

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



Maria da Luz Lima
President of the Nacional
Institute of Public Health

Editorial

The beginning of the vaccination campaign in Cabo Verde was the most anticipated news in the country since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic a year ago. Health professionals and other workers considered front-line personnel are almost fully vaccinated. On some islands, vulnerable groups are gradually receiving the first dose of the vaccine. The hope of ending the disease is reborn despite some persistent challenges such as access to the vaccine to cover 70% of the population, as recommended, circulation of the B.1.1.7 variant of SARS-CoV-2, and the start of the legislative campaigns. The health authorities continue to strongly appeal and count on the population to not let their guard down in the implementation of preventive measures, considering that the vaccine is, for the time being, is one of several measures to manage the epidemic.

The country marked a year of the COVID-19 pandemic with a day of reflection on the path taken and the pandemic's impact on various sectors, which also served to present the new containment plan and the implementation of the vaccine plan against COVID-19. The one-year balance of the pandemic in the country can be deemed positive considering its experience and resources.

Current Situation

At the end of the twelfth epidemiological week of 2021, Cabo Verde registered 17125 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 28 March, the country reported 872 active cases, 16075 cumulative recovered cases, and 165 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 12, the country registered six (6) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 11 and 12 (15/03/2021 to 28/03/2021), the country recorded 1039 new cases of COVID-19. During this period, only the island of Brava and Maio 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, 15/03/2021 to 28/03/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	23	63
São Vicente	100	117
São Nicolau	44	379
Sal	221	520
Boavista	42	200
Maio	0	0
Santiago	593	193
Fogo	16	49
Brava	0	0
Cabo Verde	1039	184

Sources: Integrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 28/03/2021**

Between 15/03/2021 to 28/03/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 184 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of Sal reported the highest incidence rate of 520 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of São Nicolau (379) and Boavista (200). The cumulative incidence rate remained under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants only on the islands of Brava and Maio (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 12, a total of 5034 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 13.4% and a testing rate of 893 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Boavista, Sal and Santiago reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 12, with 25%, 17.3% and 15.2%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 12 (22/03/2021 to 28/03/2021) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	237	5,1	638
São Vicente	883	8,3	1031
São Nicolau	323	8,4	2701
Sal	796	17,3	1872
Boavista	184	25,0	878
Maio	26	0,0	336
Santiago	2418	15,2	762
Fogo	160	6,3	462
Brava	7	0,0	131
Cabo Verde	5034	13,4	894

*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 28/03/21

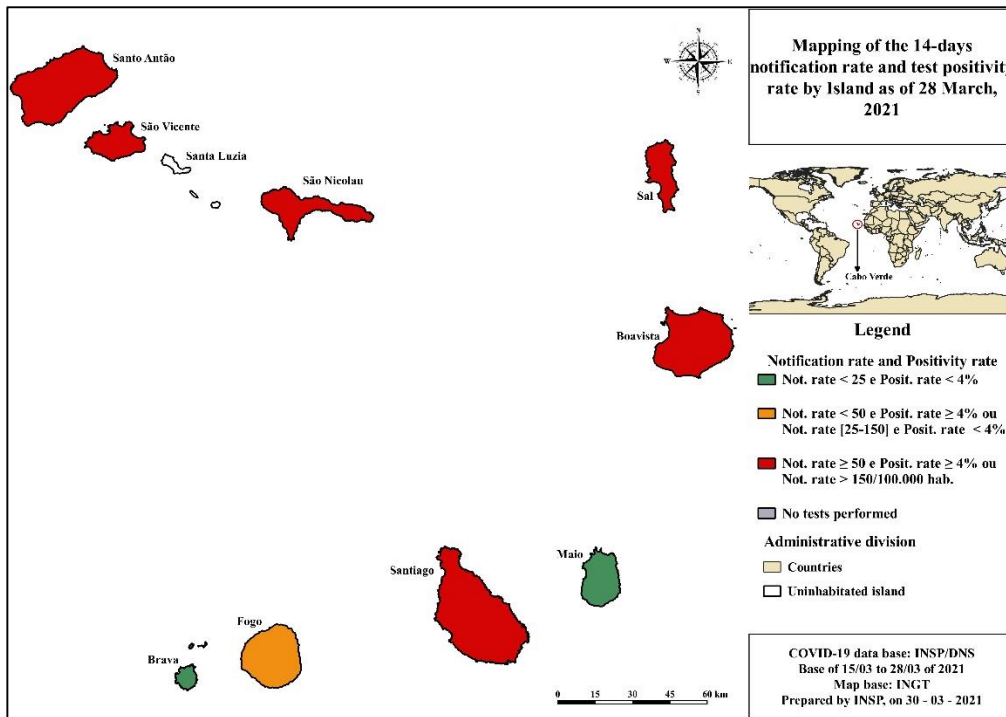


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (15/03/2021 to 28/03/2021) and positivity rate in the previous week (22/03/2021 to 28/03/2021) by island¹.

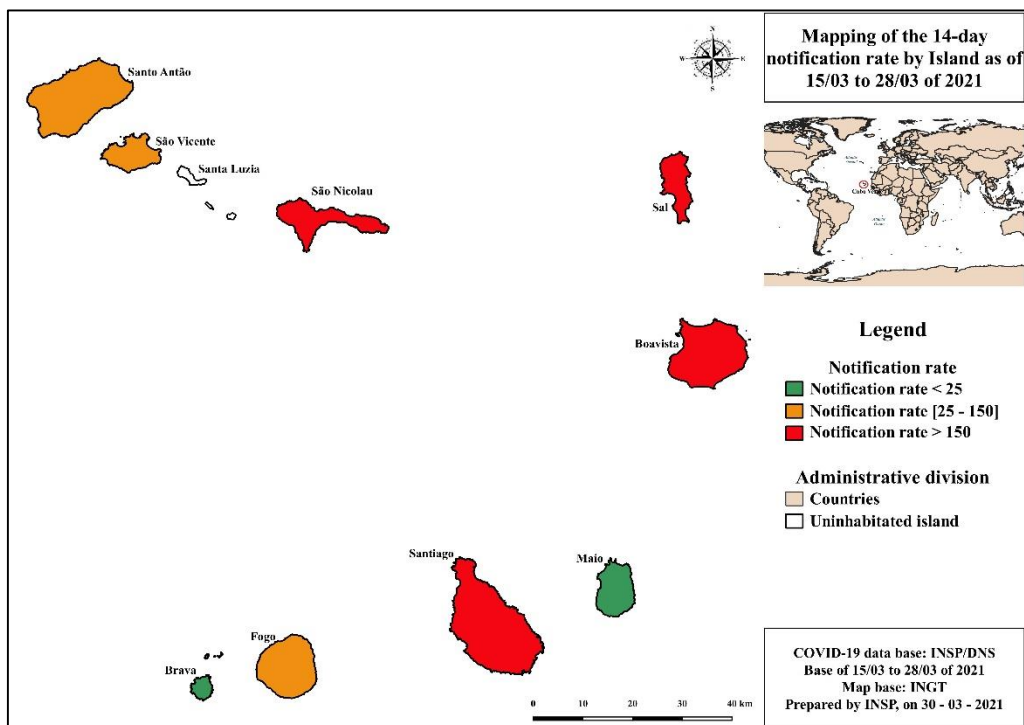



Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (15/03/2021 to 28/03/2021) by island²

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



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. Vicente, Santo Antão, S. Nicolau, Boa Vista, Santiago, Maio, Fogo e Brava	X	
Boa Vista	S. Vicente, Santo Antão, S. Nicolau, Sal, Santiago, Maio, Fogo e Brava	X	
Maio	para qualquer ilha		X
Santiago	S. Vicente, Santo Antão, S. Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista, Maio, Fogo e Brava	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, 29 de março de 2021

Technical Team

National Institute of Public Health

-National Health Observatory - INSP

National Directorate of Tourism and Transport

National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health and Social Security

-Department of Integrated Surveillance and Response

Editing and Publication:

Department of Cooperation and inter-institutional Development of the National Institute of Public Health

