

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



Francisco Martins
National Director of
Tourism and Transport

Editorial

The Government of Cape Verde is firmly committed to tourism and its diversification in the country. In this regard, the construction of a new airport on the island of Santo Antão is another step towards the fulfillment of this commitment. The Technical Feasibility Study for the new airport's construction was carried out in the last four years by INECO, a Spanish engineering and international consultancy company in airport infrastructure. This study proves the viability of the new airport, which will be located in the vicinity of Casa do Meio on the island of Santo Antão. The next step for the construction of this new airport will be, according to INECO experts, carrying out a preliminary study of the flight procedures, confirmation of the feasibility of an approach to the runway, the elaboration of the Master Plan that will define the options for the future development of the new infrastructure and strategic environmental assessment to enable its construction. All for the sake of safe and quality tourism!

Current Situation

At the end of the ninth epidemiological week of 2021, Cabo Verde registered 15806 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 7 of March, the country reported 506 active cases, 15133 cumulative recovered cases, and 154 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 9, the country registered seven (7) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 8 and 9 (22/02/2021 to 07/03/2021), the country recorded 720 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, 22/02/2021 to 07/03/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	12	33
São Vicente	136	159
São Nicolau	114	968
Sal	38	89
Boa Vista	29	138
Maio	5	65
Santiago	365	120
Fogo	21	64
Brava	0	0
Cabo Verde	720	128

Sources: Integrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 07/03/2021**

Between 22/02/2021 to 07/03/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 128 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of São Nicolau reported the highest incidence rate of 968 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of São Vicente (159) and Boavista (138). The cumulative incidence rate remains under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants only on the island of Brava (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 9, a total of 5124 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 7.3% and a testing rate of 910 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of São Nicolau, Santiago, and Sal reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 9, with 11.6%, 8.1%, and 6.6%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 09 (01/03/2021 to 07/03/2021) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	176	4,0	474
São Vicente	990	5,6	1156
São Nicolau	774	11,6	6472
Sal	334	6,6	786
Boavista	356	3,1	1699
Maió	67	3,0	865
Santiago	2153	8,1	679
Fogo	217	6,0	627
Brava	57	0	1066
Cabo Verde	5124	7,3	910

*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 07/03/21

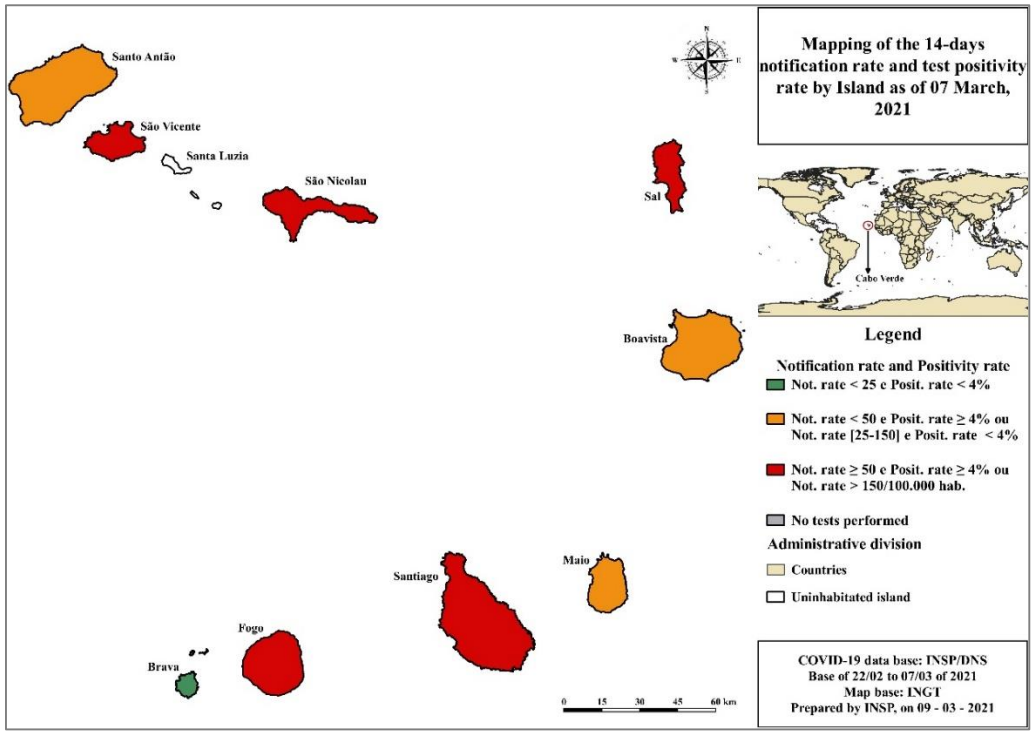


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (22/02/2021 to 07/03/2021) and testing rate in the previous week (01/03/2021 to 07/03/2021) by island¹.

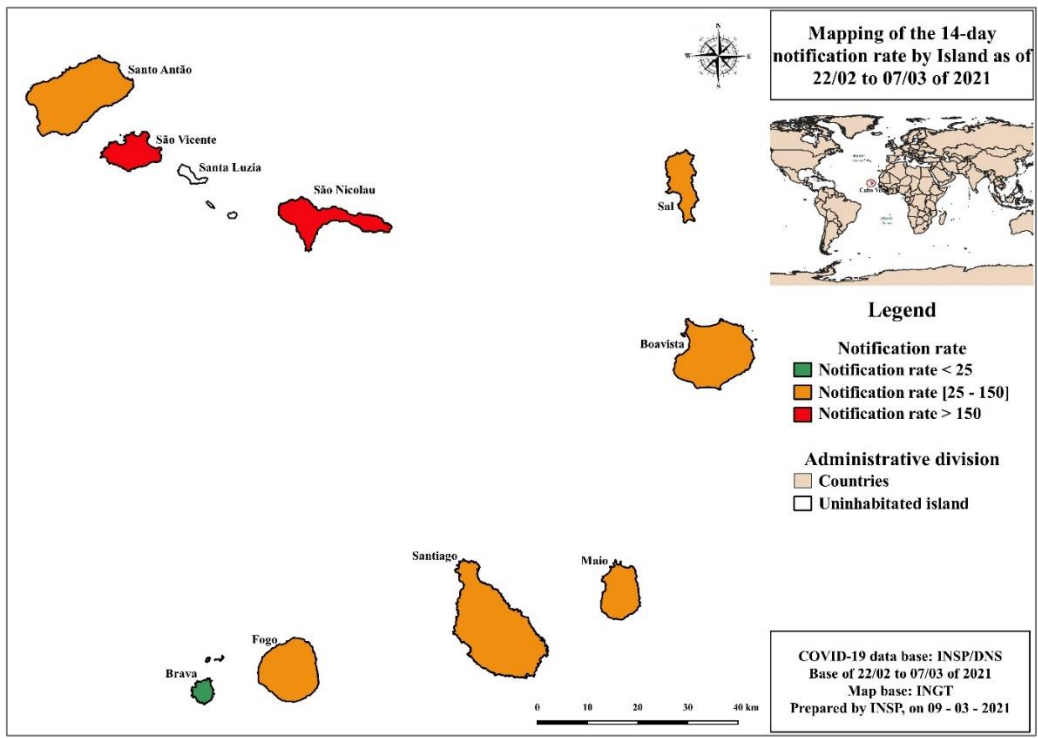


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (22/02/2021 to 07/03/2021) by island²

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.

Criteria for conducting inter-island tests

MINISTÉRIO DA
SAÚDE E DA
SEGURANÇA SOCIAL

GOVERNO DE
**CABO
VERDE**
A TRABALHAR PARA TODOS.

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	Sal, S. Nicolau, Maio e Brava	X	
Santo Antão	São Vicente, Boa Vista, Santiago e Fogo		X
São Vicente	S. Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista, Santiago, Maio, Fogo e Brava	X	
São Vicente	Santo Antão		X
São Nicolau	S. Vicente, Santo Antão, Sal, Boa Vista, Santiago, Maio, Fogo e Brava	X	
Sal	S. Nicolau, Maio, e Brava	X	
Sal	Santo Antão, Boa Vista, São Vicente, Fogo e Santiago		X
Boa Vista	Santo Antão, S. Nicolau, Sal, Santiago, Maio, Fogo e Brava	X	
Boa Vista	São Vicente		X
Maio	S. Nicolau e Brava	X	
Maio	Santo Antão, Sal, Fogo, Santiago, Boa Vista e São Vicente		X
Santiago	S. Nicolau, Maio, Fogo e Brava	X	
Santiago	S. Antão, Sal, Boa Vista e S. Vicente		X
Fogo	S. Nicolau, Maio e Brava	X	
Fogo	S. Antão, São Vicente, Sal, Boa Vista e Santiago		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 nas ilhas de São Nicolau e 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.

Praia, 02 de março de 2021

Technical Team

National Health Observatory of the
National Institute of Public Health
National Directorate of Tourism and Transport
Department of Integrated Surveillance and Response,
National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health and Social Security

Editing and Publication:

Department of Cooperation and inter-institutional Development 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