

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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Editorial

Thirteen months after the emergence of the first case of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde, the numbers are steadily increasing. After a relatively calm period, about a week ago, the country returns to more than one hundred daily cases. This cycle somehow follows the global trend, which is probably related to a certain relaxation of the preventive measures associated with Easter festivities. The beginning of the vaccination campaign in the country may be linked to some tranquility of the population.

This growing trend may continue until the end of April due to the likely effect of the legislative election campaign. We hope that in May, with a higher percentage of the population vaccinated and greater awareness of the population, the epidemic curve will decrease again and further relieve healthcare services.

This week's novelty is the opening of the laboratory for the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 in the island of Boavista, one of the main tourist islands, with a capacity to perform more than 800 tests per day, thus contributing to a quiet return to normality of the island with the expected arrival of friends and tourists.

The health authorities continue to count and strongly appeal to the population to not let their guard down in the implementation of preventive measures because only then will the country quickly return to social and economic normality.

Current Situation

At the end of the fourteenth epidemiological week of 2021, Cabo Verde registered 19005 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 11 April, the country reported 1613 active cases, 17197 cumulative recovered cases, and 182 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 14, the country registered nine (9) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 13 and 14 (29/03/2021 to 11/04/2021), the country recorded 1959 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, 29/03/2021 to 11/04/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	41	112
São Vicente	215	251
São Nicolau	176	1516
Sal	352	828
Boavista	118	563
Maio	3	39
Santiago	1041	340
Fogo	13	112
Brava	0	0
Cabo Verde	1959	348

Sources: Integrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 11/04/2021**

Between 29/03/2021 to 11/04/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 348 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of São Nicolau reported the highest incidence rate of 1516 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of Sal (828) and Boavista (563). The cumulative incidence rate remained under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants only on the islands of Brava (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 14, a total of 7130 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 16.4% and a testing rate of 1266 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of São Nicolau, Santiago, and Sal reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 143, with 22.5%, 20%, and 17.4%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 14 (05/04/2021 to 11/03/2021) by island

Island	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	234	8,5	630
São Vicente	1150	8,3	1 342
São Nicolau	590	22,5	4 934
Sal	1273	17,4	2 994
Boavista	377	11,4	1 799
Maio	19	5,3	245
Santiago	3252	20,0	1 025
Fogo	198	3,5	572
Brava	37	0,0%	692
Cabo Verde	7130	16,4	1 266

*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 11/04/21

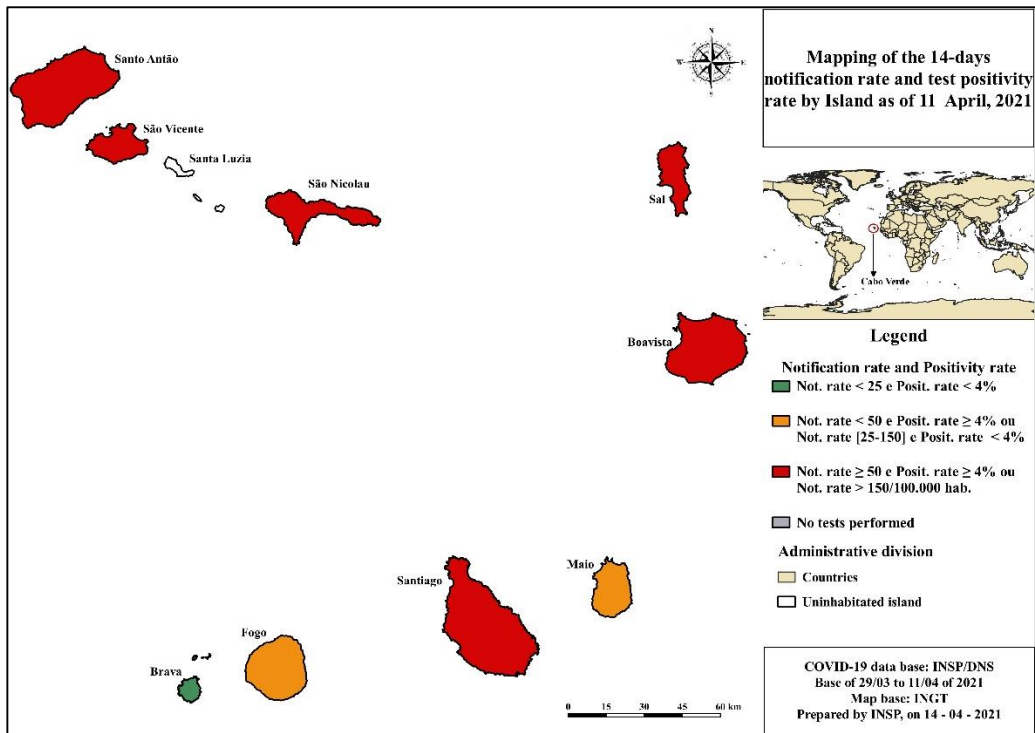


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (29/03/2021 to 11/04/2021) and positivity rate in the previous week (05/04/2021 to 11/04/2021) by island¹.

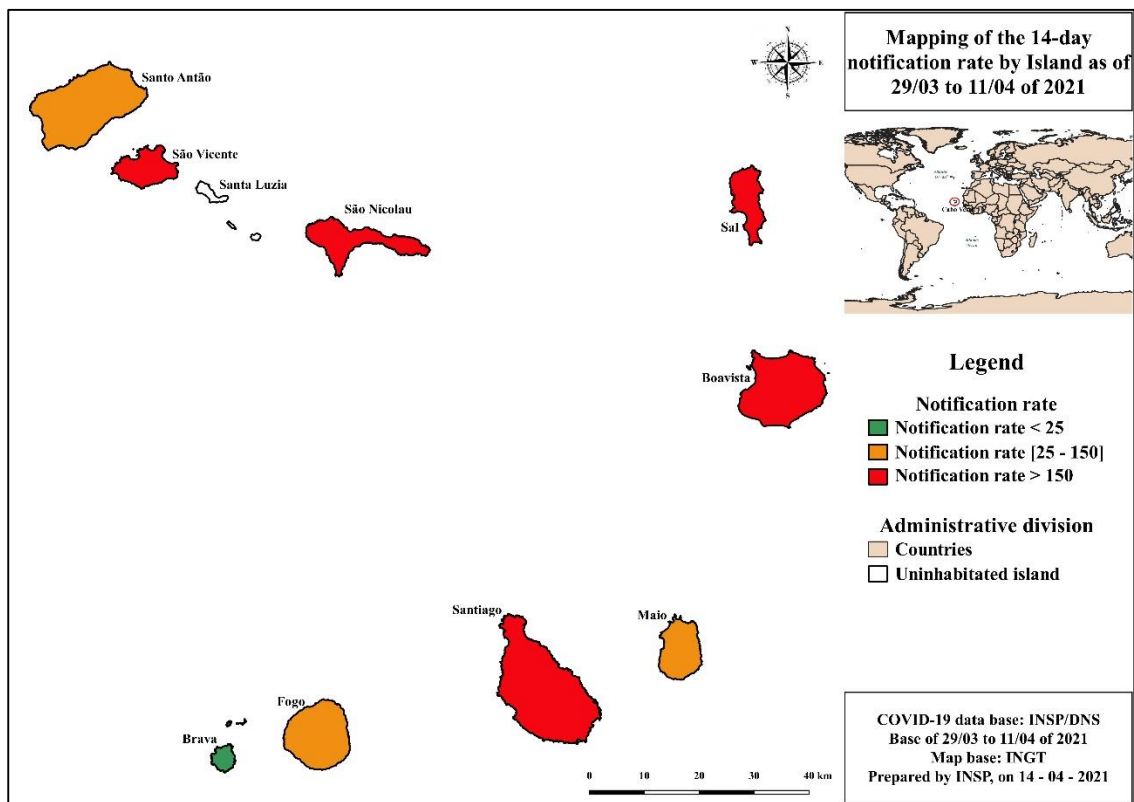


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (29/03/2021 to 11/04/2021) by island²

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

■ 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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