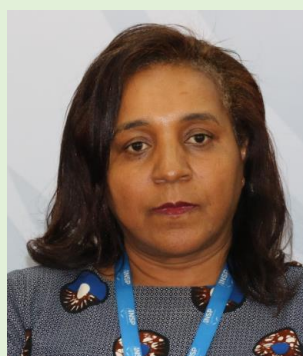


## Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



**Maria da Luz Lima  
Mendonça**

President of Nacional  
Instituto of Health Public

### Editorial

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a public health problem in Cabo Verde. Currently, all islands of the archipelago have confirmed cases of the disease. Since the beginning of the pandemic, public health measures have been implemented to limit community transmission and these measures have included increasing laboratory capacity, active surveillance and testing of suspect cases and contacts, isolation and treatment/tracking of confirmed cases, and the monitoring of contacts.

The municipality of São Filipe, on the island of Fogo, became the new epicenter of the epidemic in Cabo Verde with the number of new cases of COVID-19 higher than that reported in the municipality of Praia, the capital city of the country. The other islands are at different levels of risk, with those that have not registered new cases for more than 14 days (São Nicolau and Maio) being highlighted.

### What is in fact the current situation?

Cabo Verde has performed a considerable amount of testing given the size of its population, following a strategy of identifying and investigating confirmed and suspect cases and contact tracing, in an effort to interrupt the transmission of the disease. Since the beginning of the pandemic in the archipelago, with the first case registered in March, a total of 9840 cumulative cases, have been notified to date, of which 349 were active cases 9386 were recovered cases and 103 deaths from COVID-19. The trend is towards a decrease in the number of cases notified in some islands, namely, São Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista and Maio. While, the islands of São Vicente, Santiago and Fogo have reported an increase in the numbers of cases in the last 14 days.

Table 1. Number of cases and incidence of cases reported in the last 14 days of COVID-19 per 100 thousand inhabitants, (2/11/20 -15/11/20)

Island	Population	Nº of cases notified	14-day Incidence % <sub>000</sub>
Santo Antão	37658	40	106,2
São Vicente	84964	153	180,1
São Nicolau	12031	0	0,0
Sal	41121	4	9,7
Boa Vista	19879	2	10,1
Maio	7525	0	0,0
Santiago	313460	402	128,2
Fogo	34815	348	999,6
Brava	5405	9	166,5
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	<b>556857</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>172.0</b>

As of the 15 of November, 2020, Cabo Verde had registered 9840 positive cases of COVID-19. In the epidemiological weeks 45 and 46 which correspond to the period between 2/11/20 and 15/11/20,, 958 cases of COVID-19 were reported. In this period, the island of Fogo reported 348 positive cases and the highest 14-day cumulative incidence of 9999.6 cases per 100 thousand inhabitants. While the islands of Maio, Sal and São Nicolau reported cumulative incidences of less than 10 cases per 100,000 of the population in the last 14 days.

Mapping of the 14-day notification rate and test positivity rate by islands as of 15 November, 2020

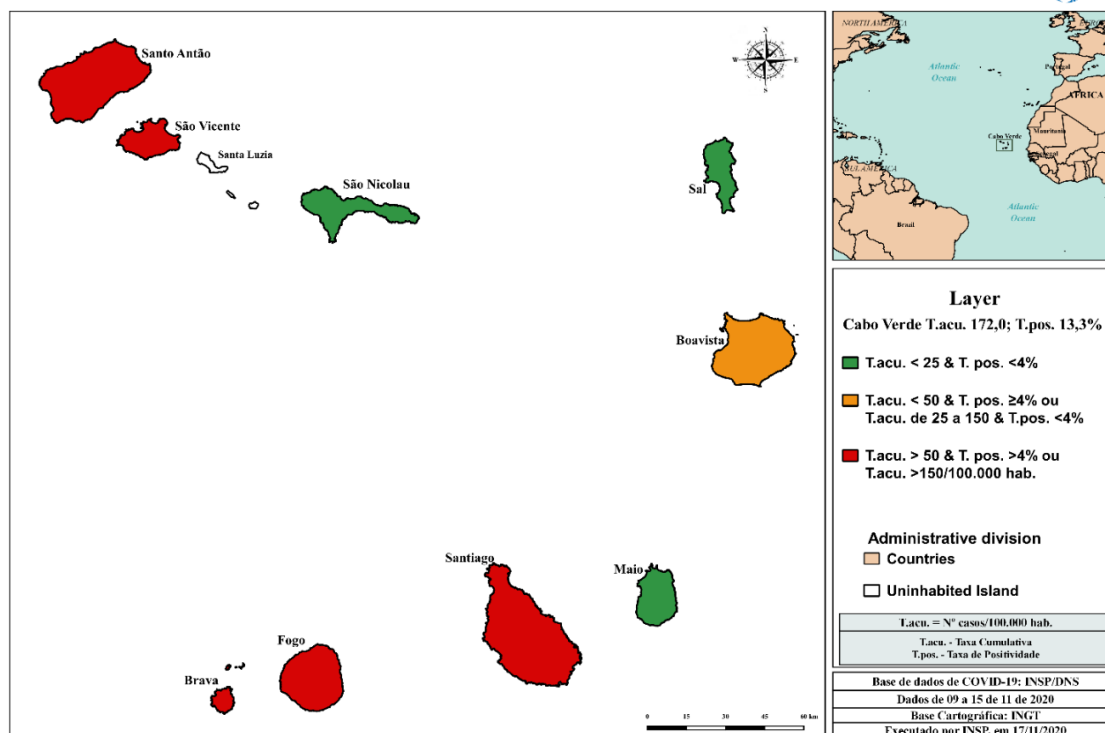


Figure 1. Incidence of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants per island (26/10/20 to 8/11/20) and screening rate in the last week (2/11/20).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate and testing rate per 100,000 population in epidemiological week 46 (9/11/20-15/11/20)

Island	Nº of test performed	Nº of confirmed cases	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate (% <sub>000</sub> )
Santo Antão	174	9	5,2	462,1
São Vicente	671	82	12,2	789,7
São Nicolau	5	0	0,0	41,6
Sal	52	2	3,8	126,5
Boavista	22	1	4,5	110,7
Maio	5	0	0,0	66,4
Santiago	1630	168	10,3	520,0
Fogo	583	158	27,1	1674,6
Brava	25	1	4,0	462,6
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	<b>3167</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>13,3</b>	<b>568,7</b>

The implementation of the network of virology laboratories on the islands of Santiago, São Vicente, Sal and Fogo has considerably increased local laboratory capacity. As of the 15/11/20 a total of 67280 samples had been processed locally and in reference laboratories outside the country. In the 46<sup>th</sup> epidemiological week, the islands of São Nicolau, Sal, Brava and Maio recorded positivity rates of less than 5%, while the islands of Fogo and São Vicente reported the highest positivity rates of 27.1% and 12.2%, respectively. The positivity rate at national level was at 13.3% and approximately 568.7 people per 100,000 inhabitants were tested using the RT-PCR diagnostic method. The testing rates per 100 000 of the population, were high on the islands of Santiago, Fogo, and São Vicente, where the highest number of cases were reported in the period in analysis (Table 2).

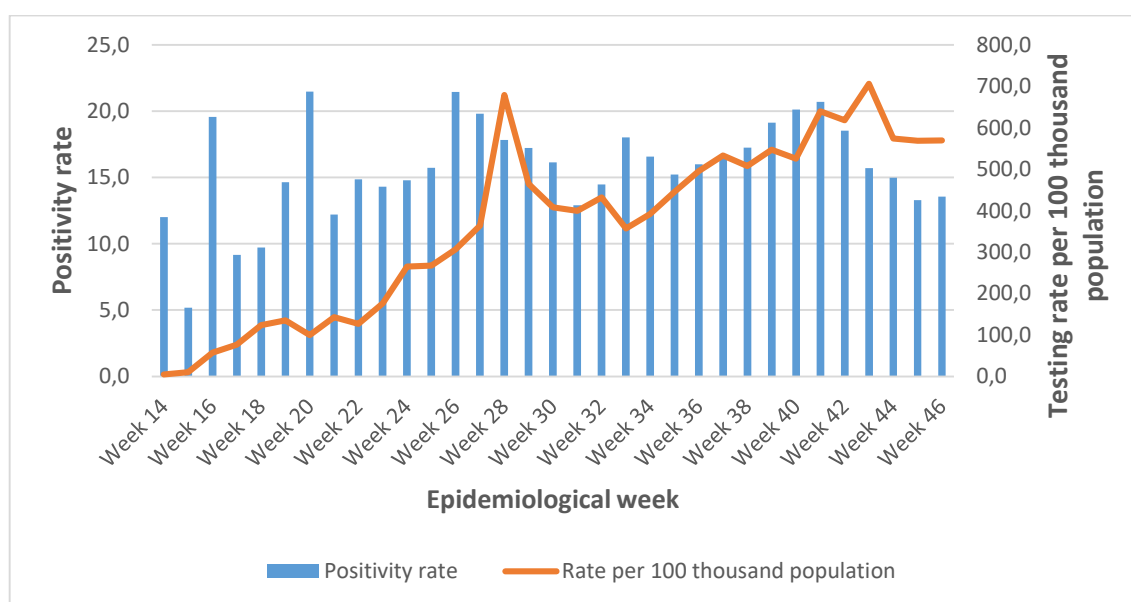


Figure 2. Positivity rate and screening rate per 100,000 inhabitants, epidemiological week 45

The Government of Cabo Verde has been monitoring and assessing the epidemiological situation of each island and on the 14th of November approved Resolution nº 152/2020, that extends the calamity situation on the islands of Santiago and Fogo, as well as the contingency situation on the other islands of the archipelago. This measure follows the increase in the number of positive cases on the island of Fogo and some stabilization with a decreasing trend on the island of Santiago, and aims to ensure the maintenance of prevention and containment measures that are relevant in the current situation. With the aim of minimizing the risks of transmission of the infection caused by the novel Coronavirus the Government of Cabo Verde has decreed the mandatory wearing of masks in all public places, on the 5th of November

## Datasheet

### National Health Observatory of the National Institute of Public Health

- Dr. Maria da Luz Lima Mendonça
- Dr. Ngibo Fernandes
- Dr. Janilza Silva
- Mr. Jonas Gomes
- Mrs. Janice Soares

### Editing and Publishing:

- Mrs. Catarina Veiga
- Mr. Adnilson Medina



**Ministério da Saúde e  
da Segurança Social**  
Direcção Nacional da Saúde



**Ministério do  
Turismo e Transportes**  
Direcção Geral de Turismo e Transportes