

## 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 eleventh epidemiological week of 2021, Cabo Verde registered 16491 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 21 March, the country reported 567 active cases, 15752 cumulative recovered cases, and 159 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 11, the country registered three (3) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 10 and 11 (08/03/2021 to 21/03/2021), the country recorded 713 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, 08/03/2021 to 21/03/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	29	79
São Vicente	53	62
São Nicolau	54	464
Sal	120	282
Boavista	32	153
Maio	0	0
Santiago	404	131
Fogo	21	65
Brava	0	0
Cabo Verde	713	127

Sources: Integrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 21/03/2021\*\*

Between 08/03/2021 to 21/03/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 127 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of São Nicolau reported the highest incidence rate of 464 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of Sal (282) and Boavista (153). The cumulative incidence rate remained under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants only on the island of Brava (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 11, a total of 4550 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 8.7% and a testing rate of 807 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Sal, Santiago, and Boavista reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 11, with 16.7%, 11.2%, and 10.9%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 11 (15/03/2021 to 21/03/2021) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	260	4,2	700
São Vicente	834	3,1	974
São Nicolau	501	5,0	4189
Sal	526	16,7	1237
Boavista	137	10,9	654
Maio	23	0	297
Santiago	2029	11,2	640
Fogo	168	3,6	485
Brava	72	0	1347
Cabo Verde	4550	8,7	808

\*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 21/03/21

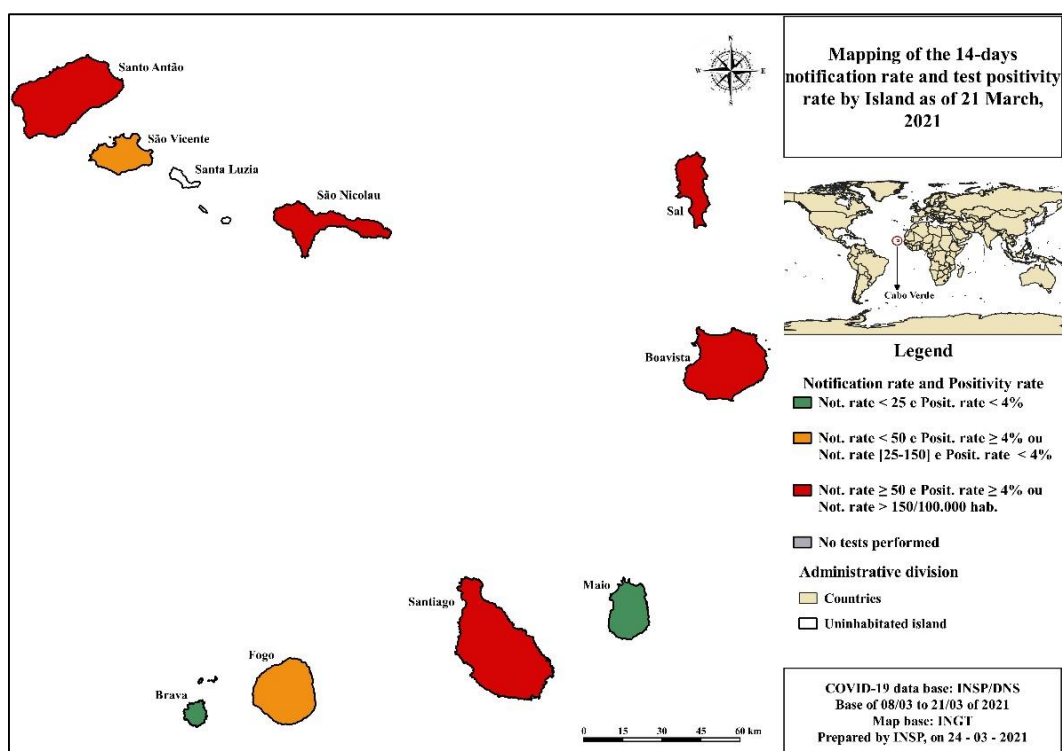


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (08/03/2021 to 21/03/2021) and positivity rate in the previous week (15/03/2021 to 21/03/2021) by island<sup>1</sup>.

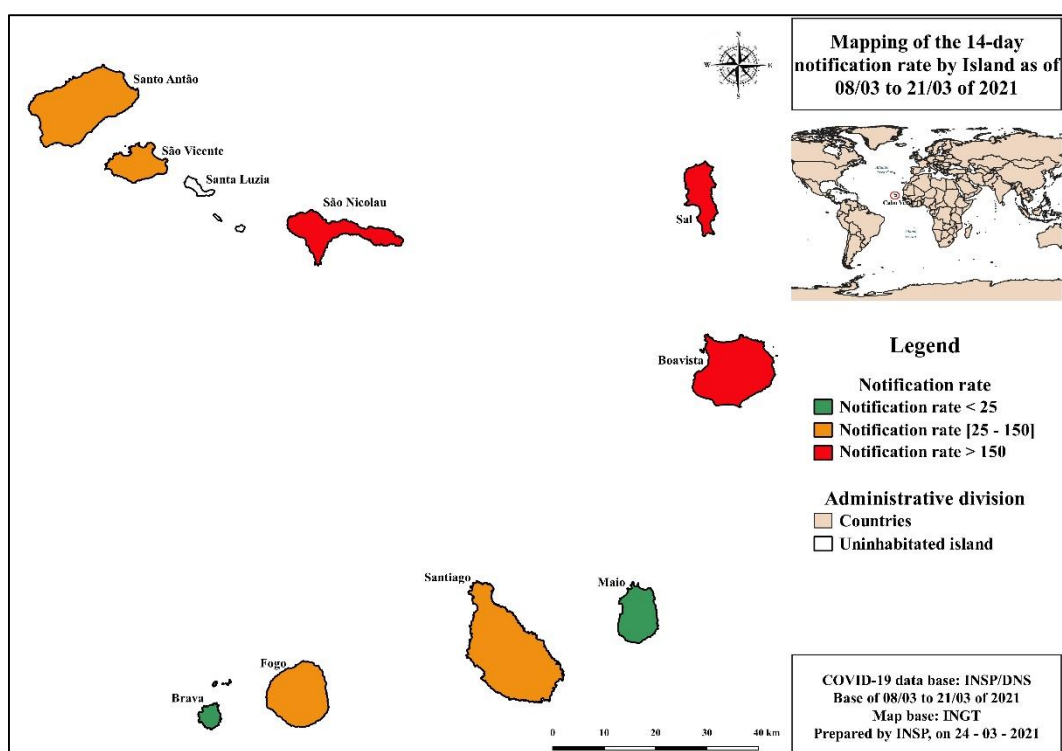


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (08/03/2021 to 21/03/2021) by island<sup>2</sup>

<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.

## Criteria for conducting test for inter-island Travel

<div> <div> <div>MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE E DA SEGURANÇA SOCIAL</div> <div>GOVERNO DE CABO VERDE</div> </div> <div>Direção Nacional de Saúde</div> </div>			
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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