

## Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



**Maria da Luz Lima**  
President of the Nacional  
Institute of Public Health

### Editorial

COVID-19 cases have been increasing at a dizzying rate worldwide. The second wave of COVID-19 is already occurring in our continent, where numbers surpass what was observed in the pandemic's initial phase, including the number of deaths. As of February 2, 2021, the African continent contributed about 3.5% of cases worldwide and 4.1% of deaths worldwide.

At the ECOWAS level, Nigeria is, so far, the most affected country.

In Cabo Verde, the number of cases is gradually increasing. The conditions for identifying variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus are being implemented in partnership with the Pasteur Institute of Dakar in Senegal and the Ricardo Jorge Institute in Portugal. We hope to have some information on this issue in Cape Verde soon.

The vaccination plan is practically finalized as well as the conditions for its implementation. We believe that in short/medium term, it will be possible to have the first vaccination in Cabo Verde. Preventive measures continue to be essential for the control of the COVID-19 epidemic.

### Current Situation

At the end of the third epidemiological week of 2021, Cape Verde registered 13557 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 24 of January, the country reported 674 active cases, 12751 cumulative recovered cases, and 127 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 3, the country registered seven (7) deaths from COVID-19.

In the last 14 days, epidemiological weeks 2 and 3 (11/01/2021 to 24/01/2021), the country recorded 1061 new cases of COVID-19. During this period, no cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection have been reported on the islands of São Nicolau and Brava (*Table 1*).

Table 1. Number of cases and incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days of COVID-19 per 100 thousand inhabitants, 11/01/2021 to 24/01/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	66	175
São Vicente	515	606
São Nicolau	0	0
Sal	2	5
Boa Vista	2	10
Maio	49	651
Santiago	379	121
Fogo	48	138
Brava	0	0
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>191</b>

Sources: Intergrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 24/01/21\*\*

Between 11/01/2021 to 24/01/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 191 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of Maio reported the highest incidence rate of 651 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of São Vicente (606) and Santo Antão (175). 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 3, a total of 3089 samples were processed using RT-PCR and GeneXpert® diagnostic methods, and 2412 were performed using rapid antigen tests (AG-RDT) nationwide. In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 9% and a testing rate of 988 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Boavista, São Vicente, and Santiago reported the highest positivity rates during the epidemiological week 2, with 25%, 15%, and 9%, respectively (*Table 2*).

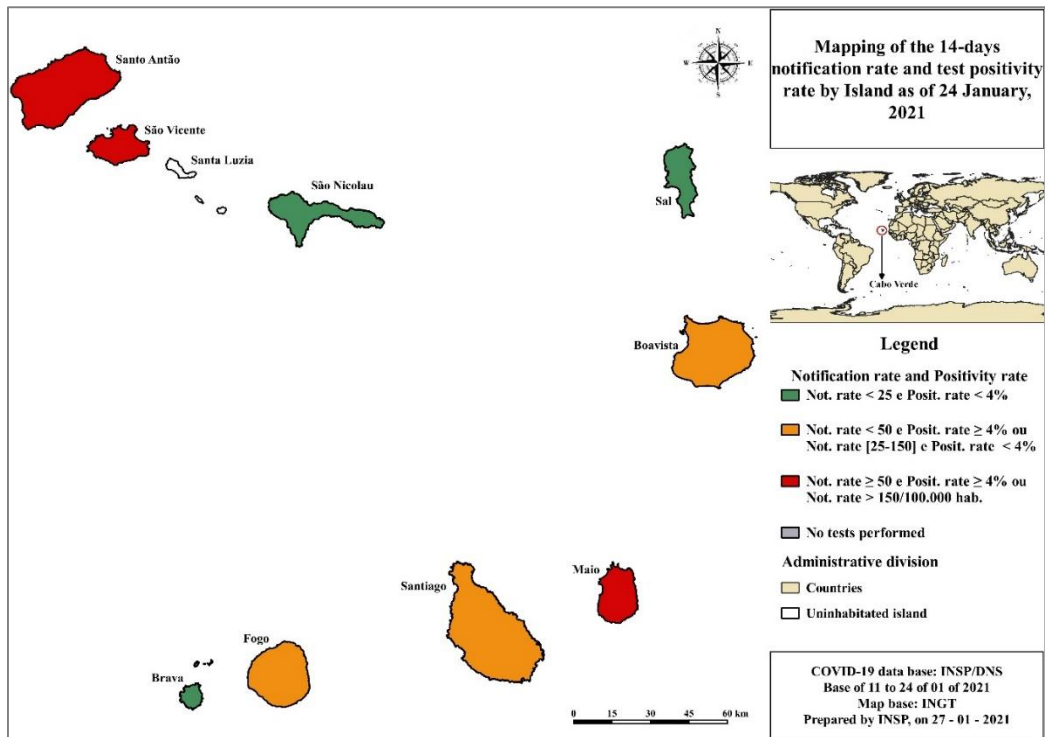


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (11/01/2021 to 24/01/2021) and testing rate in the previous week (18/01/20 to 24/01/21) by island<sup>1</sup>.

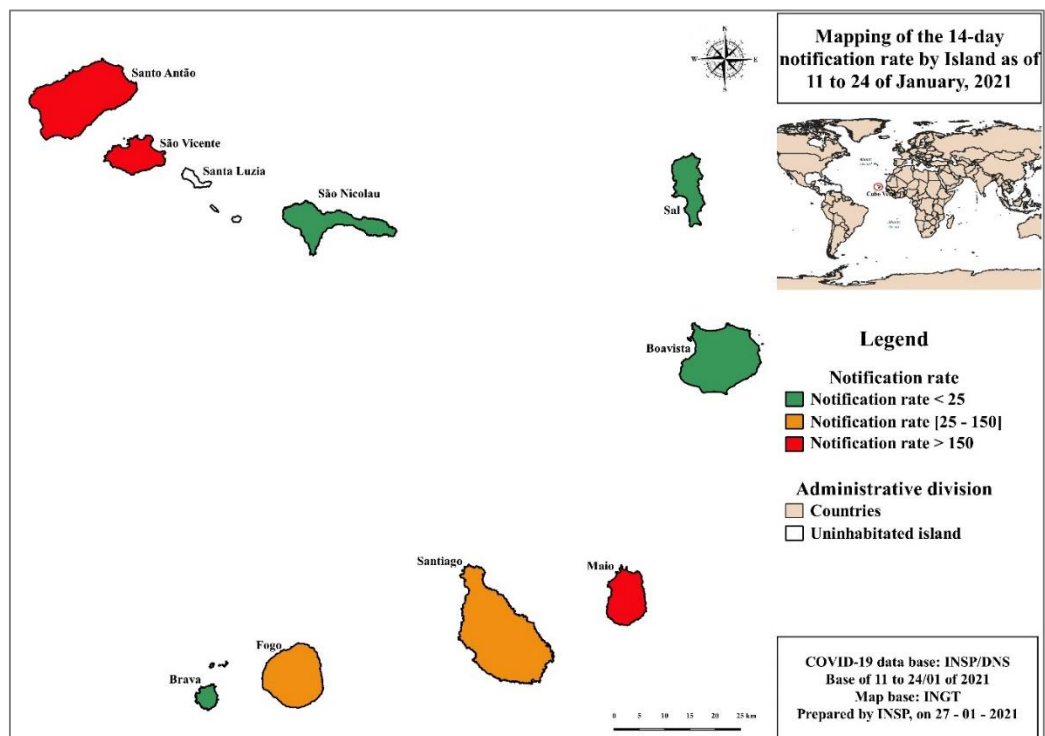


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (11/01/2021 a 24/01/2021) by island<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 03 (18/01/21-24/01/21) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	435	5	1155
São Vicente	1495	15	1760
São Nicolau	4	0	33
Sal	134	0	326
Boavista	8	25	40
Maio	361	6	4797
Santiago	2417	9	771
Fogo	647	3	1858
Brava	0	0	0
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	<b>5501</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>988</b>

\*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 24/01/21

## 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 a rapid antigen 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  
Department of Intergrated Surveillance and Response,  
National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health and Social Security

## Editing and Publication:

Department of Cooperation and inter institucional Developmente of the **National Institute of Public Health**



**Ministério da Saúde e  
da Segurança Social**  
Direção Nacional da Saúde



**Ministério do  
Turismo e Transportes**  
Direção Geral de Turismo e Transportes