



**INDEX NUEVO LAREDO AND CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO IN
LAREDO**

**PRESS RELEASE ABOUT THE PILOT PROGRAM OF VACCINATION AGAINST
COVID-19 TO EMPLOYEES OF MANUFACTURING COMPANIES WHICH WAS
HELD IN THE JUAREZ-LINCOLN BRIDGE.**

**Región Laredos
Laredo, Texas
July 19, 2021**

Today a pilot vaccination program against COVID-19 was held at the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge for personnel of the manufacturing industries of Nuevo Laredo, with a limited number of Johnson & Johnson vaccines, administered by the organization Quick Penny Investments.

The vaccines were acquired through Mayor of Laredo Pete Saenz and the City of Laredo Health Department headed by Richard Chamberlain, and with the support of Fire Chief Guillermo Heard.

This pilot program is part of a larger effort by INDEX Nuevo Laredo with the support of the Consulate General of Mexico in Laredo, and its continuity depends on the availability of vaccines.

It is important to note that although the vaccines are free, the logistic for their application was carried out through a private institution and the cost of this process was paid by the manufacturing companies themselves. Therefore, it is a combination of an act of solidarity from Laredo with its sister city Nuevo Laredo and an act of social responsibility of the employers that paid for the expenses of this pilot vaccination program.

Texas has a surplus of vaccines, and the vaccines applied today to this vulnerable part of the population that participates in the productive chains with essential jobs, does not take away the opportunity of vaccination to any citizen of Laredo.

The integration of the economies of Mexico and the United States is strengthening with the USMCA. Despite the pandemic in 2020 bilateral trade reached 800 thousand 864 million dollars, which is equivalent to one and a half million dollars per minute. Of that commerce, more than 40% goes through Laredo. This shows us that the United States and Mexico are producing together and that the interruption of production chains by people infected in Mexico would have a negative impact on the United States economy.

1612 Farragut St, Laredo, TX 78040
Teléfono: (956) 7230990 consulmex.sre.gob.mx/laredo





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The vaccination process for the manufacturing industries' employees was held in an orderly manner at the Juárez-Lincoln International Bridge II, where the employees arrived by bus and were vaccinated on board. Afterwards, the buses remained on the bridge for 15-minutes for observation purposes of possible reactions to the vaccine. After this, the buses returned to Mexico.

In addition to the support and solidarity of Mayor Pete Saenz, this pilot program, whose initial planning was supported by the Webb County Judge's Office, had the support of local CBP authorities, Mexican Customs, the INAMI office in Nuevo Laredo, Jurisdicción Sanitaria 5 and the Dirección de Protección Civil y Bomberos.

This binational vaccination pilot program represents the coordination and close collaboration that exists between authorities and actors in the Laredos Region.



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