

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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Editorial

The evolution of the COVID-19 epidemic in Cabo Verde has been a significant challenge for the Cabo Verdean National Health System. The country has been managing the epidemic efficiently, given its limited resources. The results achieved so far have shown the efforts of the political, health, and community forces, which collectively have led to a gradual reduction in the number of cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection, particularly in Praia, the capital of the country.

Currently, the epicenters of the epidemic are the islands of São Vicente and Fogo, which have been the focus of intense public health interventions to contain the epidemic. With the epidemic currently under control in the main tourist islands, the possibility of opening international borders is once again being analyzed, taking into consideration the strengthening of preventive measures and access to laboratory diagnosis for early detection of cases. Furthermore, the National Director of Health announced the country will soon introduce rapid antigen tests that will further improve response capacity and contribute to the reduction of transmission, further strengthening epidemiological surveillance of the disease.

Current Situation

As of November 29, Cabo Verde had 10 761 cumulative cases of COVID-19. On that day, the country registered 324 active cases, 10 329 cumulative recovered cases, and 105 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 Brava. The islands of Sal (2), Boa Vista (1), and Maio (2) reported the least number of cases, while Fogo (495), Santiago (219), and São Vicente (163) remain the islands with the highest number of cases of the disease. During the epidemiological weeks 47 and 48 (16/11/2020 to 29/11/2020), the country recorded 921 new cases of COVID-19 and two (2) 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, 16/11/20 to 29/11/20

Island	Population	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	37658	39	103,6
São Vicente	84964	163	191,8
São Nicolau	12031	0	0,0
Sal	41121	2	4,9
Boa Vista	19879	1	5,0
Maio	7525	2	26,6
Santiago	313460	219	69,9
Fogo	34815	495	1421,8
Brava	5405	0	0,0
Cabo Verde	556857	921	165,4

During the epidemiological weeks 47 and 48 (16/11/20 to 29/11/20), the cumulative rate of notified COVID-19 cases at national level was 165,4 per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of Fogo reported incidence of 1421,8 per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of São Vicente (191,8), Santo Antão (103,6) e Santiago with a notification rate of 69,9 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.

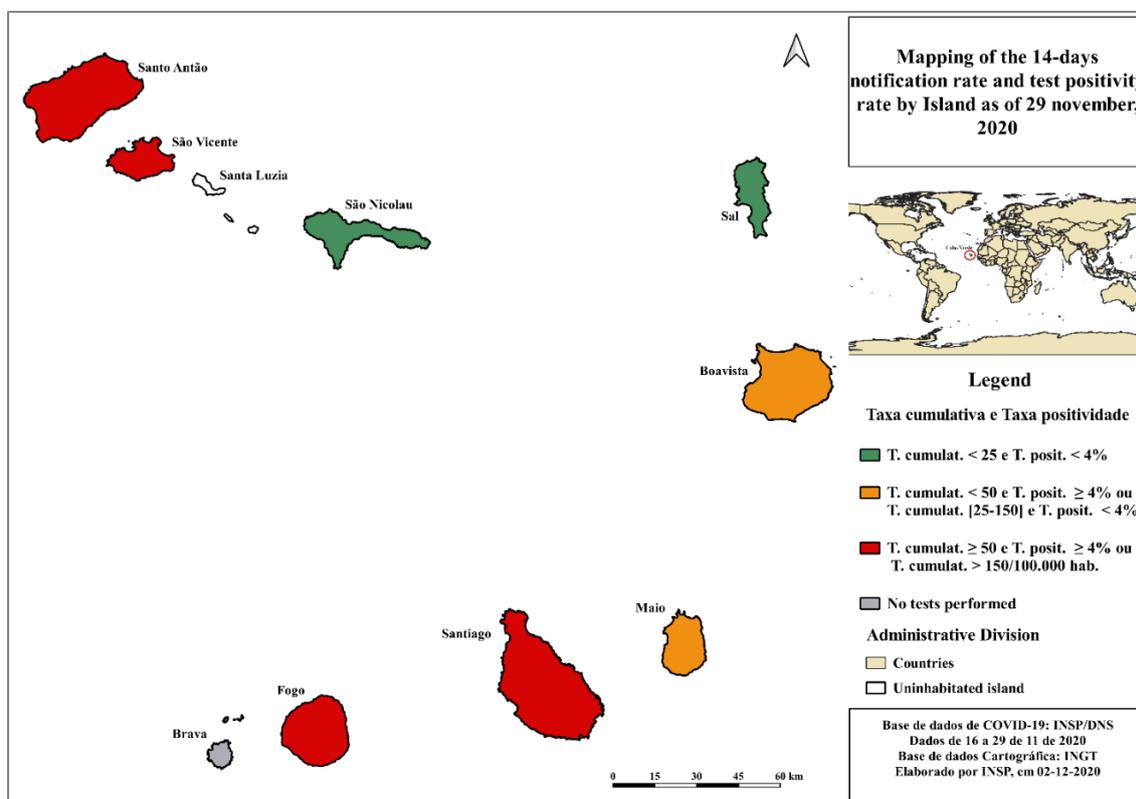


Figure 1. Incidence of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants per island (16/11/20 to 29/11/20) and screening rate in the previous week (23/11/20 a 29/11/20).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 population in epidemiological week 48 (23/11/20-29/11/20)

Island	Nº of tests performed	Nº of negative tests	Nº of positive tests	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	80	54	22	28,9	212,4
São Vicente	745	621	97	13,5	876,8
São Nicolau	2	2	0	0,0	16,6
Sal	58	56	2	3,4	141,0
Boavista	9	8	1	11,1	45,3
Maio	4	4	0	0,0	53,2
Santiago	1160	1054	94	8,2	370,1
Fogo	754	495	246	33,2	2165,7
Brava	0	0	0	-	0,0
Cabo Verde	2812	2294	462	16,8	505,0

Source: INSP virology laboratories, until 29/11/20 00h00

As of 29/11/20, a cumulative total of 72 873 samples were processed, of which 2812 corresponding to epidemiological week 48. This week, the country registered a positivity rate of 16.8% and a testing rate of 505 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of São Nicolau and Maio reported positivity rates of zero. However, a small number of samples were processed from these islands. The island of Sal reported a positivity rate lower than 5%, while the highest rates were observed in the islands of Fogo, Santo Antão, and São Vicente with 33,2%, 28,9%, and 13,5%, respectively.

The islands of Fogo (2165,7), followed by São Vicente (876,8) and Santiago (370,1), reported the highest testing rate per 100,000 inhabitants and had the highest number of cases reported in the period analyzed (Table 2).

Notes:

1. Mandatory use of face masks approved by Law No. 102 / IX / 2020, B. O. nº. 122, October 29, 2020.
2. Creation of the Interministerial Commission to prepare for the reopening of ports and airports by Joint Ordinance No. 61/2020, B.O. No. 132 of November 19.

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