

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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Editorial

The month of December ends with good indications. The depressing trend of the new covid-19 cases and a lower fatality rate throughout the country prevail. There has been confirmation of the arrival of more weekly flights, coming mostly from Europe. Hope has regained strength. Hotels and tourism establishments announced the reopening to receive tourists. Similarly, to many other countries, Cabo Verde is preparing its vaccination plan. However, for everyone's safety, the main recommendations continue ongoing, the mandatory use of the facial mask, social distance and frequent hand hygienization.

Wishing all a Safe Christmas!

Current Situation

As of 20 December, Cabo Verde registered 11 600 cumulative cases of COVID-19. On that day, the country reported 213 active cases, 11 270 cumulative recovered cases, and 111 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In the last 14 days, all islands reported cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection, except for the island of Brava. The islands of Sal, Boa Vista, and São Nicolau reported the least number of cases of COVID-19, while Fogo, São Vicente, Santo Antão, and Santiago notified the highest number of cases. During the epidemiological weeks 50 and 51 (07/12/2020 to 20/12/2020), the country recorded 533 new cases and one (1) death 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, 07/12/2020 to 20/12/2020

Island	Population	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	37658	83	220
São Vicente	84964	162	191
São Nicolau	12031	1	8
Sal	41121	2	5
Boa Vista	19879	2	10
Maio	7525	10	133
Santiago	313460	69	22
Fogo	34815	204	586
Brava	5405	0	0
Cabo Verde	556857	533	96

Sources: National Institute of Statistics* e Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 13/12/20**

In the period between 07/12/2020 to 20/12/2020, the cumulative rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 96 per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of Fogo reported the highest incidence rate of 586 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of Santo Antão (222) and São Vicente (191). The cumulative incidence rate on the island of Santiago remains under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants since the last publication. Similarly, the islands of Sal, Boa Vista, São Nicolau, and Brava continue to register low 14-day cumulative notification rates. In this period, an increase in the number of notified cases and, consequently, the cumulative incidence rate was observed on the island of Maio (Table 1).

As of 20/12/20, a total of 80 316 samples were processed by the national virology laboratories and through external partnerships, of which 2200 correspond to those processed in the epidemiological week 51. On 14 December, the use of rapid antigen tests (*AG-RDT*) as a diagnostic method was approved, and during the epidemiological week 51, 362 tests were carried at the national level. In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 8.5% and a testing rate of 460.1 tests per 100 000 inhabitants.

The islands of Fogo and Santo Antão reported the highest positivity rates during the epidemiological week 51, while the rest of the islands registered relatively lower positivity rates in the period analyzed (Table 2).

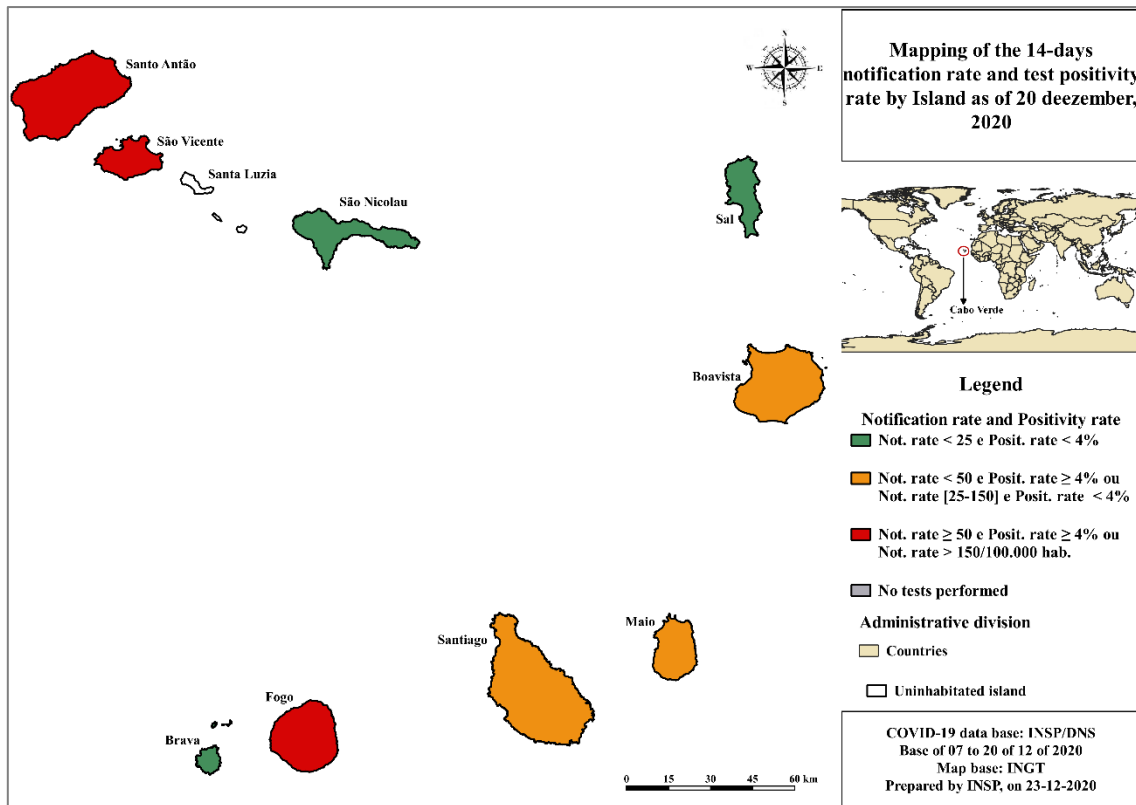


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (07/12/2020 to 20/12/2020) and testing rate in the previous week (14/12/20 a 20/12/20) by island [1].

[1] Map elaborated in accordance with resolution nº 169/2020. Cabo Verde, *BOLETIM OFICIAL*, Cabo Verde: Boletim Oficial I serie, numero 132 de 19 de novembro de 2020, 2020, p. 2945.

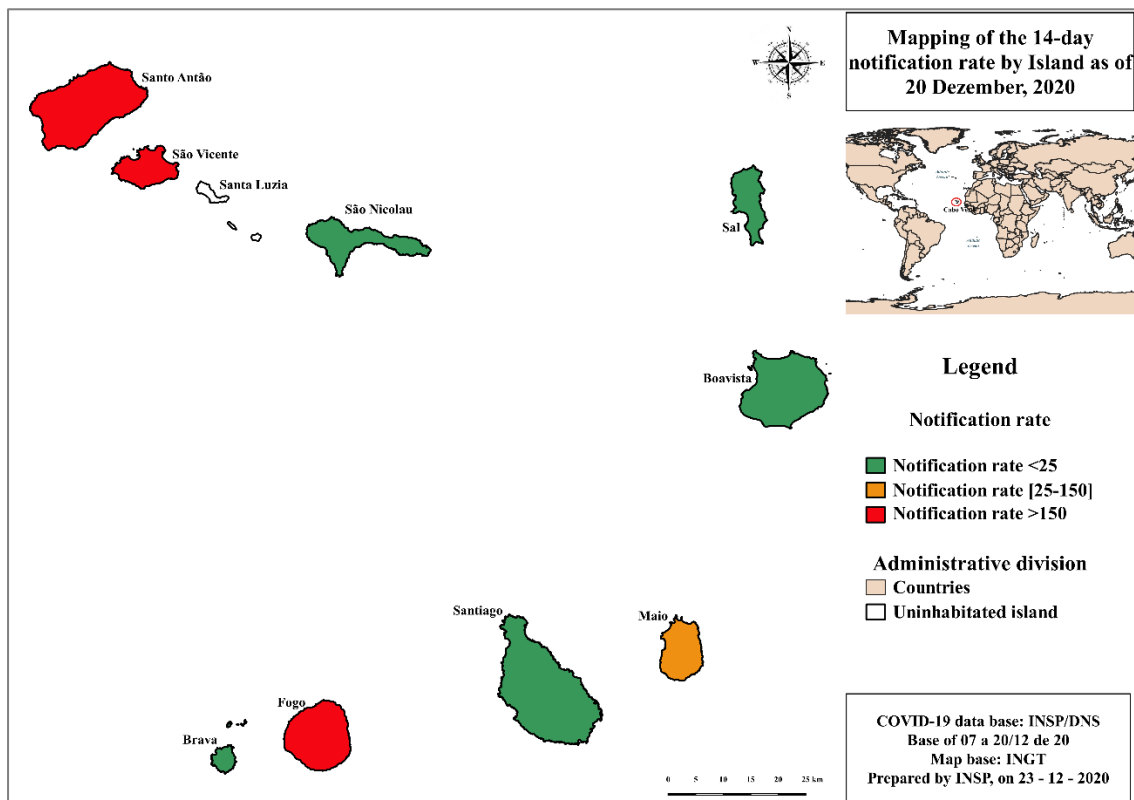


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (07/12/2020 to 20/12/2020), by island. [2]

[2] Map elaborated in accordance with resolution nº 156/2020. Cabo Verde, *BOLETIM OFICIAL, SUPLEMENTO*. Cabo Verde: Boletim Oficial I serie, numero 135 de 14 de dezembro de 2020, 2020, p. 10.

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 51 (14/12/20 to 20/12/20) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed (PCR)*	Nº of tests performed (Ag-RDT)**	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	181	59	14,0	637,3
São Vicente	544	226	5,6	906,3
São Nicolau	0	0	-	0,0
Sal	158	0	1,3	384,2
Boavista	16	0	6,3	80,5
Maio	27	49	6,7	1010,0
Santiago	996	0	4,6	317,7
Fogo	278	28	29,3	878,9
Brava	0	0	-	0,0
Cabo Verde	2200	362	8,5	460,1

Sources: Virology laboratories of the National Institute of Public Health, Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 13/12/20

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