

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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Editorial

As more weekly flights from Europe are beginning to arrive in Cape Verde with tourists, the Dutch agency Reisgraag.nl has just distinguished the country with the golden award “*Destination Tourism Awards 2021*”. This distinction confirmed the long work that has been done in improving and qualifying the destination, both on the part of operators and public and private institutions operating in the sector. This award reinforced confidence in the strategy the country has been implementing, which is now reinforced by the way the Government has intervened since the beginning, in the legislation and enforcement of health security measures, confirmed by the beginning of the vaccination campaign on the 18th of this March. Tourism professionals are considered in the plan approved by the Government as a priority group. To this end, we continue to appeal to everyone to continue to comply with the protection recommendations with the utmost attention.

Current Situation

At the end of the tenth epidemiological week of 2021, Cabo Verde registered 16101 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 14 of March, the country reported 480 active cases, 15452 cumulative recovered cases, and 156 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 10, the country registered two (2) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 9 and 10 (01/03/2021 to 14/03/2021), the country recorded 666 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, 01/03/2021 to 14/03/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	25	68
São Vicente	71	83
São Nicolau	112	960
Sal	59	139
Boa Vista	23	110
Maio	2	26
Santiago	343	111
Fogo	31	95
Brava	0	0
Cabo Verde	666	118

Sources: Integrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 14/03/2021**

Between 01/03/2021 to 14/03/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 118 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of São Nicolau reported the highest incidence rate of 960 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of Sal (139) and Santiago (111). The cumulative incidence rate remains under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants only on the island of Brava (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 10, a total of 4508 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% and a testing rate of 800 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Sal, Santiago, and Fogo reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 10, with 12.2%, 9.5%, and 7.4%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 09 (08/03/2021 to 14/03/2021) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	396	4,5	1066
São Vicente	935	2,8	1091
São Nicolau	447	4,9	715
Sal	304	12,2	715
Boavista	261	6,1	1245
Maio	33	0,0	426
Santiago	1872	9,5	590
Fogo	243	7,4	702
Brava	17	0,0	318
Cabo Verde	4508	7,0	800

*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 14/03/21

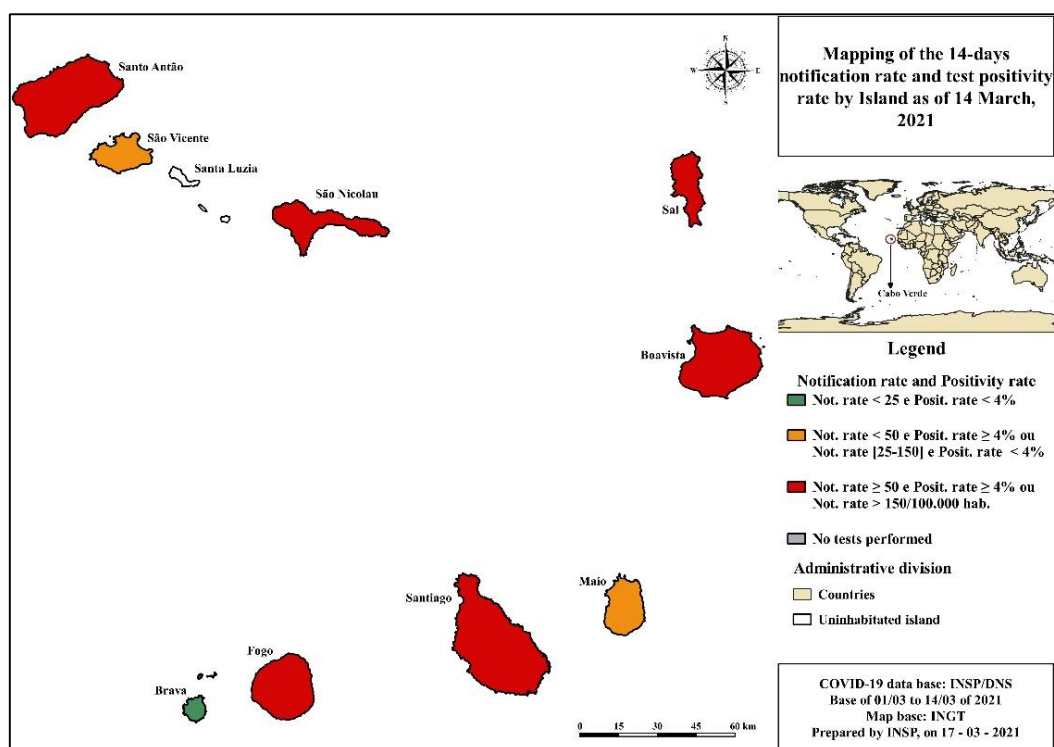


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (01/03/2021 to 14/03/2021) and testing rate in the previous week (08/03/2021 to 14/03/2021) by island¹.

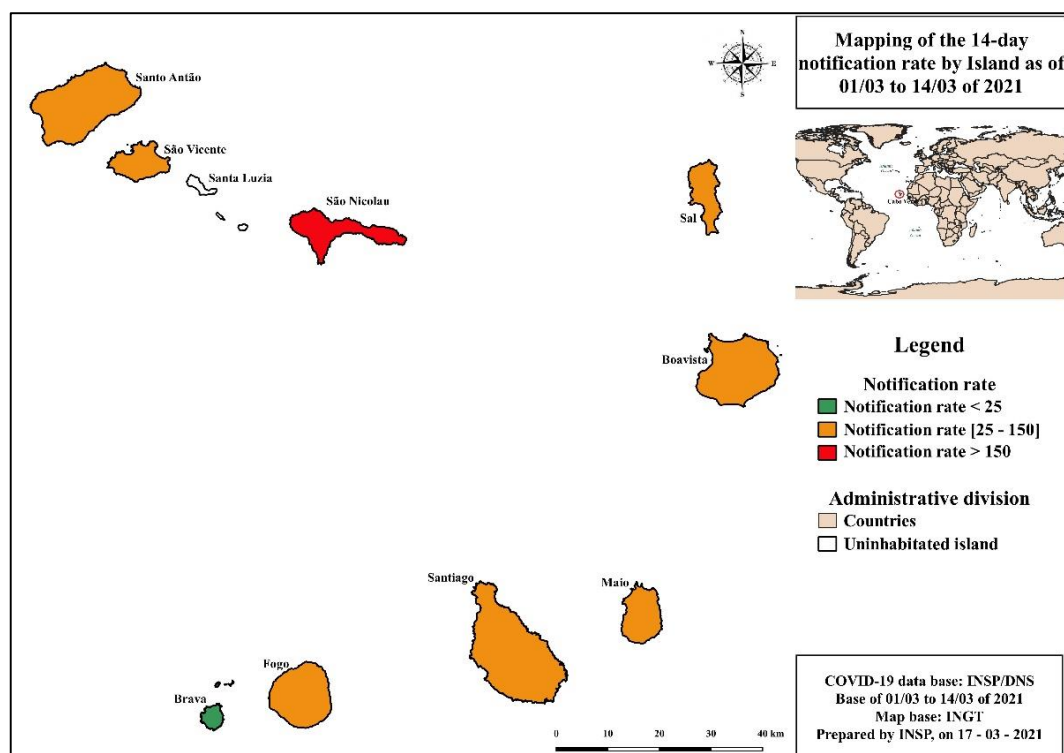




Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (01/03/2021 to 14/03/2021) by island²

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 tests for inter-island travel





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

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