

COVID-19 VACCINATION IN THE AMAZON

10 principles for an equitable, timely,
effective and culturally-adapted strategy



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AMAZON INDIGENOUS
HEALTH ROUTE

1

Prioritize the Amazonian Indigenous population in the first two phases of vaccination

The Indigenous peoples of the Amazon should be prioritized, expressly, during the first two phases of vaccination. National and international legislation recognizes them as a vulnerable population and the epidemiological situation of the Amazon confirms it.

It is also essential to ensure the vaccination of health professionals who are in constant contact with the communities.



2

Budget the strategy properly

Identify all the costs (direct and indirect) of the vaccination strategy, beyond the acquisition of the vaccine.

Include mobilization (through land, river and/or air), costs for personnel, logistics, medicines and additional interventions. The definition of the budget for the strategy must be comprehensive and include not only the vaccination phase, but also follow-up and monitoring.



3

Guarantee the active participation of Indigenous peoples in the design and implementation of the strategy

Adjust the prioritization criteria, logistics, implementation and feedback to the specificities of each population, ensuring autonomy and self-determination. Enable their participation in the analysis and decision-making.

Informed consent must be guaranteed and materials and communication mechanisms must go beyond linguistic adaptation, considering territorial and cultural criteria.



4

Guarantee access to clear, timely and truthful information

The provision of culturally adapted and evidence-based information must guarantee Indigenous peoples' rights and put an end to the infodemic. This enables voluntary and informed decision-making before, during and after the vaccination process.

Consider the use of technologies, including community-based ones, for timely access to information.



5

Adapt information and materials with cultural relevance

Follow international recommendations regarding community participation, effective communication, and prioritization of disadvantaged socio-demographic groups.

Information and materials related to all phases (pre, during and post-intervention) must be culturally adapted. Indigenous representatives should participate in the process to ensure the following aspects are addressed:

- Doubts of the population
- Proposals on the vaccination strategy
- Cultural, linguistic and territorial relevance to each Indigenous people and community



6

Select the appropriate vaccine for the Amazonian context

Territorial aspects, transportation time and climate conditions of most of Amazon territories are different from urban realities. Prioritize vaccines with cold chain requirements that can be adapted to the available refrigeration resources. Single-dose vaccines should be prioritized for Indigenous communities in remote areas.

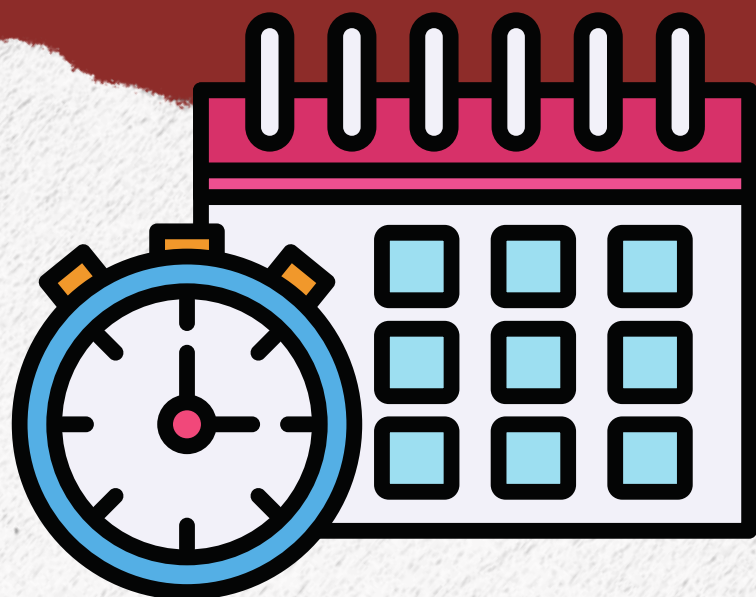


7

Guarantee availability and effective access

Consider and budget for special logistics that the geographic and climatic conditions of the Amazon call for. Transportation times represent one of the biggest challenges.

Brigades should count with vaccine stocks to cover the entire Indigenous population visited, in order to be efficient and optimize resources. The amount of doses and schedules must be public and agreed upon with the Indigenous organizations. When more than one dose is required, the scheme must be safeguarded and completed.



8

Define suitable places and means of transportation

Not all Indigenous people in the Amazon has access to health centers. Identify vaccination points, dissemination mechanisms, and safe means of transportation to the selected places. Vaccination points should be spacious and ventilated.



9

Establish a comprehensive intervention strategy and essential health services

Access to health services in the Amazon is limited. The deployment of brigades will be technically and financially efficient only if it includes all the strategic and essential interventions. These include, among others: access to diagnostic tests, compliance with child immunization schemes, maternal and child care, care for contagious diseases, among others. For this, it is essential to strengthen health teams with community health promoters and include a follow-up and monitoring strategy.



10 Ensure adequate follow-up and permanent surveillance

All statistics from the pre, during and post vaccination stages must be public, under the consent of Indigenous populations in the Amazon.

Community-based surveillance is key and must ensure:

- An adequate notification system and community-based surveillance
- The understanding, acceptance and active participation of the community and Indigenous organizations
- Proper follow-up and monitoring of the health status of all the people treated by the brigades



The strategy goes beyond the acquisition of vaccines; it requires a comprehensive, applicable, timely and efficient plan.

As part of the Amazon Indigenous Health Route, our organizations ratify the commitment to contribute to the development of plans that respond to the cultural and territorial reality of the most vulnerable populations.



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