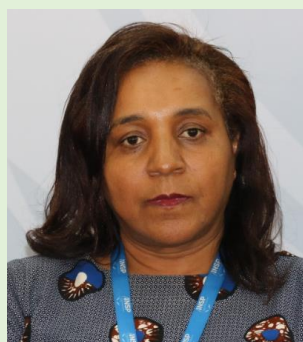


## Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



Maria da Luz Lima

President of the National  
Institute of Public Health

### Editorial

The evolution of the COVID-19 epidemic in the last month has shown an improvement in indicators related to morbidity and mortality. This aspect leaves us a little more reassured concerning possible, more catastrophic scenarios that were predicted at the beginning of the pandemic. The Capeverdean Government remains committed to implementing and recommending several key measures, so as to maintain the current trend, especially after the Christmas festive season and the end of the year celebrations, due to a foreseeable relaxation at this time of the year, related to intense mobility. Of note is the limitation of the number of people allowed to gather in households for Christmas celebrations, hoping that, in the coming year, the tradition will be resumed with the collaboration of everyone.

We would like to take advantage of the festive season to wish everyone a new year with health and safety. Happy 2021.

### Current Situation

As of 27 December, Cabo Verde registered 11 723 cumulative cases of COVID-19. On that day, the country reported 110 active cases, 11 496 cumulative recovered cases, and 112 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In the last 14 days, all islands reported cases of infection by SARS-CoV-2, except for the island of Brava. Similar to the trend observed in the previous 14-day period, 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 confirmed cases. During the epidemiological weeks 51 and 52 (21/12/2020 to 27/12/2020), the country recorded 345 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, 21/12/2020 to 27/12/2020

Island	Population	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	37658	59	156,7
São Vicente	84964	104	122,4
São Nicolau	12031	1	8,3
Sal	41121	2	4,9
Boa Vista	19879	1	5,0
Maio	7525	10	132,9
Santiago	313460	61	19,5
Fogo	34815	107	307,3
Brava	5405	0	0,0
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	<b>556857</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>62,0</b>

Sources: National Institute of Statistics\* and the Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 27/12/20\*\*

Between 21/12/2020 to 27/12/2020, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 62 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of Fogo reported the highest incidence rate of 307 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of Santo Antão (157) and São Vicente (122). The cumulative incidence rate remains under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants on the islands of Santiago, Sal, Boa Vista, São Nicolau, and Brava. In the same period, the island of Maio reported 10 confirmed cases of COVID-19, which corresponds to a cumulative incidence rate of 133 cases per 100 000 inhabitants (Table1).

During the epidemiological week 52, a total of 1207 samples were processed using *RT-PCR* e *GeneXpert*® diagnostic methods, and 1069 were performed, using rapid antigen tests (*AG-RDT*) nationwide.

In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 5.6% and a testing rate of 407,8 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Boavista, Fogo, and Maio reported the highest positivity rates during the epidemiological week 52, while the rest of the islands registered relatively lower positivity rates in the period analyzed. (Table 2).

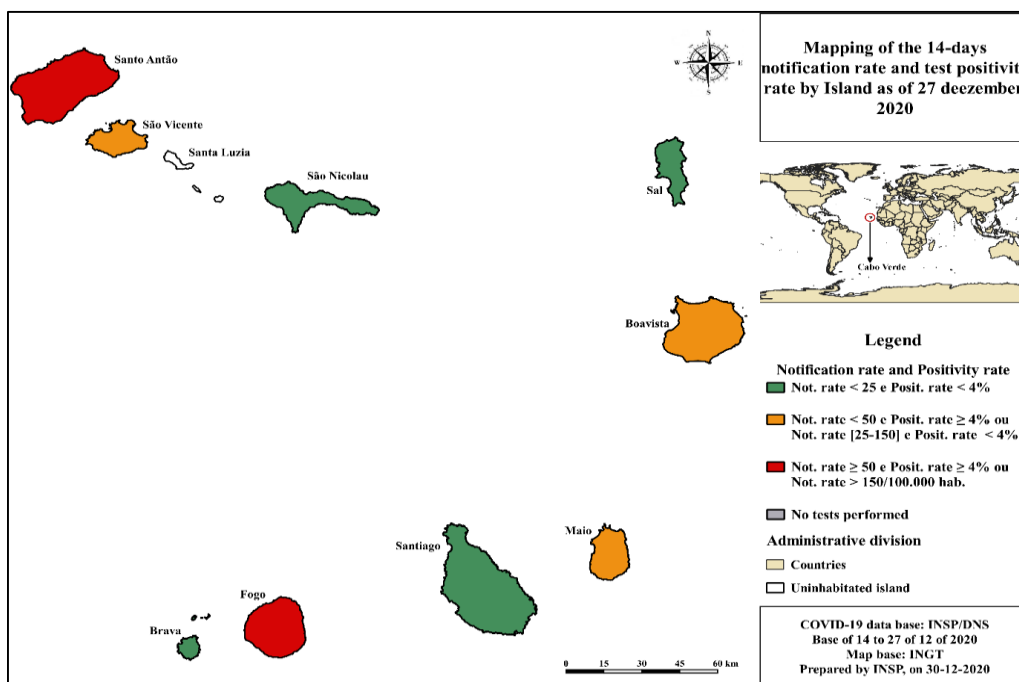


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (14/12/2020 to 27/12/2020) and testing rate in the previous week (21/12/20 to 27/12/20) by island<sup>1</sup>.

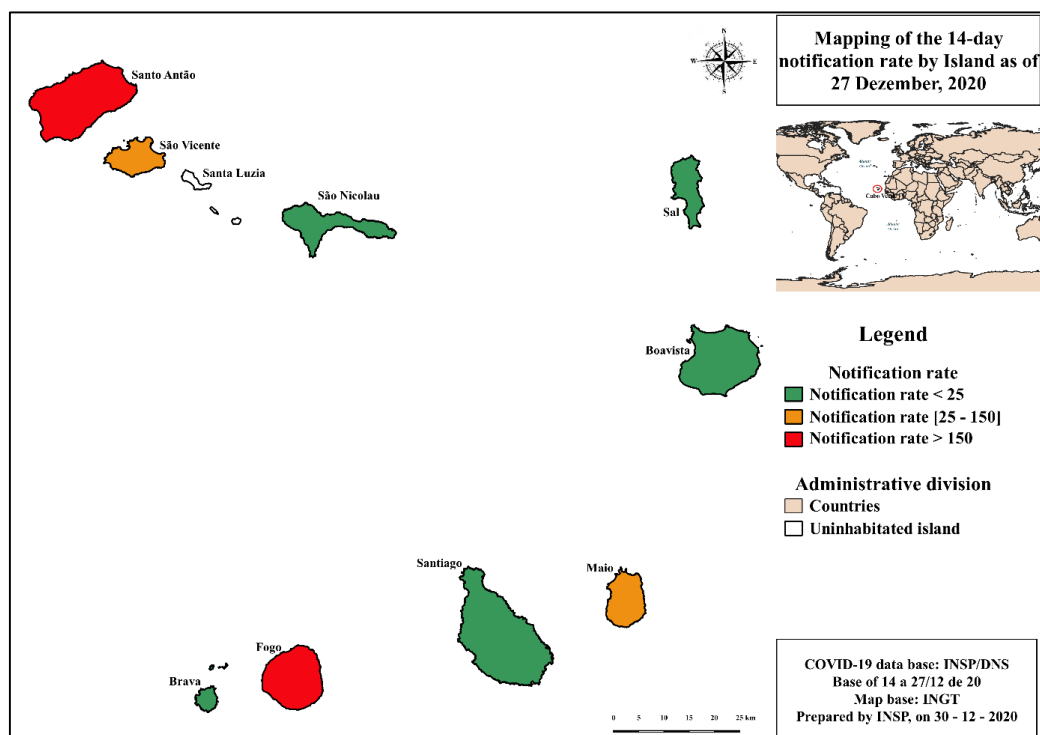


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (21/12/20 to 27/12/20), by island<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Map elaborated in accordance with resolution n° 169/2020. Cabo Verde, *BOLETIM OFICIAL*, Cabo Verde: Boletim Oficial I serie, numero 132 de 19 de novembro de 2020, 2020, p. 2945.

<sup>2</sup> Map elaborated in accordance with resolution n° 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 52 (21/12/20 to 27/12/20) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	244	8,3	647,9
São Vicente	770	8,0	906,3
São Nicolau	30	3,3	249,3
Sal	53	3,8	128,9
Boavista	7	28,6	35,2
Maio	59	16,9	784,0
Santiago	1010	2,2	322,2
Fogo	98	20,2	281,5
Brava	0	-	0,0
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	<b>2271</b>	<b>5,6</b>	<b>407,8</b>

\*Total number of RT-PCR and Ag-RDT performed

Sources: Virology laboratories of the National Institute of Public Health, Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 27/12/20

#### Technical Team

National Health Observatory of the  
National Institute of Public Health  
National Directorate of Tourism and Transport

- Dr. Maria da Luz Lima Mendonça
- Mr. Francisco Martins
- Dr. Ngibo Fernandes
- Dr. Janilza Silva
- Mr. Jonas Gomes
- Mrs. Janice Soares

#### Editing and Publication:

- Mrs. Catarina Veiga
- Mr. Adnilson Medina



Ministério da Saúde e  
da Segurança Social  
Direção Nacional da Saúde



Ministério do  
Turismo e Transportes  
Direção Geral de Turismo e Transportes