

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



Francisco Martins
Diretor Nacional do
Turismo e Transportes

Editorial

The arrival of the Cape Verde Airlines'boeing is a light at the end of the tunnel in the return of the country's connection with tourism, and with our diaspora in particular. Despite the difficult moment the world is going through, the government of Cape Verde welcomes the completion of the process and the arrival of the plane to the country, because it shows that the commitment to the reopening has been strong, with a focus on connectivity and the return of tourism. It is an important moment for Cabo Verde and cape verdians as it marks the return of flights from our national company and will reflect on tourism, as well as in other sectors of the national economy. Even with the impact of the covid-19 pandemic, which has strongly affected the air transport sector worldwide, our commitment is to keep working to ensure that the beginning of operations happens as soon as possible. In this sense, we appeal to all to strictly comply with the current health safety standards and measures.

Current Situation

At the end of the thirteen epidemiological week of 2021, Cabo Verde registered 17871 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 4 April, the country reported 1205 active cases, 16480 cumulative recovered cases, and 173cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 13, the country registered eight (8) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 12 and 13 (22/03/2021 to 04/04/2021), the country recorded 1426 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, 22/03/2021 to 04/04/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	33	90
São Vicente	190	222
São Nicolau	61	525
Sal	269	633
Boavista	102	487
Maio	2	26
Santiago	753	245
Fogo	16	49
Brava	0	0
Cabo Verde	1426	253

Sources: Integrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 04/04/2021**

Between 22/03/2021 to 04/04/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 253 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of Sal reported the highest incidence rate of 633 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of São Nicolau (525) and Boavista (487). The cumulative incidence rate remained under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants only on the islands of Brava (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 13, a total of 5939 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 12.6% and a testing rate of 1055 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Boavista, Sal and Santiago reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 13, with 17.8%, 15% and 13.5%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 13 (22/03/2021 to 28/03/2021) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	2884	9,0%	627
São Vicente	130	10,1%	1306
São Nicolau	0	8,9%	3086
Sal	233	15,0%	1976
Boavista	1119	17,8%	1579
Maio	840	6,1%	426
Santiago	369	13,5%	909
Fogo	331	4,6%	375
Brava	33	-	0
Cabo Verde	5939	12,6%	1055

*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 04/04/21

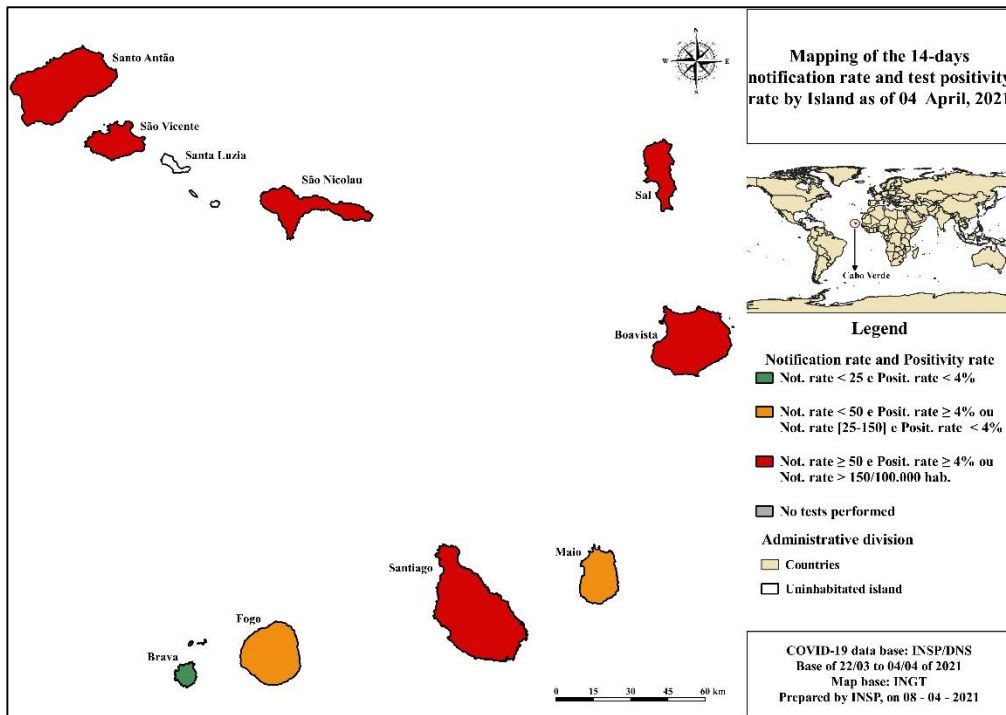


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (22/03/2021 a 04/04/2021) and positivity rate in the previous week (29/03/2021 to 04/04/2021) by island¹.

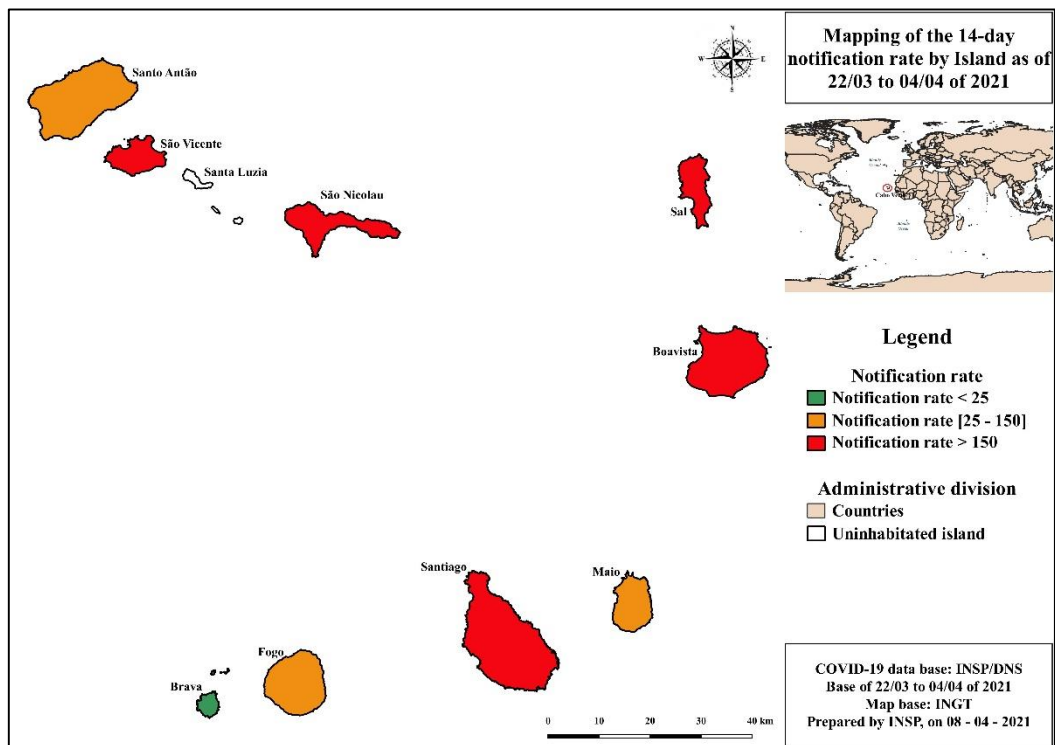



Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (22/03/2021 to 04/04/2021) by island²

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 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