

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



Francisco

National Director of
Tourism and Transport

Editorial

The cases of COVID19 in Cabo Verde began to decline slowly after the measures enacted by the Government and the reinforcement of risk communication and community engagement. More emphasis is being placed on the commitment of communities and youth associations to carry out activities aimed at raising awareness among the general population. The involvement of young people in this process is a positive indicator given that they are the age group most affected by the pandemic.

Vaccination continues at a normal pace as the country awaits the reinforcement of vaccine doses from the COVAX project, other donations and the pending availability of vaccines to be purchased by the Government of Cabo Verde. The possibility of authorization of the Sinovac vaccine by the WHO increases supply and the possibility of acquisition to reach the target goal of vaccinating 70% of the population in 2021.

Little by little, the hope for better days is renewed in the people of the Islands. We know that the road is long, but we feel that we are on the right path. Meanwhile, prevention remains the order of the day.

Current Situation

At the end of the eighteenth epidemiological week of 2021, Cabo Verde registered 26 441 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 02 May, the country reported 3157 active cases, 23 037 cumulative recovered cases, and 232 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 18, the country registered eight (8) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 17 and 18 (26/04/2021 a 09/05/2021), the country recorded 4093 new cases of COVID-19, (*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, 19/04/2021 to 02/05/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	392	1090
São Vicente	731	853
São Nicolau	236	2137
Sal	197	463
Boavista	197	940
Maio	101	1304
Santiago	2066	684
Fogo	108	334
Brava	65	1216
Cabo Verde	4093	727

Sources: SVIR, DNS, MSSS, as of 02/05/2021**

Between 26/04/2021 a 09/05/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 727 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of São Nicolau reported the highest incidence rate of 2137 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of Maio (1304) and Brava with 1216/100 000 inhabitants. All islands reported cumulative incidence rates over 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 18, a total of 11390 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 17.8% and a testing rate of 2022 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Boavista, Santiago and São Vicente reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 18, with 21.6%, 20.7% and 20.4%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of testes performed, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 18 (03/05/2021 to 09/05/2021) by island

Ilha	Number of testes performed *	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	1154	17,3	3 107,2
São Vicente	1804	20,4	2 105,8
São Nicolau	949	15,5	7 935,4
Sal	697	9,5	1 639,5
Boavista	185	21,6	882,7
Maio	417	14,1	5 382,7
Santiago	5133	20,7	1 618,0
Fogo	477	10,5	1 377,7
Brava	574	6,6	10 737,0
Cabo Verde	11390	17,8	2 022,4

*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 09/05/21

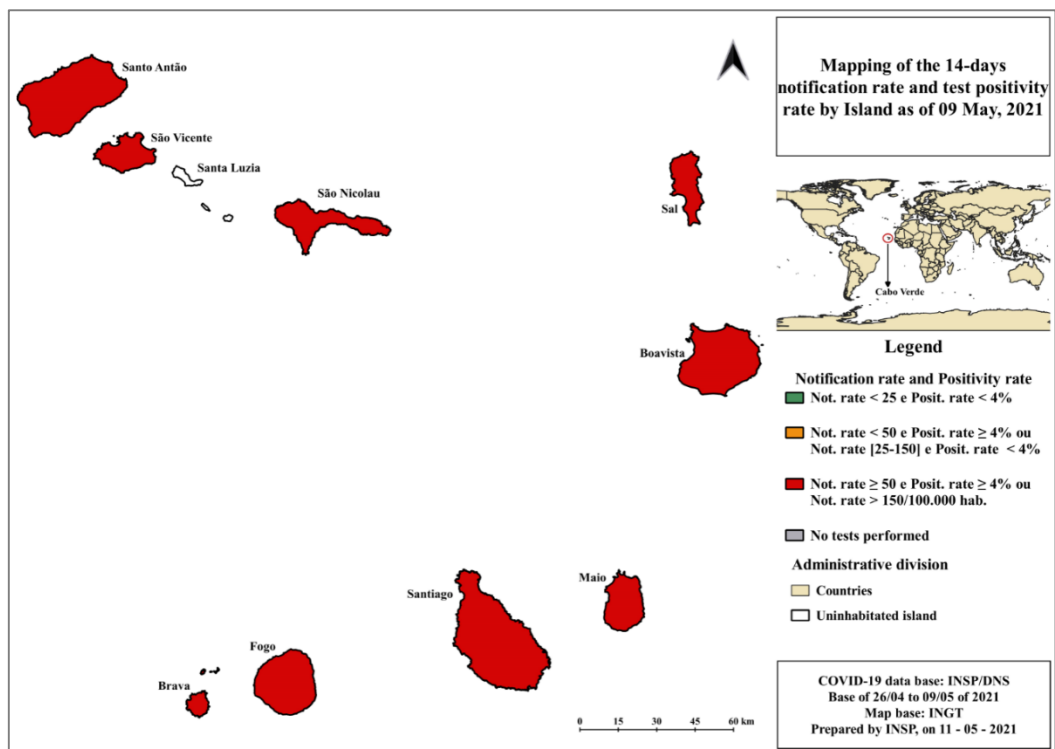


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (26/04/2021 to 09/05/2021) and positivity rate in the previous week (03/05/2021 to 09/05/2021) by island¹.

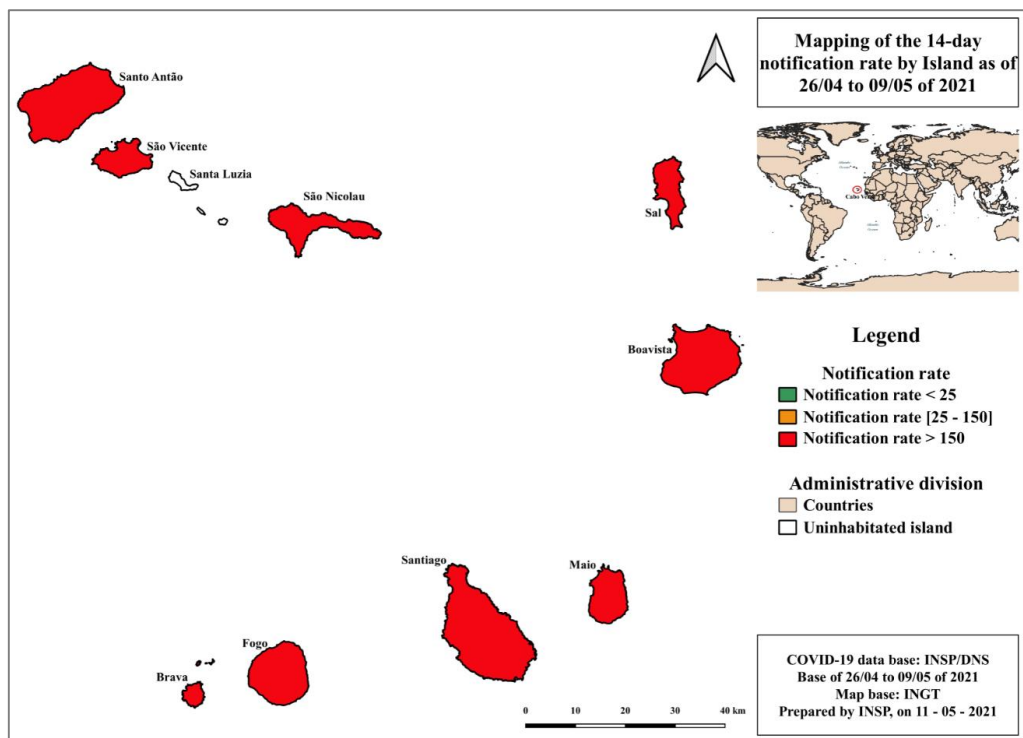


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (26/04/2021 to 09/05/2021) by island²

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	Boa Vista, Santiago, Fogo, Sal, S. Nicolau, Maio e Brava	X	
Santo Antão	São Vicente		X
São Vicente	S. Nicolau, Sal, Boa Vista, Santiago, Maio, Fogo e Brava	X	
São Vicente	Santo Antão		X
São Nicolau	para qualquer ilha	X	
Sal	para qualquer ilha	X	
Boa Vista	para qualquer ilha	X	
Maio	para qualquer ilha	X	
Santiago	para qualquer ilha	X	
Fogo	para qualquer ilha	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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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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Department of Cooperation and inter-institutional Development of the National Institute of Public Health



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