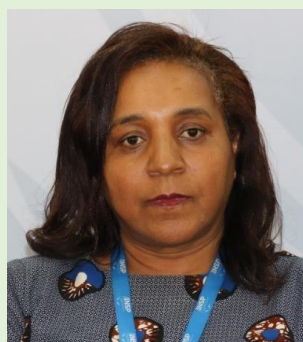


## Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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### Editorial

Almost a year after the notification of the first case of COVID-19 in the country, Cape Verde remains firm in managing and controlling the pandemic. One of the most significant challenges in this response was the strengthening of the country's laboratory capacity. At the beginning of the pandemic, there was no installed capacity and, today, the country has seven COVID-19 diagnostic laboratories and about 20 trained technicians. The vaccination plan has already been drawn up and published, and Cabo Verde is among the first African countries to receive the vaccine in the COVAX project, which is supported by the WHO. Little by little, hope for better days has been renewed for the people of the Islands. We know that the road is long, but we feel that we are on the right path. Meanwhile, prevention remains the order of the day.

Best regards.

### Current Situation

At the end of the seventh epidemiological week of 2021, Cape Verde registered 15072 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 21 of February, the country reported 338 active cases, 14581 cumulative recovered cases, and 144 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 7, the country registered five (5) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 6 and 7 (08/02/2021 to 21/02/2021), the country recorded 597 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, 08/02/2021 to 21/02/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	20	55
São Vicente	204	238
São Nicolau	20	169
Sal	4	9
Boa Vista	10	48
Maio	5	65
Santiago	297	96
Fogo	37	114
Brava	0	0
Cabo Verde	597	106

Sources: Integrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 21/02/2021\*\*

Between 08/02/2021 to 21/02/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 106 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of São Vicente reported the highest incidence rate of 238 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of São Nicolau (169) and Fogo (114). The cumulative incidence rate remains under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants on the islands of Sal and Brava (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 7, a total of 4157 samples were processed nationwide through RT-PCR, GeneXpert®, and antigen tests (AG-RDT) diagnostic methods. In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 7.5% and a testing rate of 738 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Santiago, São Vicente and Boavista reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 7, with 9.9%, 9.8% and 4.7%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 07 (15/02/2021 to 21/02/2021) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
<b>Santo Antão</b>	239	3,8	644
<b>São Vicente</b>	1153	9,8	1346
<b>São Nicolau</b>	106	4,7%	886
<b>Sal</b>	257	1,6	605
<b>Boavista</b>	104	8,7	496
<b>Maio</b>	253	0,4	3266
<b>Santiago</b>	1640	9,9	517
<b>Fogo</b>	405	2,0	1170
<b>Brava</b>	0	0,0	0
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	4157	7,5	738

\*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 21/02/21

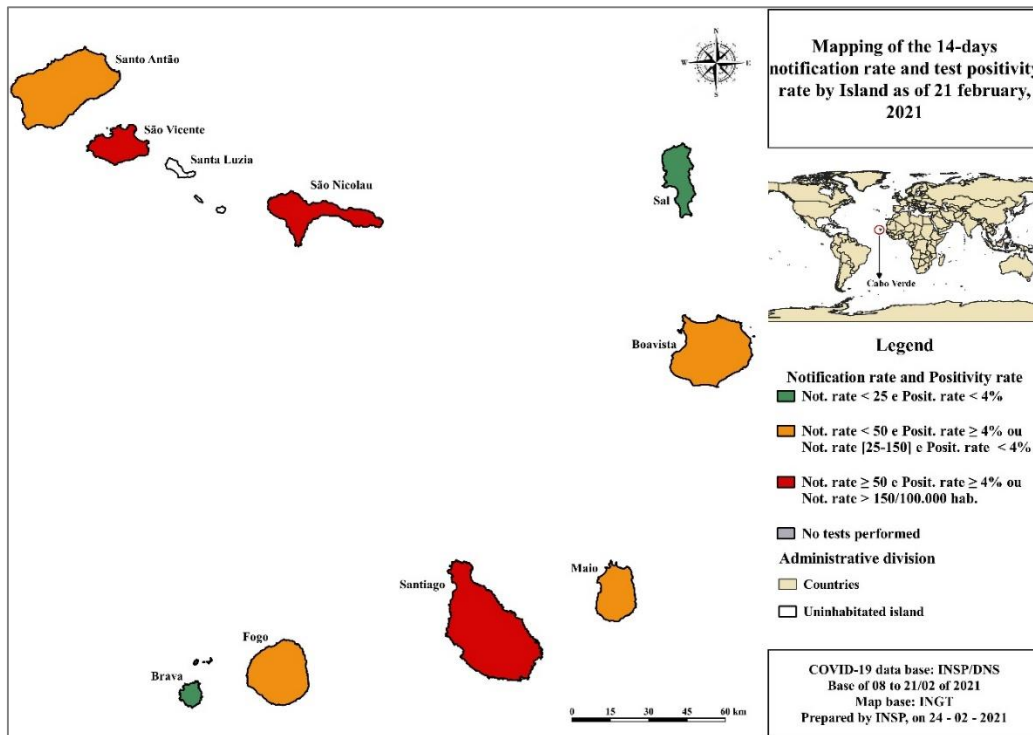


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (08/02/2021 to 21/02/2021) and testing rate in the previous week (15/02/2021 to 21/02/2021) by island<sup>1</sup>.

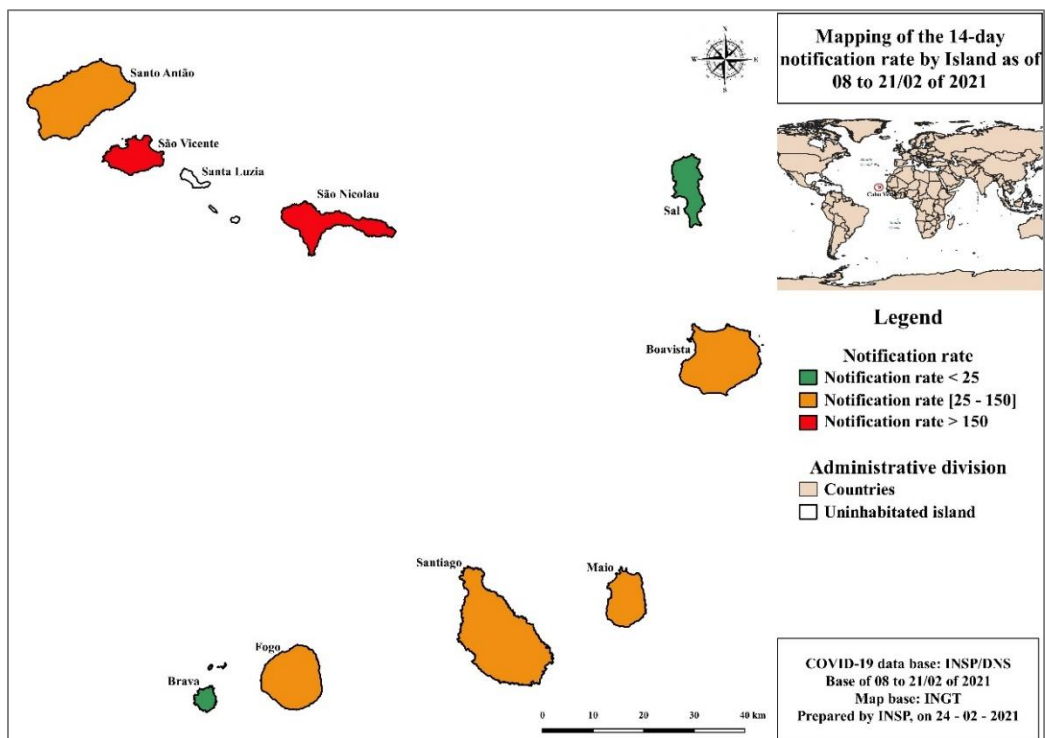


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (08/02/2021 to 21/02/2021) by island<sup>2</sup>

<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.

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