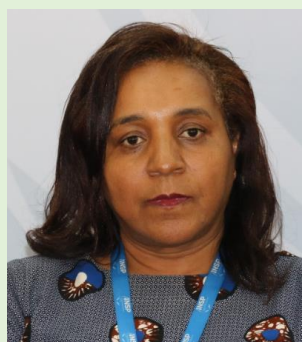


Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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Editorial

Almost a year after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic, WHO experts are trying to discover the virus's origin. Although no definitive conclusion has yet been reached, the hypothesis of it being "created" by man has been discarded. However, the world is grappling with the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants as one tries to understand the effectiveness of the various vaccines.

In Cape Verde, the vaccine introduction plan has been finalized, and all conditions for the storage of vaccines on the market have been created. Thus, the hope increases that a vaccine against COVID-19 may be available in the country soon.

As Carnival and Ash Wednesday approaches, Cape Verde's Government issued another important measure to avoid crowds of people by canceling the usual day-offs related to these festivities. Risk communication related to COVID-19 will be reinforced by encouraging personal responsibility in the implementation of preventive measures.

May we have a peaceful Carnival and Ash Wednesday.

Current Situation

At the end of the fifth epidemiological week of 2021, Cape Verde registered 14451 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 7 of February, the country reported 409 active cases, 13851 cumulative recovered cases, and 136 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 5, the country registered two (2) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 4 and 5 (25/01/2021 to 07/02/2021), the country recorded 873 new cases of COVID-19. During this period, only the island of Brava reported no cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection (*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, 25/01/2021 a 07/02/2021

| Island | Nº of cases notified | 14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants |
|-------------|----------------------|---|
| Santo Antão | 16 | 44 |
| São Vicente | 343 | 400 |
| São Nicolau | 41 | 346 |
| Sal | 10 | 24 |
| Boa Vista | 2 | 10 |
| Maio | 8 | 103 |
| Santiago | 388 | 126 |
| Fogo | 65 | 199 |
| Brava | 0 | 0 |
| Cabo Verde | 873 | 155 |

Sources: Integrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 07/02/2021**

Between 25/01/2021 to 07/02/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 155 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of São Vicente reported the highest incidence rate of 400 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of São Nicolau (346) and Fogo (199). The cumulative incidence rate remains under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants on the islands of Sal, Boa Vista, and Brava (*Table 1*).

During the epidemiological week 5, a total of 4400 samples were processed nationwide, being 2188 by *RT-PCR and GeneXpert®* diagnostic methods, and 2212 by antigen tests (AG-RDT) method. In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 8% and a testing rate of 781 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of São Vicente, São Nicolau, and Fogo reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 5, with 12.9%, 10.2%, and 9.1%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 05 (01/02/2021 to 07/02/2021) by island

| Ilha | Nº of tests performed* | Positivity rate (%) | Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Santo Antão | 208 | 2,4 | 560 |
| São Vicente | 982 | 12,9 | 1146 |
| São Nicolau | 236 | 10,2 | 1973 |
| Sal | 133 | 4,5 | 313 |
| Boavista | 14 | 7,1 | 67 |
| Maio | 188 | 0,5 | 2427 |
| Santiago | 2186 | 6,8 | 689 |
| Fogo | 453 | 9,1 | 1308 |
| Brava | 0 | - | 0 |
| Cabo Verde | 4400 | 8,0 | 781 |

*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 07/02/21

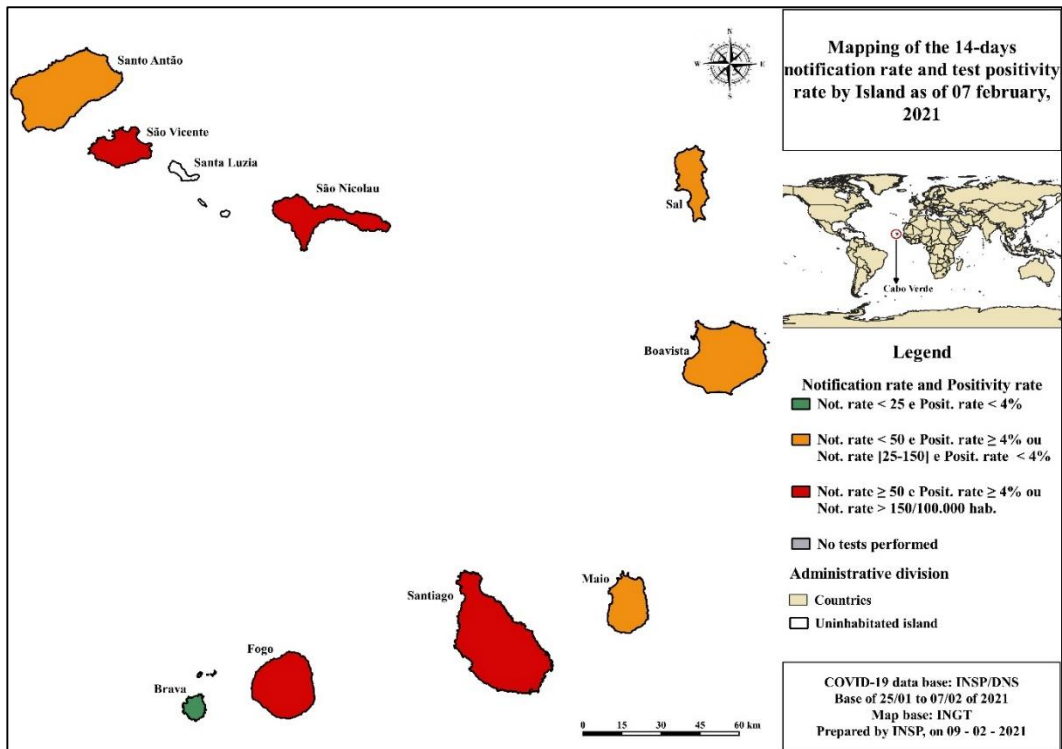


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (25/01/2021 a 07/02/2021) and testing rate in the previous week (01/02/2021 to 07/02/2021) by island¹.

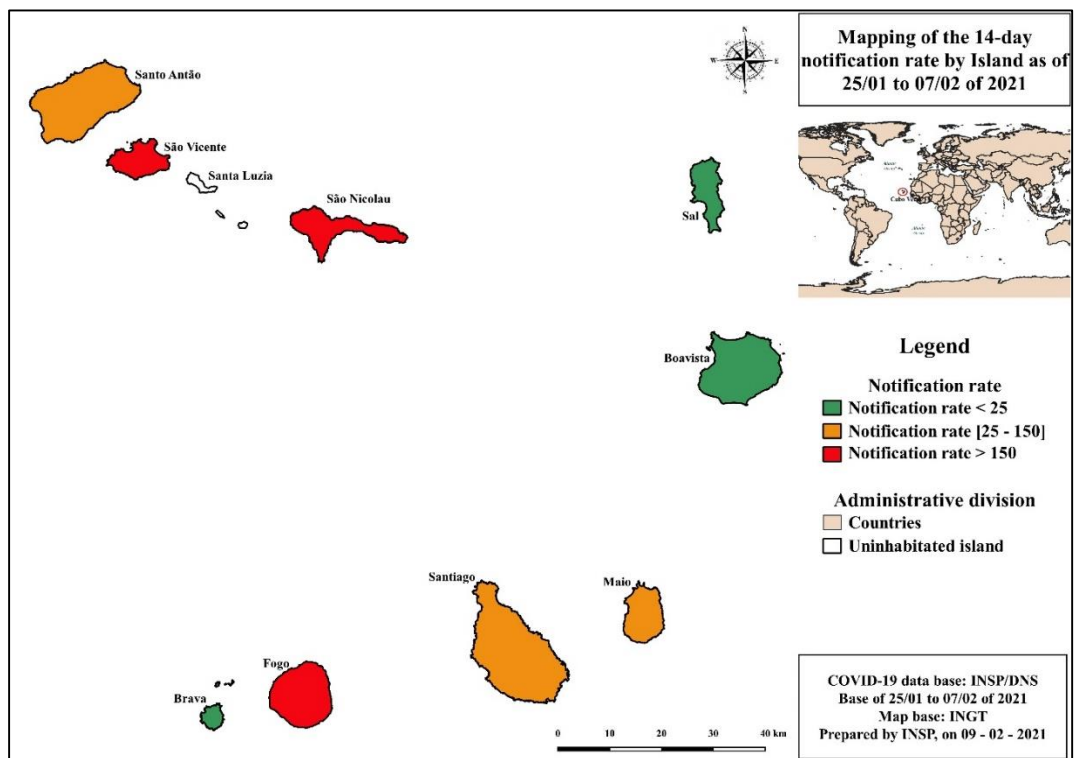


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (25/01/2021 to 07/02/2021) by island²

¹ 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.

² 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.

Criteria for conducting inter-island tests

Direção Nacional de Saúde

Realização de testes para viagem interilhas (aéreas ou marítimas)*

| Origem | Destino | Necessidade de realização de teste para viagem | |
|-------------|--|--|-----|
| | | Sim | Não |
| Santo Antão | S. Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista, Maio e Brava | X | |
| Santo Antão | São Vicente, Santiago e Fogo | | X |
| São Vicente | S. Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista, Santiago, Maio, Fogo e Brava | X | |
| São Vicente | Santo Antão | | X |
| São Nicolau | Sal, Boa Vista, Maio e Brava | X | |
| São Nicolau | Santiago, Fogo, S. Vicente e S. Antão | | X |
| Sal | para qualquer ilha | | X |
| Boa Vista | para qualquer ilha | | X |
| Maio | Santo Antão, S. Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista, Santiago, Fogo e Brava | X | |
| Maio | São Vicente | | X |
| Santiago | S. Antão, S. Vicente, S. Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista, Maio, Fogo e Brava | X | |
| Fogo | S. Antão, S. Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista, Santiago, Maio e Brava | X | |
| Fogo | São Vicente | | X |
| Brava | para qualquer ilha | | X |

*informação será atualizada conforme evolução da situação epidemiológica da COVID-19 em cada ilha a cada 15 dias

■ Taxa de incidência acumulada nos últimos 14 dias superior a 150 por 100 mil habitantes

■ Taxa de incidência acumulada nos últimos 14 dias entre 25 e 150 por 100 mil habitantes

■ Taxa de incidência acumulada nos últimos 14 dias inferior a 25 por 100 mil habitantes

- Considerando que o número de habitantes na ilha do Maio é muito baixo, decidiu-se que é exigido a realização de testes para os passageiros com origem nas ilhas de Santo Antão, São Vicente, Fogo e Santiago, até 72 horas antes da data da viagem.
- As crianças com idade inferior a 7 anos estão isentas da realização de teste para viagens entre as ilhas.

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**Ministério do
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