

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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Editorial

When Europe and the rest of the world face the third wave of COVID-19, Cape Verde has been maintaining a relative control on the infection rate in the islands. However, in the last weeks, an increase in new cases has been registered, overall, in the islands of Santo Antão, São Vicente, Santiago and Maio. In the main tourist islands, Sal and Boavista, as well as in the islands of São Nicolau and Brava, the level of infection is residual. Ready for tourist reception. However, work and implementation of protective measures continue. The government announced the vaccination plan for the first quarter, covering, in a first phase, health professionals, population with the most risk, but also, among others, staff working on the tourism sector, in order to give more security to everyone, particularly to tourists who are anxiously expected to return to Cape Verde!

Current Situation

At the end of the second epidemiological week of 2021, Cape Verde registered 12 993 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 17 of January, the country reported 634 active cases, 12 287 cumulative recovered cases, and 120 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In the last 14 days, no cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection have been reported on the islands of São Nicolau and Brava (*Table 1*).

During the epidemiological weeks 1 and 2 (04/01/2021 to 17/01/2021), the country recorded 1 056 new cases 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, 04/01/2021 to 17/01/2021

Island	Population	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	37658	93	247
São Vicente	84964	528	621,4
São Nicolau	12031	0	0
Sal	41121	3	7,3
Boa Vista	19879	3	15,1
Maio	7525	85	1129,6
Santiago	313460	275	87,7
Fogo	34815	69	198,2
Brava	5405	0	0
Cabo Verde	556857	1056	189,6

Sources: National Institute of Statistics* and the Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 17/01/21**

Between 04/01/2021 to 17/01/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 189.6 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of Maio reported the highest incidence rate of 1129.6 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of São Vicente (621.4) and Santo Antão (247). The cumulative incidence rate remains under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants on the islands of Sal, Boa Vista, São Nicolau, and Brava (*Table 1*).

During the epidemiological week 2 of 2021, a total of 5300 samples were processed nationwide, using *RT-PCR*, *GeneXpert®* rapid antigen tests (*AG-RDT*) diagnostic methods. In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 11.7% and a testing rate of 951.8 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of São Vicente, Santiago e Santo Antão reported the highest positivity rates during the epidemiological week 2, with 19.6%, 8.9% and 8.5% respectively (*Table 2*).

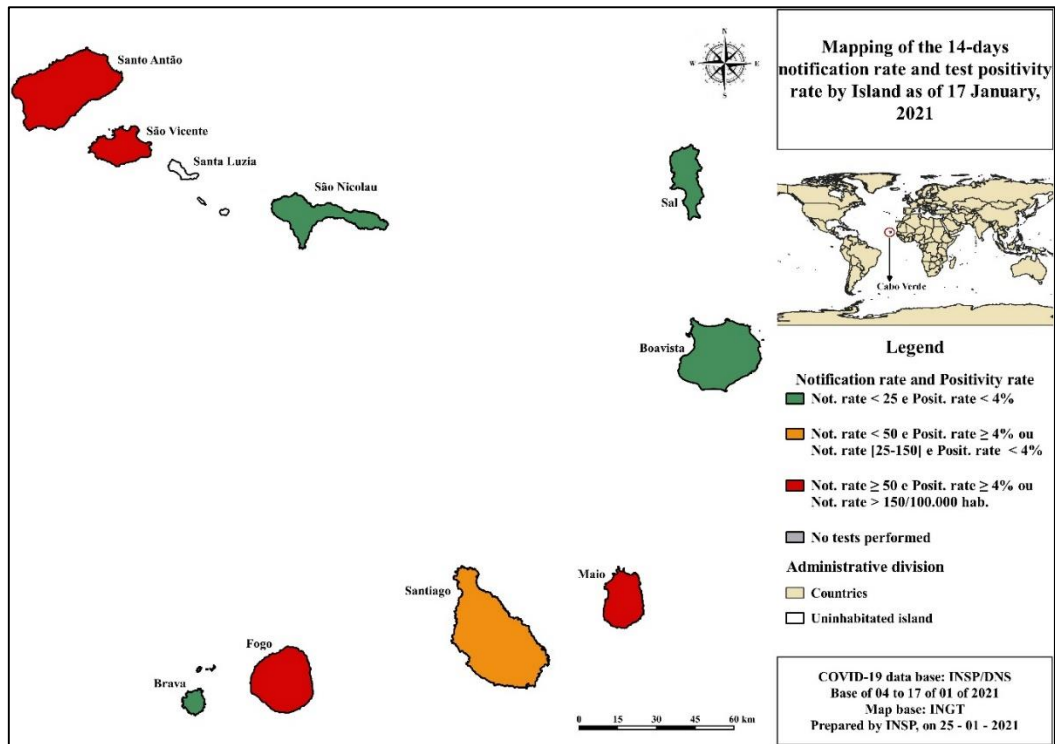


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (04/01/2021 to 17/01/2021) and testing rate in the previous week (11/01/20 to 17/01/21) by island¹.

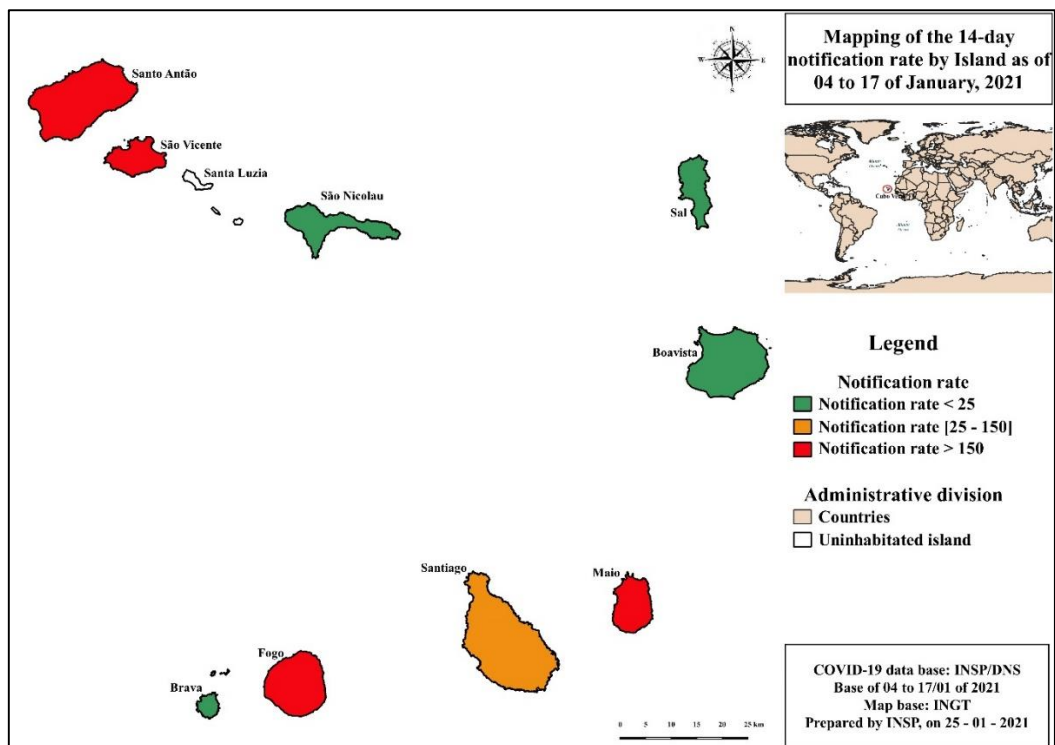


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (04/01/2021 a 17/01/2021) by island²

¹ 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.

² 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.

Tabela 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 02 (11/01/21-17/01/21) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	534	8,5	1418,0
São Vicente	1774	19,6	2087,9
São Nicolau	4	0	33,2
Sal	119	1,7	289,4
Boavista	11	0	55,3
Maio	478	6,7	6352,2
Santiago	1804	8,9	575,5
Fogo	574	5,8	1648,7
Brava	2	0	37,0
Cabo Verde	5300	11,7	951,8

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

Sources: Virology laboratories of the National Institute of Public Health, Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 17/01/21

Measures

Government lowers the fixed price of PCR tests for Covid-19 diagnosis for international travel According to Joint Ordinance No. 77/2020, of the 30 of December, the Government of Cape Verde determined that the PCR test's fixed price for identifying SARS-CoV-2 for international trips, from now on, costs 6500 escudos. This value must be applied in public health services. (Ordinance Number 77/2020, 30 of December).

The Cape Verdean government has authorized the presentation of a negative Antigen Test result (Ag-RDT) for crew and passengers traveling to Cape Verde. Crew and passengers traveling by air or sea and intending to disembark in Cape Verde are required to present a negative RT-PCR test result (Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction by Reverse Transcription) or a negative result from an antigen rapid test or any other molecular test validated by the health authorities, carried out within a maximum period of 72 hours, before departure, under penalty of being refused entry into the country. (Resolution Number 166/2020, 14 of December).

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