



OUR CORNER OF THE WORLD

LOUISVILLE SISTER CITIES MONTHLY

Montpellier / Tamale / Quito / La Plata / Mainz / Jiujiang / Leeds/ Perm / Adapazari



AT-A-GLANCE

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June/July - Vaccination Update

As the world crosses the halfway point of 2022, we wanted to take a look at the state of the COVID pandemic in our Sister Cities. In this issue, we share some of the information that our friends have related to us, which provides a good snapshot of how the world is experiencing the pandemics - whether it is recovery, retrenchment, or other challenges that continues to restrict our movement.

In the U.S. we have been fortunate that the efforts to vaccinate our population have been for the most part, successful. While the overall percentages of those vaccinated still have a ways to go, unlike most other countries, we are not plagued by vaccine accessibility and availability challenges. That is the sad reality that the rest of the world still wrestles with.

Through this issue, we hope you get a sense of how difficult this virus is to manage. From all of us in Louisville, we wish our Sister Cities a quick recovery and a return to in-person exchanges in the near future.

In friendship and with best wishes,
The World Affairs Council Team



Louisville At-a-Glance

This month we are focusing on COVID-19 vaccinations and the ongoing fight globally against the pandemic. We want to focus on how our community is fairing but also our international neighbors as well.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky currently has over 2.2 million residents vaccinated according to the latest figures from the Governor's office. This means that when looking at the adult population coverage we are at 61% vaccination rate and for the total population of the state we are right at half of all residents being vaccinated.

This is great news and there is a continued effort to push people in parts of Kentucky and in Louisville to get vaccinated. Growing concerns about the impact of the highly contagious Delta variant on those unvaccinated highlight the need that still exists.

In Louisville, historical disparities have impacted the vaccination rate overall. While at least half of the city has at least one dose, some areas have 90% of their population vaccinated while others barely reach 20%. The area where WAC's offices are is one of the lower vaccinated areas and we are partnering with other organizations in the area to set up a vaccination clinic in July to help address this issue.

Kentucky has a unique relationship to several of the COVID vaccines. First, is our connection to Mainz, Germany where the Pfizer vaccine partnered with local company Biontech. Second, is the production just outside of Louisville of the Johnson and Johnson one dose vaccine (pictured top right).

Another initiative at the state level to increase vaccination numbers is the creation of the "Shot at a Million" drawing. All Kentuckians who register and have been vaccinated could win either \$1 million or if they are under 18 could win a full-ride scholarship to a state university or trade school.



Getty Images



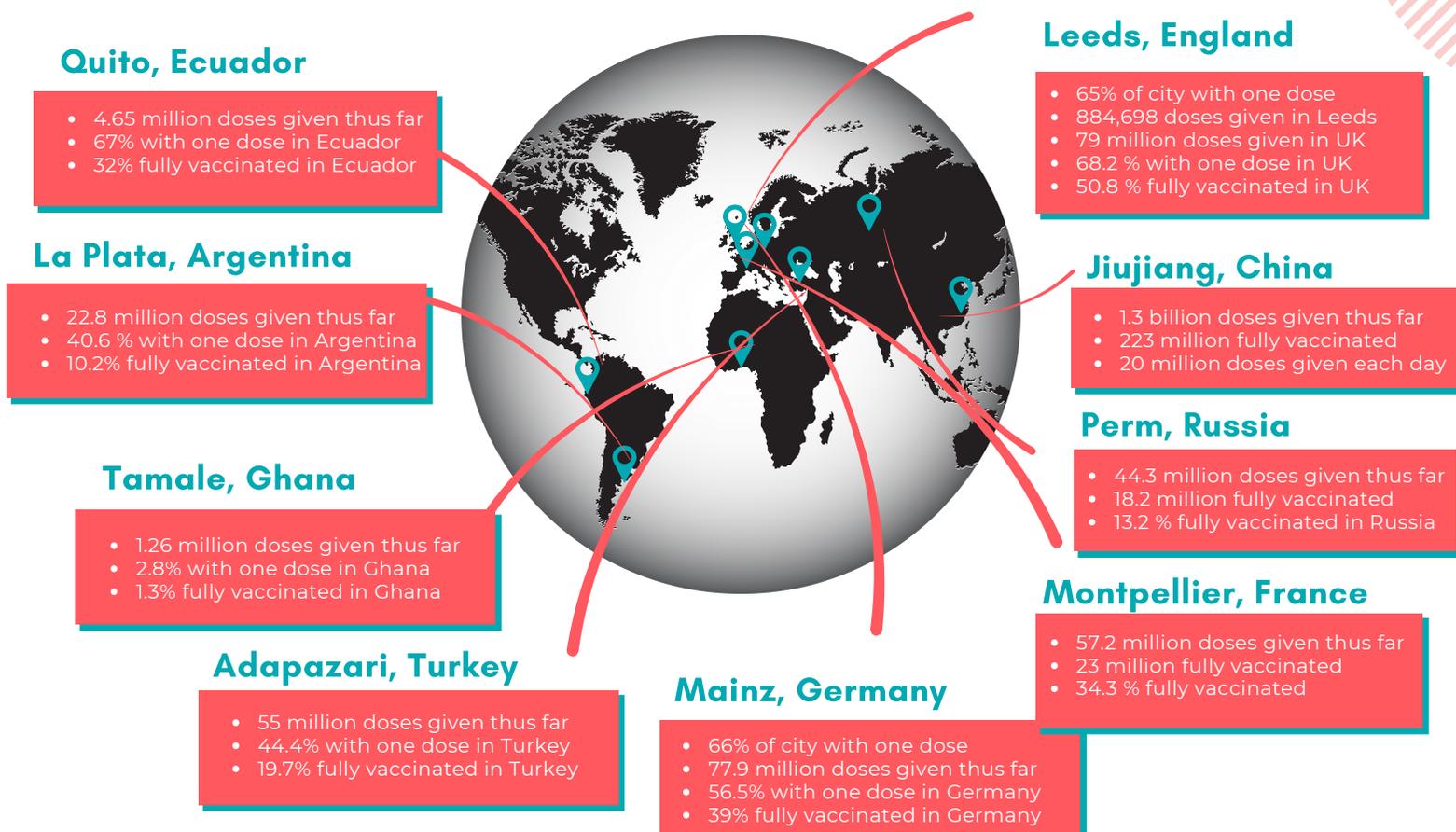
Kentucky Today/Tom Latek



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Vaccination Around the World

We take a deeper dive into the vaccination rates across our Sister Cities and the countries they reside to better understand to continued challenges of the pandemic.



As you can see, there are clear disparities between different parts of the world particularly as we compare access to various COVID vaccines in African and South American countries. Currently, the vaccines in usage across our Sister Cities are: Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson, Sputnik V, Sinopharm, Sinovac, and Oxford/Astrazeneca.

A note with the above statistics-- the percentages of vaccination coverage (one short and fully vaccinated) are calculated from the total population. If looking at just the adult population these percentages are likely a little higher, though not necessarily by much more.

Impact of COVID

Many of our Sister Cities have lost important members of their communities over the course of the pandemic. Below, we honor a notable resident from Tamale, Ghana.



Tamale, Ghana

Sister City with Louisville since 1954.

Tamale has been grieving the loss of prominent local nurse Alhaji Abdel Kadiri Abdulai Zakaria as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. Alhaji Abdel. Kadiri was affectionately called "Doctor Kadiri" in the entire city of Tamale particularly in the Kukuo Community where his services had impacted the lives of many.

Before his demise, he had established the Hajj Abdel Kadiri Scientific Clinic and Nursing Agency a private community nursing clinic that took care of Kukuo Community primary healthcare issues. He was noted for his kindness in treating and discharging people who had been admitted into his clinic and didn't have money to pay immediately. His major patients came from rural Tamale who could freely express their problems to him without much apprehension.

Additionally, Alhaji Abdel Kadiri was the only specialized ENT person in the entire Tamale Teaching Hospital for close to two decades. He was well noted for his diligence and competencies when it came to dealing with a patient who had a problem with his/her ears.



As a nurse of repute, he rose to become the Director of nursing services at the Tamale Teaching Hospital. A position he held with distinction until he reached his compulsory retirement about three years ago.

Due to his experience in over-the-counter medicine, he was elected the Northern Regional Chairman of the License Over The Counter Medicine Sellers. His death has created a big vacuum not only in the Kukuo Community but the entire city of Tamale where he served with passion with compassion.

Our counterparts in Tamale shared this additional message:

"COVID 19 indeed has hit us hard in Tamale. Alhaji Abdel Kadiri Abdulai Zakaria May your gentle soul be granted Janna."

Hopes for the Future

Our Sister City counterparts detail how they are changing in relation to the uptick in vaccinations and what they are looking forward to doing again.



Perm, Russia

Sister City with Louisville since 1994.

In Perm, the situation with the pandemic is under control though there is an increase in new cases— over 100 cases each day. Authorities in Perm said they were tightening anti-coronavirus restrictions (step-up mask and glove enforcement) in an effort to curb a new spike in infections. The city's vaccination rate remains from low to average (there are enough doses of vaccines in the city but many people refuse to be vaccinated).

Perm schools and universities switched their students to remote learning from October till March, now the educational process has returned to normal. Theatres and concert halls have been opened to the public since last fall provided only 75% of seats are occupied. In June Perm hosted the famous and prestigious Diaghilev Festival, which attracted connoisseurs of classical and contemporary music and theatrical performances from all over Russia.



Montpellier, France

Sister City with Louisville since 1954.

Many Montpellier residents are back to their normal routine! The terraces of bars and restaurants are once again open to the public since May 19.

In order to provide the best possible support to the economic players, the City of Montpellier has put in place three exceptional measures to ensure a successful reopening: temporary extensions of the terraces, a responsibility pact to supervise this extension while guaranteeing health safety and peace of mind of local residents, as well as an exemption from the fees for occupying the terraces until June 30.

Since April 15, the City Hall, the common house of Montpellier, has been home to a high-capacity vaccination center. We are continuing our vaccination strategy with more than 1,200 daily doses. The upcoming access to vaccines for all citizens opens new perspectives: we must prepare for tomorrow.



Mainz, Germany

Sister City with Louisville since 1994.

With a falling seven-day incidence of (as of June 21) about 20, most restrictions of the past 7 months were lifted, e.g. in Mainz, the city completely abolished the mask requirement outdoors, exceptions still apply at markets and bus stops and indoor catering and no nightly curfew anymore. Five people from 5 households can meet again and at private parties, up to 50 persons (outdoors) may be invited.

This is especially welcome as many pubs open for public viewing, i.e. people can watch the football European Championship together. Public and commercial cultural institutions may open.

As of Monday, June 21, Rhineland-Palatinate will even abolish the requirement to wear a mask in class, despite normally occupied classrooms.



Jiujiang, China

Sister City with Louisville since 2004.

Jiujiang has maintained good performance in its epidemic control, and its economic and social development has basically returned to normal. As of June 14, 2021, no new local confirmed cases had been reported for 482 consecutive days in our city.

Jiujiang Municipal People's Government attaches great importance to people's life and health safety, and actively promotes vaccination work into the communities, rural areas, for citizens, especially the elderly to provide convenience for vaccination. The public is willing to inoculate.

Later this year Jiujiang plans to launch a painting exhibition for teachers and students from sister cities. The exhibition will be held in various schools in the city.

WAC Team

Our work at the World Affairs Council is facilitated and supported by a group of passionate individuals that believe in the power of global exchange, dialogue and learning. They comprise of capable professionals at the staff level, supported by a strong and active board of directors and committee members who are community leaders and seasoned professionals.

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