

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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Editorial

Cabo Verde continues to strongly focus on health security by implementing assertive measures to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on protecting families, companies, and jobs. Tourism and the air transport sector were the most affected as a result of the pandemic. The strong dependence on tourism has sounded the alarm in the whole country as it threatens jobs. With this in mind, the Ministry of Tourism has launched the Tourism Renaissance Plan aiming at supporting establishments in the tourism sector, in the adoption of health security protocols and recommendations; promoting the diversification of touristic products; focusing on sustainability and business promotion; training and valuing of professionals in the tourism sector.

Moreover, the strengthening of the healthcare system with the establishment of treatment centers and intensive care units in the islands of Sal and Boavista translates the efforts to resume tourism safely and confidently. Dues to such actions, and in addition to the work the government has been carrying out in the field of diplomacy with European partners, who represent Cabo Verde's primary touristic market source, some results are starting to emerge. The decrease in the COVID-19 infection curve, mainly in the islands of Sal and Boavista, may represent good news for the tourism sector in December. Various airline companies and operators are scheduling or increasing the number of regular flights with tourists on board. To continue rigorously complying and implementing the government's recommendations in the fight against COVID-19 so that the gradual resumption of travel and tourism is effective and happens as soon as possible. That is the goal, and it depends on each one of us!

What is the current situation?

As of November 22, 2020, Cape Verde had 10 302 cumulative cases of COVID-19. On that day, the country recorded 405 active cases, 9791 cumulative recovered cases, and 104 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 47 (16/11/2020 to 22/11/2020), the archipelago exceeded the threshold of 10 000 cases. Additionally, in the 14-day period from 09/11/2020 to 22/11/2020, all islands reported cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection except for the Island of São Nicolau. The islands of Maio (1), Brava (1), Boa Vista (1), and Sal (4) reported the least number of cases, while São Vicente (141), Santiago (300), and Fogo (409) had the highest number of cases. In this period, Cabo Verde recorded a total of four (4) deaths from COVID-19.

Table 1. Number of cases and incidence of cases reported in the last 14 days of COVID-19 per 100 thousand inhabitants, 9/11/20 a 22/11/20

Island	Population	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	37658	26	69,0
São Vicente	84964	141	166,0
São Nicolau	12031	0	0,0
Sal	41121	4	9,7
Boa Vista	19879	1	5,0
Maio	7525	1	13,3
Santiago	313460	300	95,7
Fogo	34815	409	1174,8
Brava	5405	1	18,5
Cabo Verde	556857	883	158,6

In epidemiological weeks 46 and 47, which correspond to the period from 9/11/20 to 22/11/20, 883 confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported. The island of Fogo reported 409 positive cases and the highest 14-day notification rate of 1174.8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Santiago island with 300 cases and a 14-day notification rate of 95.7 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. The islands of Maio, Sal, Boa Vista, Brava, and São Nicolau recorded cumulative notification rates below the 25 cases per 100,000 inhabitants benchmark, in the same period.

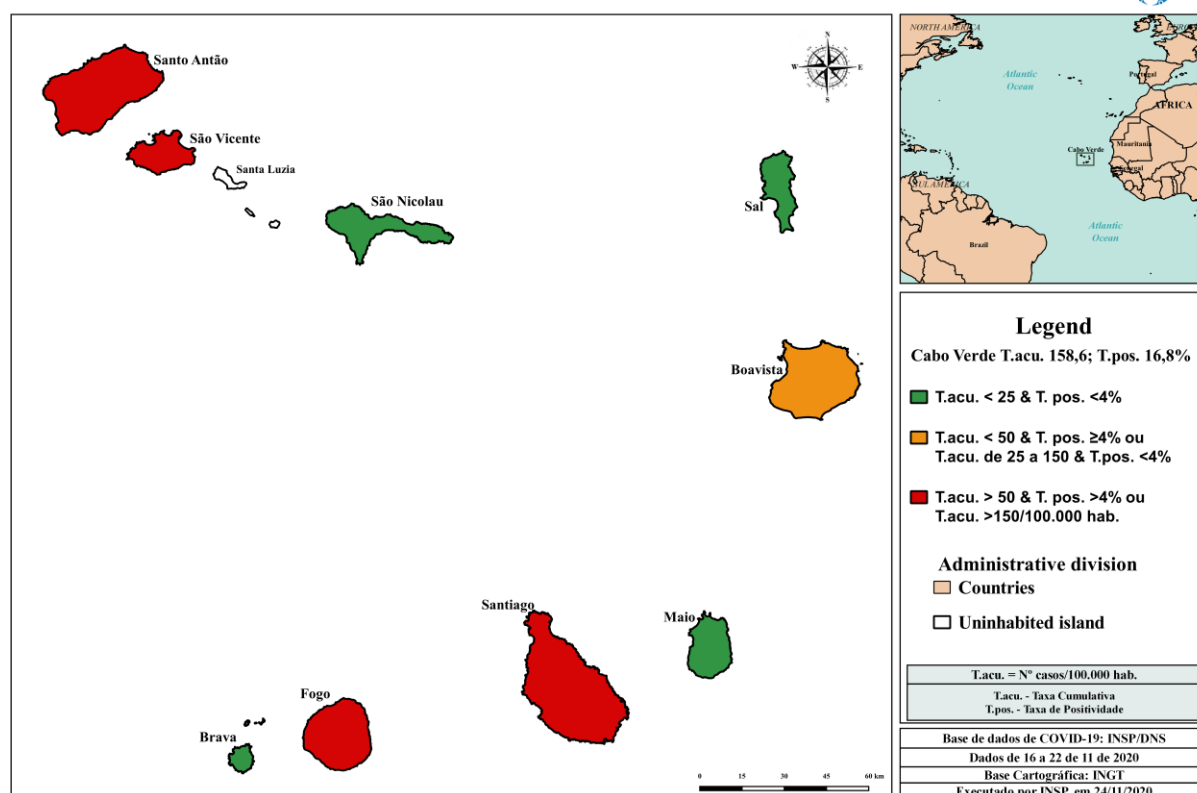


Figure 1. Incidence of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants per island (09/11/20 a 22/11/20) and screening rate in the previous week. (16/11/20 a 22/11/20).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 population in epidemiological week 47 (16/11/20 - 22/11/20)

Island	N° of tests performed	N° of positive tests	N° of negative tests	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 mil pop.
Santo Antão	76	17	53,0	24,3	201,8
São Vicente	624	43	555,0	7,2	734,4
São Nicolau	1	0	1,0	0,0	8,3
Sal	67	2	65,0	3,0	162,9
Boavista	17	2	15,0	11,8	85,5
Maio	5	0	5,0	0,0	66,4
Santiago	1287	142	1104,0	11,4	410,6
Fogo	703	254	416,0	37,9	2019,2
Brava	1	0	1,0	0,0	18,5
Cabo Verde	2781	460	2215	17,2	499,4

As of November 22, 2020, a cumulative total of 70,061 samples were processed locally and in reference laboratories outside the country, of which 2781 were processed in the 47th

epidemiological week. In this period, the islands of São Nicolau, Sal, Maio and Brava recorded positivity rates lower than 5% benchmark, while, the islands of Fogo, Santo Antão e Boa Vista reported the highest positivity rates at 37.9%, 24.3% and 11.8%, respectively. The national positivity rate was at 17.2%, and approximately 499.4 people per 100,000 inhabitants were tested using the RT-PCR diagnostic method, in the same period.

The testing rate per 100,000 inhabitants was highest in the islands of Fogo (2019.2), São Vicente (734.4), and Santiago (410.6), islands with the highest number of cases reported in the period in analysis (Table 2).

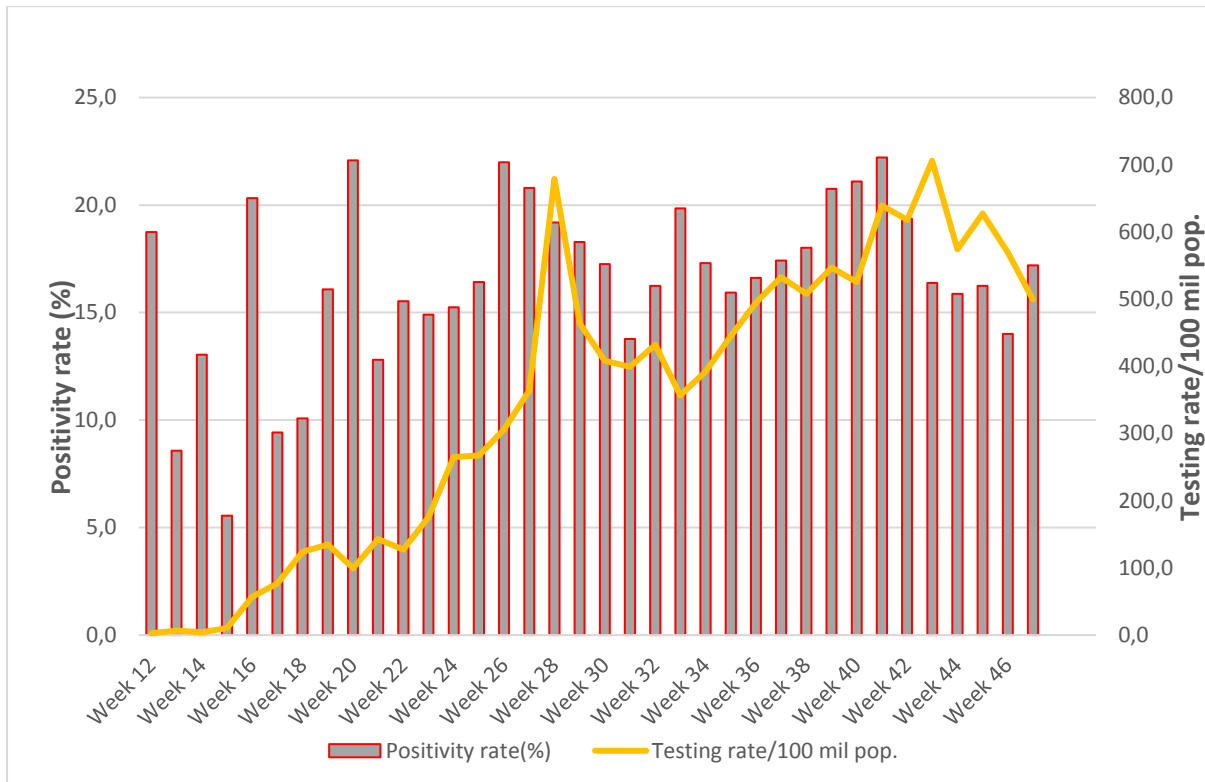


Figure 2. Positivity rate and testing rate per 100,000 inhabitants, up to epidemiological week 47 (16/11/20 a 22/11/20)

Datasheet

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