de <b>90 y más años</b>	Personas de <b>87, 88 y 89 años</b>	Personas de <b>84, 85 y 86 años</b>	Personas de <b>82 y 83 años</b>	Personas de <b>80 y 81 años</b>
<b>Embarazadas</b> con edad gestacional <b>mayor a 33 semanas</b>	<b>Embarazadas</b> con edad gestacional de <b>25 a 32 semanas</b>	<b>Embarazadas</b> con edad gestacional de <b>17 a 24 semanas</b>	<b>Embarazadas</b> con edad gestacional de <b>menor a 16 semanas</b>	<b>Embarazadas rezagadas</b>
<b>Residentes y funcionarios de establecimientos de atención cerrada</b> (ELEAM, SENAME, SENADIS, hospitales y establecimientos psiquiátricos)				
<b>Trabajadores de la salud de recintos asistenciales públicos y privados</b>				
<b>Funcionarios de Residencias Sanitarias</b>				
<p><b>La vacuna es gratuita</b> en vacunatorios de establecimientos públicos y privados en convenio con el Minsal, para:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Personal del Área de la Salud sector público y privado</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Personas de 65 años y más</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Todas las embarazadas</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Niños y niñas desde los 6 meses y hasta 5° básico</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Enfermos crónicos entre 11 y 64 años</p> </div> </div>				

- New risks groups introduced during 2020 remained part of 2021 seasonal influenza campaign target population (42% Chilean population).



# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *b. 2020 Routine immunisation*



# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *b. 2020 Routine immunisation*

### Findings:

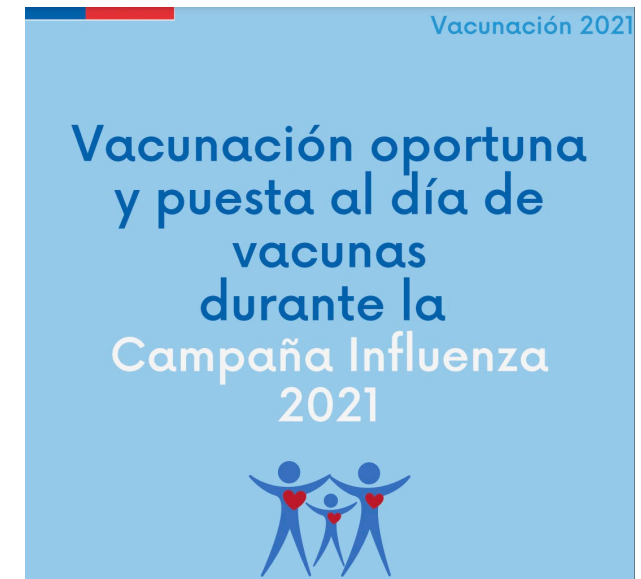
1. Routine immunisation demand decreased compared to previous non-pandemic years, with the exception of adult pneumococcal vaccination.
  - Immunisation access disruptions during SARS-CoV-2 pandemic: reluctance to leave home due to fear of infection, travel restrictions, domestic migration to spend lockdown periods with family/rural areas, health workers re-deployment to COVID-19 response.
    - CL-NIP increased availability of health workers deployed to immunisation services during the pandemic.
  - CL-NIP leadership and management accumulated experience has been preserved and the team could be considered as a consolidated.

# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *b. 2020 Routine immunisation*

### Actions taken:

- Catch-up strategy called on **seasonal Influenza risk groups that overlap with routine immunisation target groups to update their routine immunisation vaccination status during the Influenza vaccination appointment.**
- **Optimising the opportunity for routine vaccination** in children from 6 months through 10 years of age (5th grade), adults  $\geq 65$  years, pregnant women, and persons with comorbidities from 11 through 64 years of age **who were targeted for seasonal influenza vaccination as well**  $\approx 8,3$  million population.
- If further catch-up interventions needed, second catch-up strategy for children could be deployed during 2021 school extramural vaccination (second semester).



# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *b. 2020 Routine immunisation*

### Findings:

2. Non-simultaneous routine vaccination was observed at 12 and 18 months

- Dropout between early and final doses of the primary vaccine series may indicate barriers to reattendance including those that stem from pandemic control measures, need for education reinforcement to parents on immunisation timeliness, inadequate tracking of clients registered at the health facility, deficiencies in vaccine stock monitoring, reluctance to vaccinate a sick child or to administer multiple vaccines at the same visit, amongst other factors.

### Actions taken:

- CL-NIP will design, pilot and later conduct a survey among health care providers to explore factors potentially related to missed opportunities of simultaneous vaccination.

# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *c. 2021 COVID-19 vaccination campaign*

### ***Most significant challenges and successes Chile has encountered in vaccine procurement***

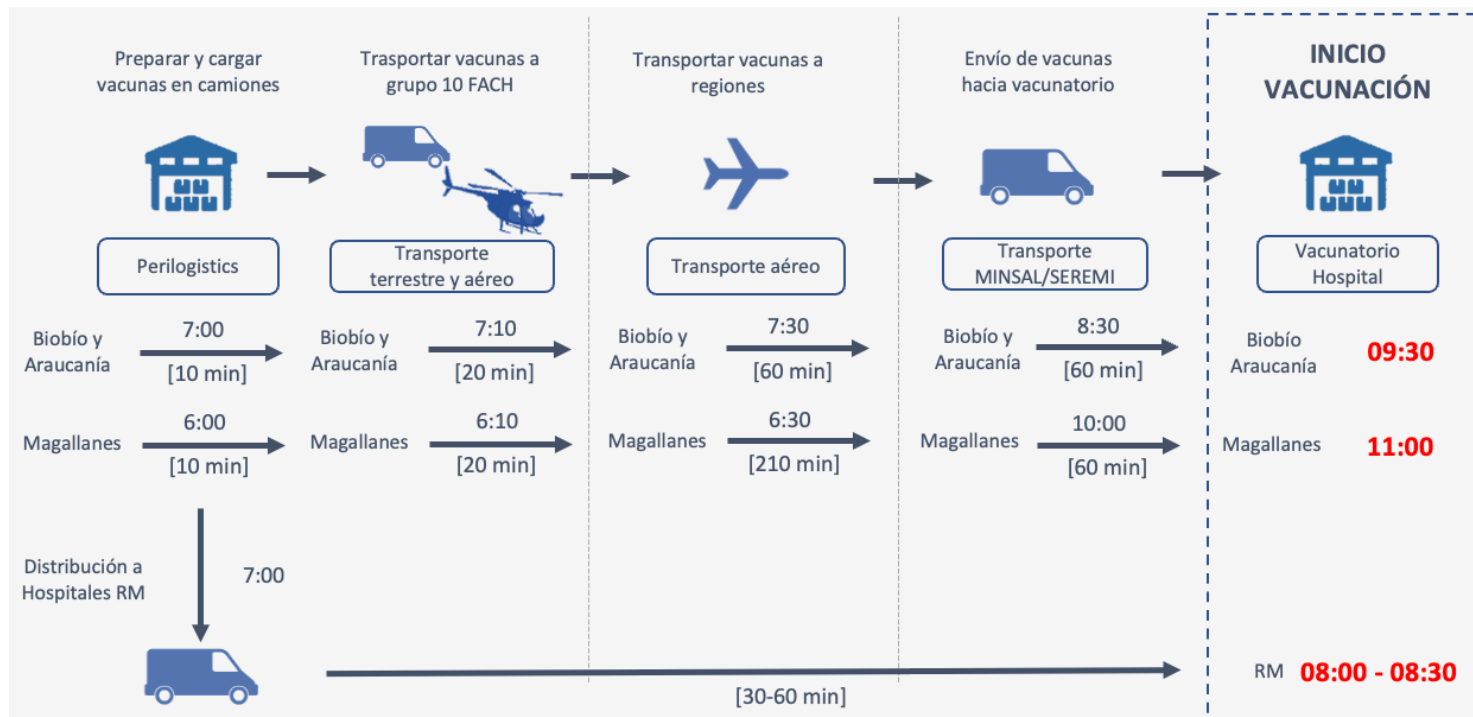
- Cross-cutting challenges: time necessary for vaccine research and development, proved safety & efficacy + limited capacity for vaccine manufacturing + international demand
- Success: diversification of vaccine access opportunities
  - a. Research and development collaborations between a national consortium of universities and vaccine developers.
  - b. Direct commercial negotiations between the International Affairs Secretary and vaccine manufacturers.
  - c. To have joined the COVAX initiative under the “Optional Purchase” arrangement.

# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## c. 2021 COVID-19 vaccination campaign

### Logistical challenges Chile has overcome in vaccination roll-out

- Cold room to point of vaccination distribution of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine



Vaccine waste: 0,5%

(range 5%-10%)

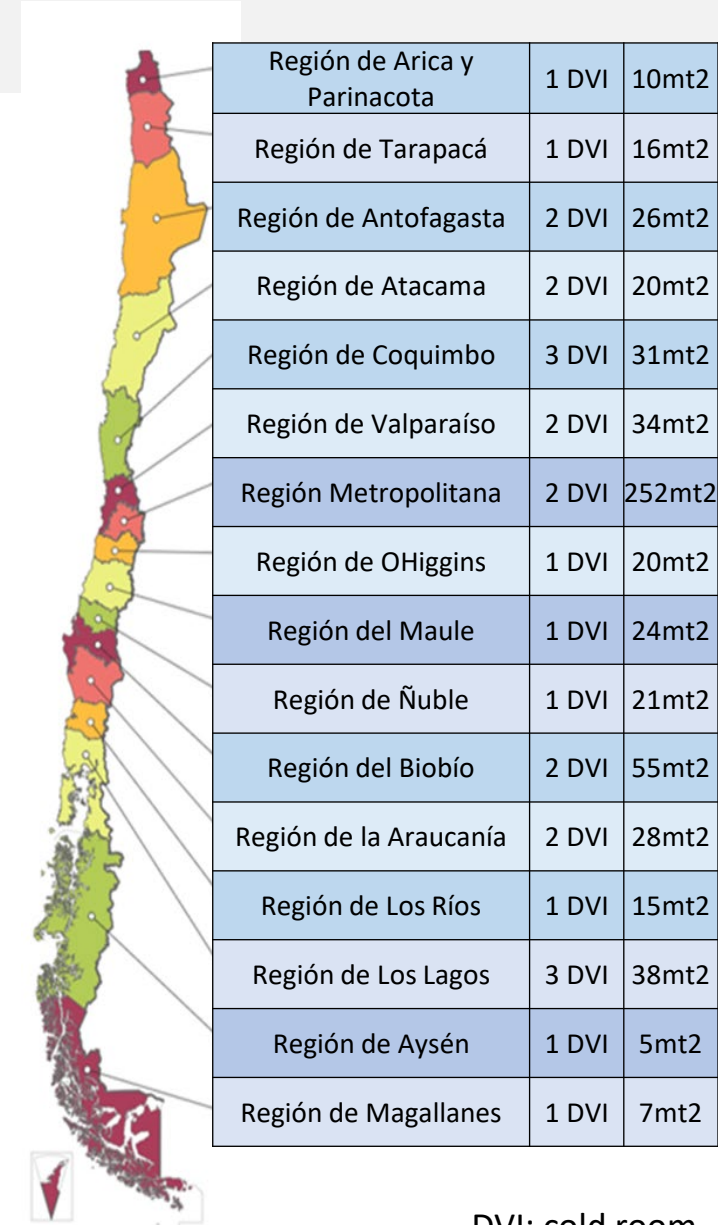
# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *c. 2021 COVID-19 vaccination campaign*

### *Useful practices that have emerged*

#### Cold chain validation:

1. Cold room certification: IQ, OQ, PQ: September 2020 through January 2021.
2. Creation/update of norms and protocols for vaccine storage and distribution best practices.
3. Passive refrigeration standardisation: isothermal containers designed by CL-NIP distributed nationally to each vaccination point.



DVI: cold room

# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *c. 2021 COVID-19 vaccination campaign*

### *Challenges faced in developing effective prioritisation plans*

- Immunisation strategy decision-making:
  - i. Evidence-based COVID-19 vaccine prioritisation recommendation by Chile National Immunization Technical Advisory Group.
  - ii. Ultimate decision made by the Ministry of Health.
  - iii. Challenge: reception by external interest groups



# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *c. 2021 COVID-19 vaccination campaign*

### *Challenges faced in developing effective prioritisation plans*

Scheduled access to COVID-19 vaccination: State level coordination of a vaccination calendar by risk group, i.e age, essential occupations, comorbidities.

**CALENDARIO DE VACUNACIÓN COVID-19**

**Entre el 8 y el 12 de febrero**

Lunes 8	Martes 9	Miércoles 10	Jueves 11	Viernes 12
Adultos Mayores <b>entre 81 y 84 años</b>	Adultos Mayores <b>entre 78 y 80 años</b>	Adultos Mayores <b>entre 75 y 77 años</b>	Adultos Mayores <b>entre 73 y 74 años</b>	Adultos Mayores <b>entre 71 y 72 años</b>

- » Personal con funciones esenciales atención directa a la ciudadanía
- » Personal de farmacias
- » Personal de laboratorios (Universitarios / Privados) que realizan detección de SARS-CoV-2
- » Personal de Fuerzas de Orden y Seguridad, Fuerzas Armadas desplegadas en el plan de acción por Coronavirus
- » Personal que desarrolla funciones críticas del Estado

# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *c. 2021 COVID-19 vaccination campaign*

*How has the emergence of variants of concern affected Chile's vaccination strategy or its vaccine choices?*

- As for all other vaccine preventable diseases, the local epidemiological context informs COVID-19 immunization-related policy decision-making.
- SARS-CoV-2 variants surveillance.

# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *c. 2021 COVID-19 vaccination campaign*

### *Chile's approaches to addressing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy*

- Systematic and real-time monitoring of vaccine coverage → National immunisation register.
- AEFI and immunisation-related error surveillance.
  - Prompt strategic response to COVID-19 vaccines AEFI – [Chile NITAG guidance on immunisation strategies against COVID-19 vaccines AEFI](#)
- Communication strategy, including a daily TV report by health authorities.
- Early response to the public's demand for information.

# Impact of COVID-19 on Chile immunisation programme

## *c. 2021 COVID-19 vaccination campaign*

*What approaches has Chile promoted or could be encouraged to support in relation to the global distribution of vaccines?*

- Chile's participation in COVAX
- Chile's COVID-19 vaccines donation to Ecuador and Paraguay.
- Chile covered for the COVID-19 vaccines shipping to Uruguay (Beijing-Montevideo).

# Impact/legacy that the COVID vaccination campaign may have on the routine immunisation programme

- COVID-19 vaccination campaign experience is in process of building.
  - Booster dose?
  - Seasonal vaccination? Universal or prioritised groups?
  - SARS-CoV-2 variants
  - Vaccine manufacturing and distribution
  - Global access to COVID-19 vaccines
- New good practices introduced
- Coverage corrective actions
- CL-NIP assessment → recommendations for growth, development and strengthening
- Long term impact...



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# Thank you

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