



# CIRCULAR FOR P&I CLUBS

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**GLOBALPANDI, S.A.**  
P&I CORRESPONDENTS

# COVID-19 IN VENEZUELA CURRENT STATUS

According to official figures as for the end of November 2021, Venezuela accrued 24,794 cases of COVID-19 with 264 deaths. In overall, the country has counted 5,170 deaths since the coronavirus arrived in Venezuela in 2020, according to same source.

The country is right now on a total relaxation of the restrictive measures implemented at the beginning of the pandemic. Unsurprisingly an important increase of contagion is noticed starting December, there is an increase of 66,74% of cases reported during the first five days of December 2,973 are the new cases of COVID-19 reported from December 01 to 05 this year. Unlike 2020, there was an increase of 66.74% compared to the first five days of last December (1783 cases).

Independent specialists do not back those figures though. According to Médicos Unidos Venezuela, - a collective of Venezuelan doctors monitoring the situation -, Venezuela's numbers do not reflect reality, a drastic undercount driven by a lack of testing and infrastructure, and political reasons.


The reasons backing this statement are quite simple, according to official figures

***"Venezuela's numbers do not reflect reality, a drastic undercount driven by a lack of testing and infrastructure, and political reasons..."***

Venezuela has some 170 fatalities per million people, by contrast, its next-door neighbors Colombia and Brazil report about 2,440 and 2,700 fatalities per million people, best estimates show Venezuela's true COVID-19 infection and death statistics are at least five to seven times as higher.

On the vaccination side, at the beginning of December President Nicolás Maduro assured that the country had reached 77.5% of the population vaccinated against COVID-19, and that by the end of December his government expected to reach the goal of 90% immunized. However, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) estimates that only 34.48% of the population in Venezuela (28,704,947 inhabitants) has a complete schedule with two doses of a vaccine available in the country, according to data updated up to December 03.

Cases of the last Omicron variant



reported in Brazil (a country bordering Venezuela), Argentina, Chile, Peru, already, although Colombia has not yet confirmed cases, but local authorities assured that they are working based on a possible presence of the variant in the neighboring country.

Unlike the rest of Latin America, the arrival of the variants to Venezuela is marked by the low level of international connectivity in the country. Certainly, Venezuela has behaved slowly in what is the entry of variants. Nonetheless, the specialists have no doubt the new variant will arrive eventually, perhaps in a matter of weeks, as it has happened with the rest of the variants.

As it might be expected, there have been several cases of the disease affecting the crews while in Venezuela, with variable severity in some cases, regrettably with crewmembers deceases; nonetheless, most of the incidents were attended and coordinated leading to the recovery and repatriation of all affected crewmembers.

Globalpandi, S.A. has successfully assisted members during the pandemic all long attending several crews with the disease; however, from our experience it is clear that results in each specific case will depend on the effective cooperation among the parties involved (charterers' agent, protective agent, crewing agency,

correspondents, etc.), this to ensure the right strategy and prompt decisions on a cost-effective basis.

Therefore, it is advisable to contact the correspondents at the very beginning of the case (and not at a later stage) who may well assist taking into account their knowledge of the local reality and the regular handling of these cases.

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## **P&I CORRESPONDENTS**

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Britannia, British Marine, Carina, Charterers P&I Club, China P&I Club, EF Marine, GARD, Hydor, ITIC, Korea P&I Club, Nordisk Defence Club (Through Sabatino Pizzolante), North of England P&I Club, MS Amlin, Shipowners P&I Club, Skuld, The Standard P&I Club, Steamship Mutual, The American Club, The London P&I Club, Thomas Miller Specialty, West of England and Through Transport Club (TTC)

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# **CONTACT**