

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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Editorial

In the last two weeks, there has been an improvement in the epidemiological situation in Cape Verde. The numbers speak for themselves. With the low number of reported cases and the low incidence rate. Confidence has been revitalized, while remaining alert and vigilant in complying with the measures determined by the authorities, focused on the continuous flattening of the infection curve.

The reopening of economic activities, tourism in particular, is getting closer and closer. Proof of this, the increase in the number of weekly flights with a new operator starting operations from the 2nd of december, connecting Cape Verde to several european cities and the USA. A new laboratory for covid-19 testing using PCR was opened last week thus reinforcing the capacity to respond to the demand that is expected to increase significantly with the launch of new flights, in view of the interest that has been expressed by several european tour operators.

In addition, the Government has just approved the introduction of antigen testing to facilitate procedures and reduce travel costs. A measure that met the wishes of all.

Airlines, tour operators and the general public, on a final note, the International Medical and Security Services Company SOS again placed Cape Verde as one of the safest countries for tourists to visit in 2021, in the same week that the Ministry of Tourism and Transport, in partnership with Cabo Verde Digital launched the Remote Working Program.

Current Situation

As of 6 December, Cabo Verde had 11063 cumulative cases of COVID-19. On that day, the country registered 355 active cases, 10596 cumulative recovered cases, and 109 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In the last 14 days, all islands reported cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection, except for the islands of São Nicolau and Maio. The islands of Sal (5), Boa Vista (2), and Brava (1) reported the least number of cases, while Fogo (400), São Vicente (180), and Santiago (150) remain the islands with the highest number of cases of the disease. During the epidemiological weeks 48 and 49 (23/11/2020 to 06/12/2020), the country recorded 802 new cases of COVID-19 and two (6) deaths from the infection.

Table 1. Number of cases and incidence of cases reported in the last 14 days of COVID-19 per 100 thousand inhabitants, 23/11/2020 to 06/12/2020

Island	Population	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	37658	64	170,0
São Vicente	84964	180	211,9
São Nicolau	12031	0	0,0
Sal	41121	5	12,2
Boa Vista	19879	2	10,1
Maio	7525	0	0,0
Santiago	313460	150	47,9
Fogo	34815	400	1148,9
Brava	5405	1	18,5
Cabo Verde	556857	802	144,0

During the epidemiological weeks 48 and 49 (23/11/2020 to 06/12/2020), the cumulative rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 144 per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of Fogo reported an incidence of 1421,8 per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of São Vicente (211,9), Santo Antão (170,0) e Santiago with a notification rate of 47,9 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. In contrast, the 14-day cumulative notification rates recorded on the islands of São Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista, and Brava were under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants.

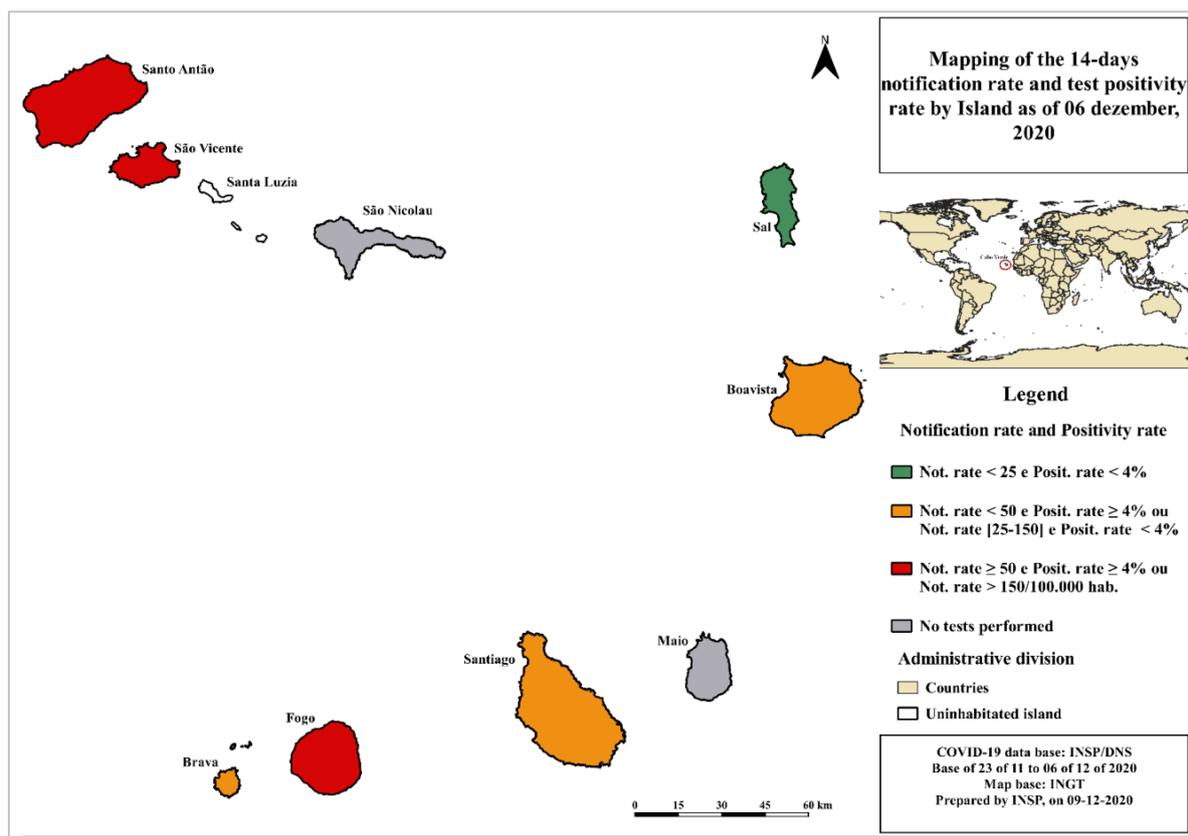


Figure 1. Incidence of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants per island (23/11/2020 to 06/12/2020) and screening rate in the previous week (29/11/20 a 06/12/20).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 population in epidemiological week 48 (29/11/20 to 06/12/20)

Island	Nº of tests performed	Nº of negative tests	Nº of positive tests	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	181	132	42	24,1	480,6
São Vicente	631	517	83	13,8	742,7
São Nicolau	0	0	0	-	0,0
Sal	79	76	3	3,8	192,1
Boavista	18	17	1	5,6	90,5
Maio	0	0	0	-	0,0
Santiago	1173	1103	56	4,8	374,2
Fogo	701	540	154	22,2	2013,5
Brava	9	8	1	11,1	166,5
Cabo Verde	2792	2393	340	12,4	501,4

Source: Virology laboratories of the National Institute of Public Health, as of 06/12/20 24h00

As of 26/12/20, a cumulative total of 75670 samples were processed, of which 2792 corresponde to those processed in the epidemiological week 49. In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 12.4% and a testing rate of 501,4 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. No testes were performed from the islands of São Nicolau and Maio. during this period. The islands of Sal and Santiago reported a positivity rate lower than 5%, while the highest rates were observed on the islands of Santo Antão, Fogo, and São Vicente with 24.1%, 22.2%, and 13.8%, respectively.

The islands of Fogo (2013,5), followed by São Vicente (807,4) and Santiago (742,7), reported the highest testing rate per 100,000 inhabitants and had the highest number of cases reported in the period analyzed (*Table 2*).

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