

## Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



**Francisco Martins**  
National Director of  
Tourism and Transport

### Editorial

After more than one year of suspension of operations due to the new coronavirus crisis, TUI, considered the world's largest tourist operator acting in the cabo-verdian touristic market, returned the operations to São Vicente and Santiago islands on april 16th. It will serve the cabo-verdian community residing in the netherlands, as well as the tourists and citizens in general. This connection is important as it will contribute to the increase in the number of tourists in the country. The demand of the netherlands for Cabo Verde has increased in the last years. This demonstrates that the country has mainly caught the attention of european citizens that recognize the good work done by the government, through the Ministry of Tourism and Transport, in terms of health certification, with the launch of the program "Cabo Verde Turismo Seguro". The flight operated by TUI, from Amsterdam, brings a strong feeling of hope that the resume of tourism is taking safe steps, creating conditions for the restart of the economic activity. One recalls that covid-19 struck a blow in the cabo-verdian economy, leading the tourism sector to stop in 2020, but the work done by the government has successfully contributed to mitigate the effects of the pandemic in the social, economic and, above all, health safety fields for families and companies. In this sense, we maintain our appeal for strict compliance with the current health safety standards and measures.

### Current Situation

At the end of the fifteenth epidemiological week of 2021, Cabo Verde registered 20466 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 18 April, the country reported 2219 active cases, 18041 cumulative recovered cases, and 192 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 15, the country registered ten (10) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 14 and 15 (05/04/2021 to 18/04/2021), the country recorded 2676 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, 05/04/2021 to 18/04/2021*

<b>Island</b>	<b>Nº of cases notified</b>	<b>14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants</b>
<b>Santo Antão</b>	89	243
<b>São Vicente</b>	340	397
<b>São Nicolau</b>	215	1851
<b>Sal</b>	389	901
<b>Boavista</b>	114	544
<b>Maio</b>	24	310
<b>Santiago</b>	1488	486
<b>Fogo</b>	17	52
<b>Brava</b>	0	0
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	2676	474

Sources: Integrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 18/04/2021\*\*

Between 05/04/2021 to 18/04/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 474 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of São Nicolau reported the highest incidence rate of 1851 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of Sal (901) and Boavista (544). The cumulative incidence rate remained under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants only on the islands of Brava (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 15, a total of 8210 samples were processed nationwide through RT-PCR, GeneXpert®, and antigen tests (AG-RDT) diagnostic methods combined. In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 18.5% and a testing rate of 1458 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Santiago, Boavista, and Sal reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 15, with 22.4%, 21.4%, and 19.8%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 14 (12/04/2021 to 18/04/2021) by island

Island	N° of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	708	11,3	1 906
São Vicente	1611	15,1	1 880
São Nicolau	541	16,5	4 524
Sal	819	19,8	1 926
Boavista	332	21,4	1 584
Maio	172	13,4	2 220
Santiago	3748	22,4	1 181
Fogo	172	5,8	497
Brava	107	0,0	2 001
Cabo Verde	8210	18,5	1 458

\*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 18/04/21

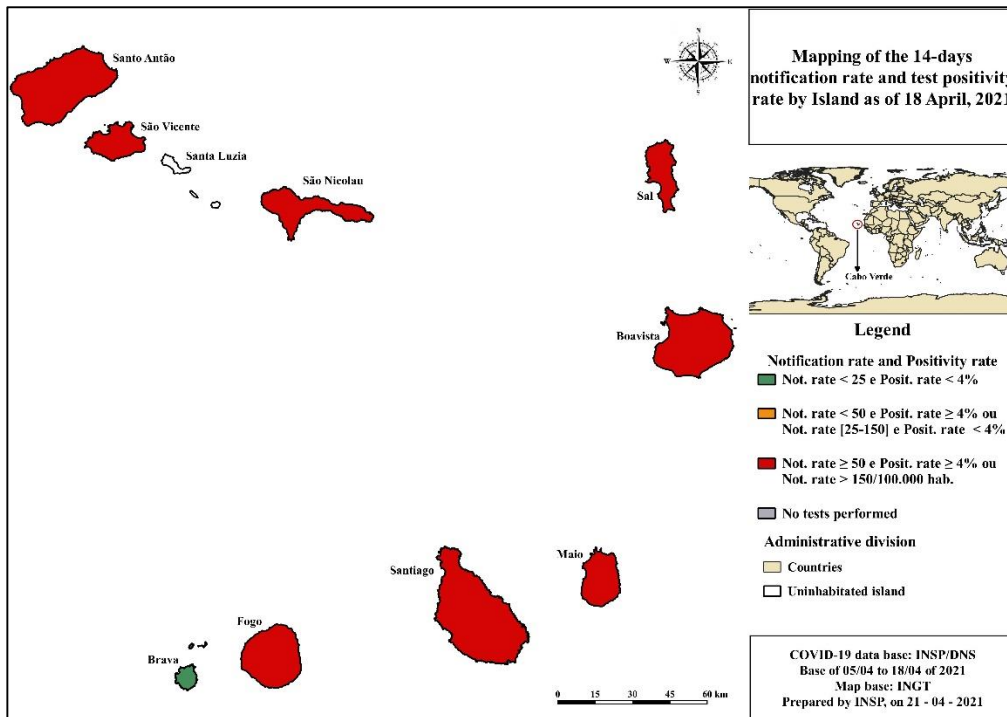


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (04/04/2021 to 18/04/2021) and positivity rate in the previous week (12/04/2021 to 18/04/2021) by island<sup>1</sup>.

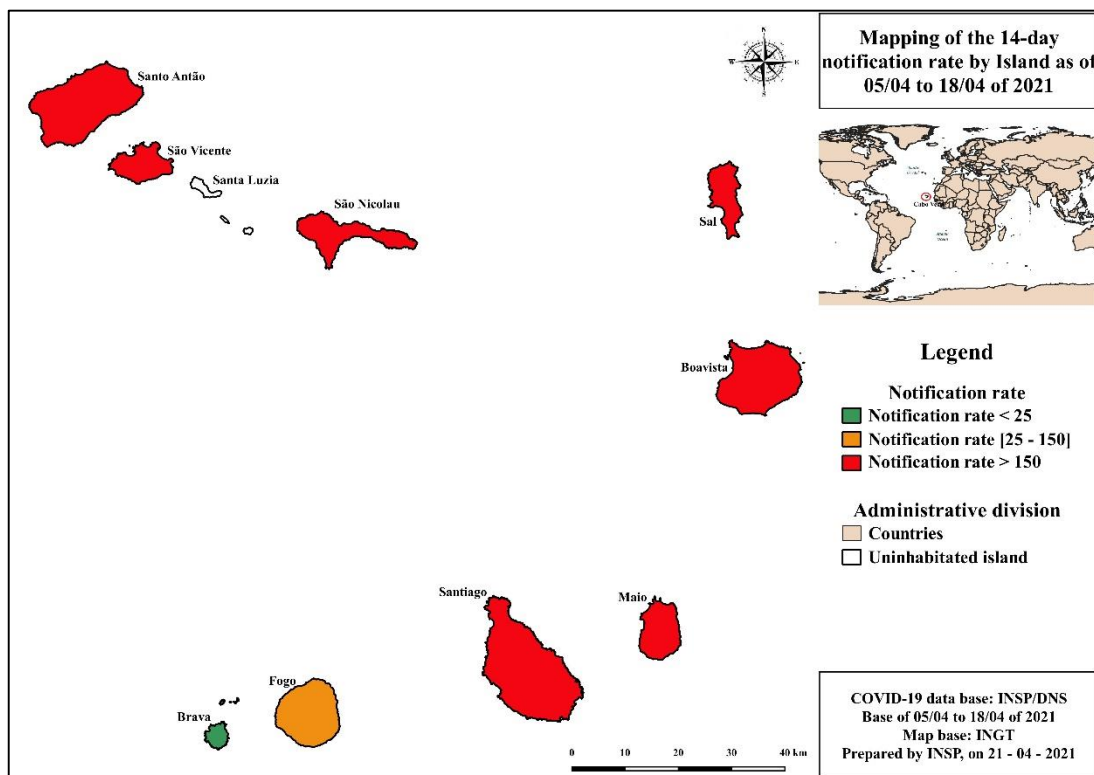



Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (05/04/2021 to 18/04/2021) by island<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

**Praia, 12 de abril 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

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**Ministério do  
Turismo e Transportes**  
Direção Geral de Turismo e Transportes