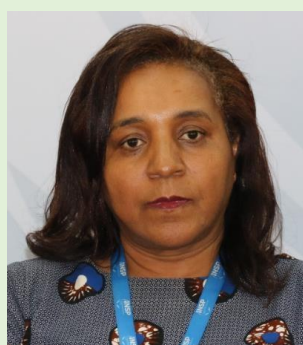


Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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Editorial

The evolution of the COVID-19 epidemic in Cabo Verde in the last 30 days has shown a downward trend of the infection curve, with several islands showing a significant decrease in the cumulative incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants.

Several guidelines were issued about rapid antigen testing for COVID-19 and guidelines have been revised on inter-island and international travel and these are the subject of information in this issue.

As the festive season approaches, recommendations for strict compliance of preventive measures and guidelines issued by the Government of Cabo Verde are being reinforced.

This newsletter will continue to follow the country's epidemiological evolution, and provide the best guidelines for safe travel to and within Cabo Verde.

Only then, will the country be able to maintain and improve the gains achieved so far in controlling this pandemic.

Current Situation

As of 13 December, Cabo Verde registered 11 361 cumulative cases of COVID-19. On that day, the country reported 211 active cases, 11 036 cumulative recovered cases, and 110 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In the last 14 days, all islands reported cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection, except for the island of São Nicolau. The islands of Sal (1), Maio (1), Brava (1), and Boa Vista (2) reported the least number of cases of COVID-19, while Fogo (267), São Vicente (178), and Santo Antão (80) notified the highest number of cases. During the epidemiological weeks 49 and 50 (30/11/2020 to 13/12/2020), the country recorded 600 new cases of COVID-19 and five (5) deaths from COVID-19.

Table 1. Number of cases and incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days of COVID-19 per 100 thousand inhabitants, 30/11/2020 to 13/12/2020

Island	Population	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	37658	80	212,4
São Vicente	84964	178	209,5
São Nicolau	12031	0	0,0
Sal	41121	1	2,4
Boa Vista	19879	2	10,1
Maio	7525	1	13,3
Santiago	313460	70	22,3
Fogo	34815	267	766,9
Brava	5405	1	18,5
Cabo Verde	556857	600	107,7

In the period between 30/11/2020 to 13/12/2020), the cumulative rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 107.7 per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of Fogo reported the highest incidence of 1421,8 per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of Santo Antão (212.4) and São Vicente (209.5). The notification rate on the island of Santiago dropped from 47,9 to 22.3 cases per 100 000 inhabitants compared to the previous week. On the other hand, the islands of Sal, Boa Vista, Maio, and Brava continue to register low 14-day cumulative notification rates, under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. It is important to note that the island of São Nicolau has not reported cases of COVID-19 since the 1st of November.

With the introduction of rapid antigen tests for SARS-CoV-2, the criteria for mandatory testing for inter-island travel will be redefined according to the 14-day incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants.

Passengers traveling from "GREEN" islands or islands with a 14-day incidence rate lower than 25 cases per 100 thousand inhabitants, are exempt from mandatory testing.

While, passengers traveling from islands where the 14-day incidence rate is between 25 and 150 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, are required to present a negative test result, performed in the last 72 hours preceding the travel date, whenever traveling to islands where the 14-day incidence rate is below 25 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

When traveling from islands where the incidence rate is higher than 150 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, passengers are required to present a negative test result, performed in the last 72 hours preceding the travel date, regardless of the island of destination.

Finally, passengers traveling between the islands of São Vicente and Santo Antão and children under seven (7) years of age are exempt from mandatory testing[1].

[1] Cabo Verde, *BOLETIM OFICIAL, SUPLEMENTO*. Cabo Verde: Boletim Oficial I serie, numero 135 de 14 de dezembro de 2020, 2020, p. 10.

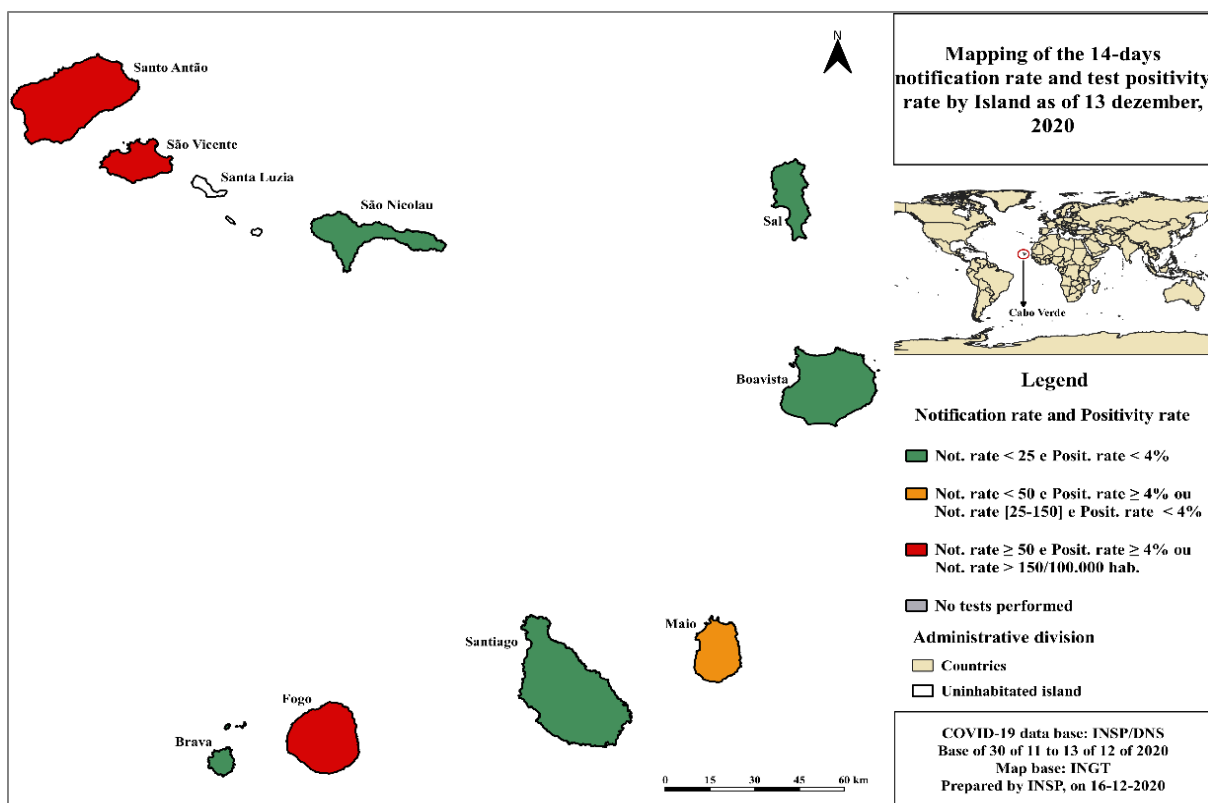


Figure 1. Incidence of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (30/11/2020 to 13/12/2020) and testing rate in the previous week (07/11/20 a 13/12/20) by island.

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 population in epidemiological week 50 (07/12/20 to 13/12/20) by island

Island	Nº of tests performed	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	305	13,1	809,9
São Vicente	649	13,7	763,9
São Nicolau	1	0,0	8,3
Sal	69	1,4	167,8
Boavista	31	3,3	155,9
Maio	3	33,3	39,9
Santiago	944	2,4	301,2
Fogo	441	23,5	1266,7
Brava	3	0,0	55,5
Cabo Verde	2446	10,4	439,3

Source: Virology laboratories of the National Institute of Public Health, as of 13/12/20

As of 13/12/20, a total of 78 116 samples were processed by the national virology laboratories and through external partnerships, of which 2792 correspond to those processed in the epidemiological week 50. In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 10.4% and a testing rate of 439.3 tests per 100 000 inhabitants.

The islands of São Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista, Santiago, and Brava reported a positivity rate lower than 5%, while the highest rates were observed on the islands of Fogo, Maio, São Vicente and Santo Antão with 23.5%, 33.3%, 13.7 e 13,1%, respectively.

The islands of Fogo (1266.7), followed by Santo Antão (809.9), São Vicente (763.9), and Santiago (742,7), reported the highest testing rate per 100,000 inhabitants and had the highest number of cases reported in the period in analysis (*Table 2*).

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