

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



Dr. Francisco Martins
National Director of
Tourism and Transport

Editorial

2021! A new year, with new and renewed objectives. Expectations are good. The World Bank forecasts confirm it. The vaccination campaign is still in the beginning phase in most countries, with many others planning on starting the campaign in the first trimester of this year. Cabo Verde, happily, did its homework, is a part of this lot. According to the forecast, before the end of this quarter, we will have the first vaccines in the country. The introduction and acceptance of antigen testing for those who travel to Cape Verde and the reduction of the cost of the PCR test last year confirms the government's commitment to ensure that health safety will return accompanied along with the resume of the economic and in particular the tourism activities for everyone's sake.

Best 2021!

Current Situation

As of 3 January, Cape Verde registered 11920 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, the country reported 234 active cases, 11597 cumulative recovered cases, and 113 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In the last 14 days, no cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection have been reported on the islands of Boa Vista, Sal, São Nicolau, and Brava. Contrarily, the islands of Maio, São Vicente, and Fogo reported the highest coronavirus infection rates in the same period, with 239, 159, and 121 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, respectively (*Table 1*).

During the epidemiological weeks 52 and 53 (21/12/2020 to 03/01/2021), the country recorded 303 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 03/01/2021

Island	Population	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	37658	30	80
São Vicente	84964	135	159
São Nicolau	12031	0	0
Sal	41121	0	0
Boa Vista	19879	0	0
Maio	7525	18	239
Santiago	313460	78	25
Fogo	34815	42	121
Brava	5405	0	0
Cabo Verde	556857	303	54

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 03/01/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 54 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of Maio reported the highest incidence rate of 239 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of São Vicente (159) e Fogo (121). 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 53, a total of 1742 samples were processed using *RT-PCR and GeneXpert®* diagnostic methods, and 1567 were performed using rapid antigen tests (*AG-RDT*) nationwide. In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 6.1% and a testing rate of 594.2 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Fogo, São Vicente, and Santo Antão reported the highest positivity rates during the epidemiological week 53, with 7.8%, 7.6%, and 5.9%, respectively (*Table 2*).

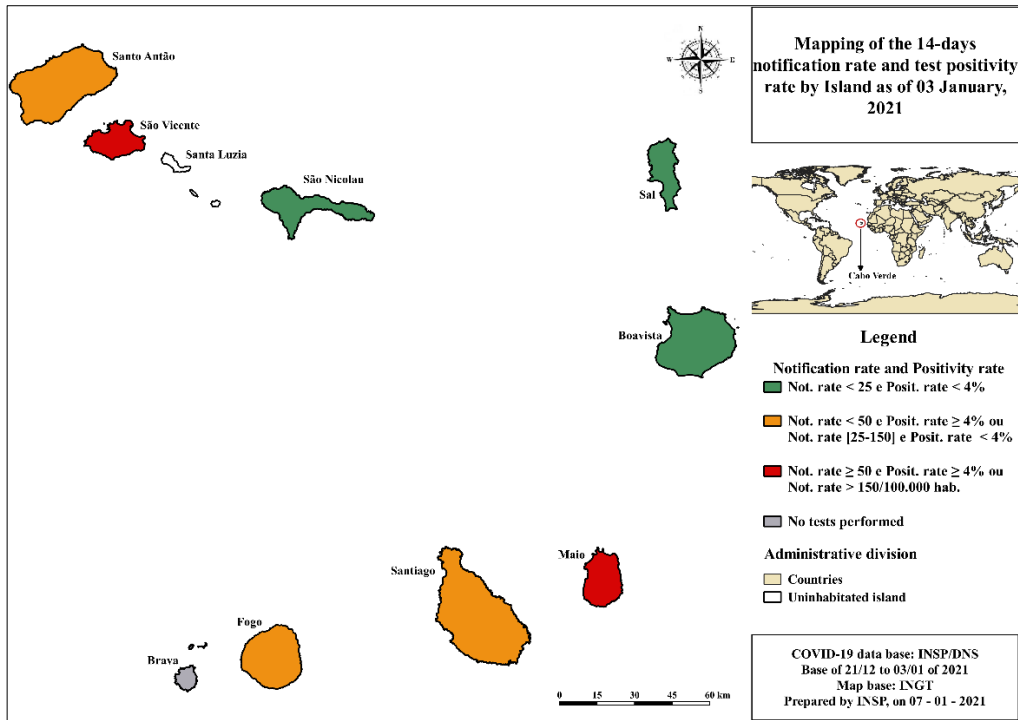


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (21/12/2020 to 03/01/2021) and testing rate in the previous week (21/12/20 to 03/01/21) by island¹.

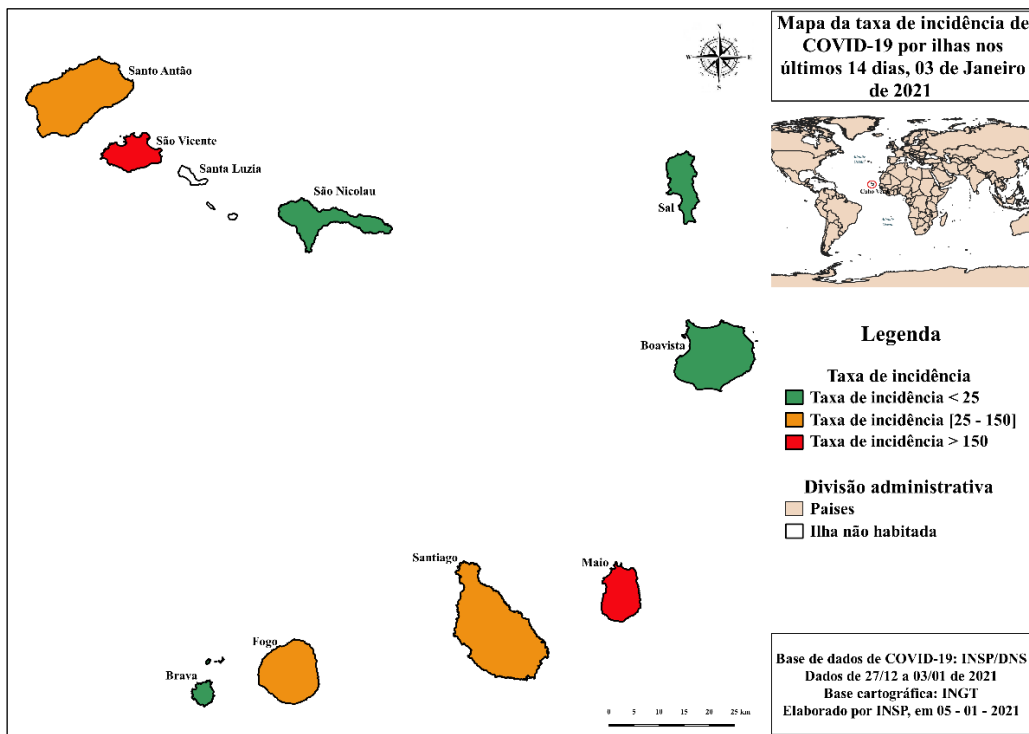


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (28/12/2020 to 03/01/2021) by island²

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.

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 53 (28/12/20-03/01/20) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	358	5,9	950,7
São Vicente	1003	7,6	1180,5
São Nicolau	2	0,0	16,6
Sal	178	3,4	432,9
Boavista	27	0,0	135,8
Maio	260	4,2	3455,1
Santiago	1119	5,4	357,0
Fogo	362	7,8	1039,8
Brava	0	-	0,0
Cabo Verde	3309	6,1	594,2

*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 03/01/21

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

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