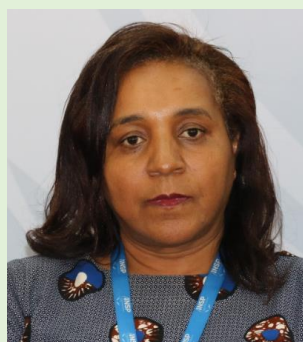


Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde



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Editorial

Since last March, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued on an upward curve, placing the country among those with the highest number of positive cases per day in the world. Several factors can explain this phenomenon, from increased testing, circulation of variants to some relaxation in adopting preventive measures by the population associated with political and periodically, religious celebrations. Health services have been following the situation with some concern, maintaining the usual resilience, so much so that there is no record of collapse in the health system. The population under 50 years remains the most affected and, in most cases, without symptoms. To face this situation, risk communication and inspection strategies are being strengthened and more assertive.

The vaccination program continues to run at the expected pace, and it is expected that the number of cases will decrease, relieving the pressure on health services and health professionals who rely on the common sense of the population.

The health authorities continue to count on everyone and strongly appeal to the population not to let their guard down in the implementation of preventive measures. Only so will the country be able to return to economic and social normality quickly.

Current Situation

At the end of the sixteenth epidemiological week of 2021, Cabo Verde registered 22349 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, 25 April, the country reported 2928 active cases, 19204 cumulative recovered cases, and 203 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. In epidemiological week 16, the country registered eleven (11) deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 15 and 16 (12/04/2021 to 25/04/2021), the country recorded 3336 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, 12/04/2021 to 25/04/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	202	556
São Vicente	487	568
São Nicolau	168	1491
Sal	334	786
Boavista	138	658
Maio	88	1136
Santiago	1890	622
Fogo	29	89
Brava	0	0
Cabo Verde	3336	592

Sources: Integrated Surveillance and Response Department, National Directorate of Health, Ministry of Health as of 25/04/2021**

Between 12/04/2021 to 25/04/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 592 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of São Nicolau reported the highest incidence rate of 1491 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands of Maio (1136) and Sal (786). The cumulative incidence rate remained under 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants only on the islands of Brava (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 16, a total of 9858 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 19.9% and a testing rate of 1750 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of Santiago, Sal and Maio reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 16, with 23.5%, 20.6%, and 20.4%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of cases, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 15 (12/04/2021 to 18/04/2021) by island

Ilha	Nº of tests performed*	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	983	13,4	2 647
São Vicente	1704	17,6	1 989
São Nicolau	515	17,5	4 306
Sal	860	20,6	2 023
Boavista	655	15,7	3 125
Maio	343	20,4	4 428
Santiago	4540	23,5	1 431
Fogo	245	9,0	708
Brava	13	0,0	243
Cabo Verde	9858	19,9	1 750

*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 25/04/21

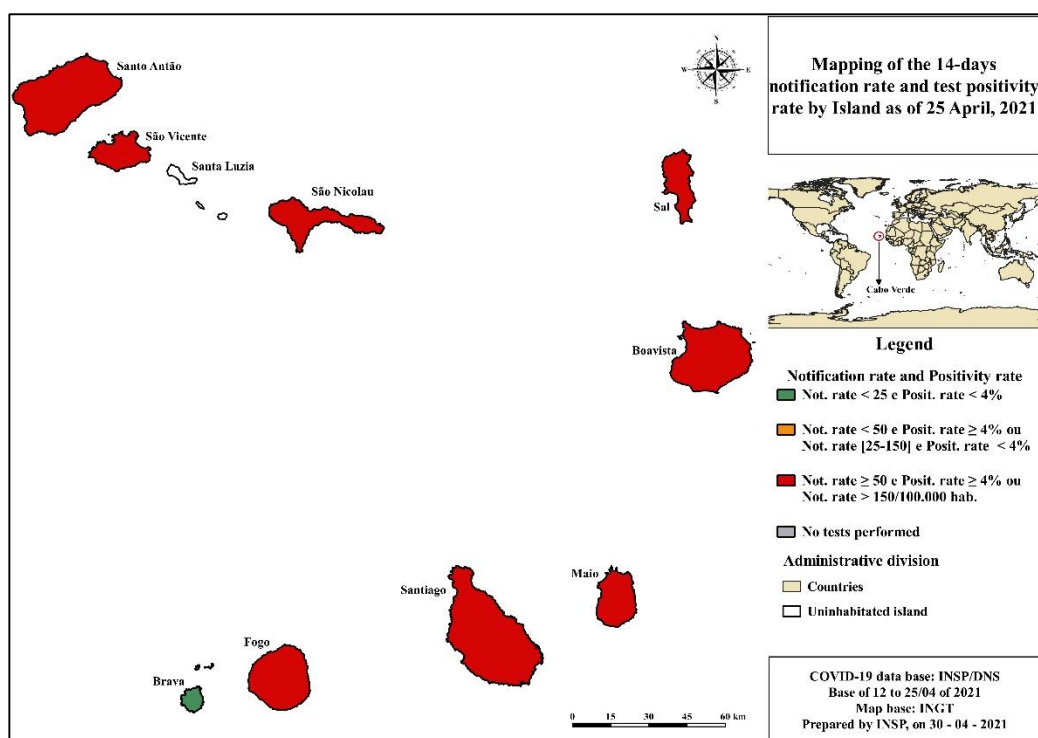
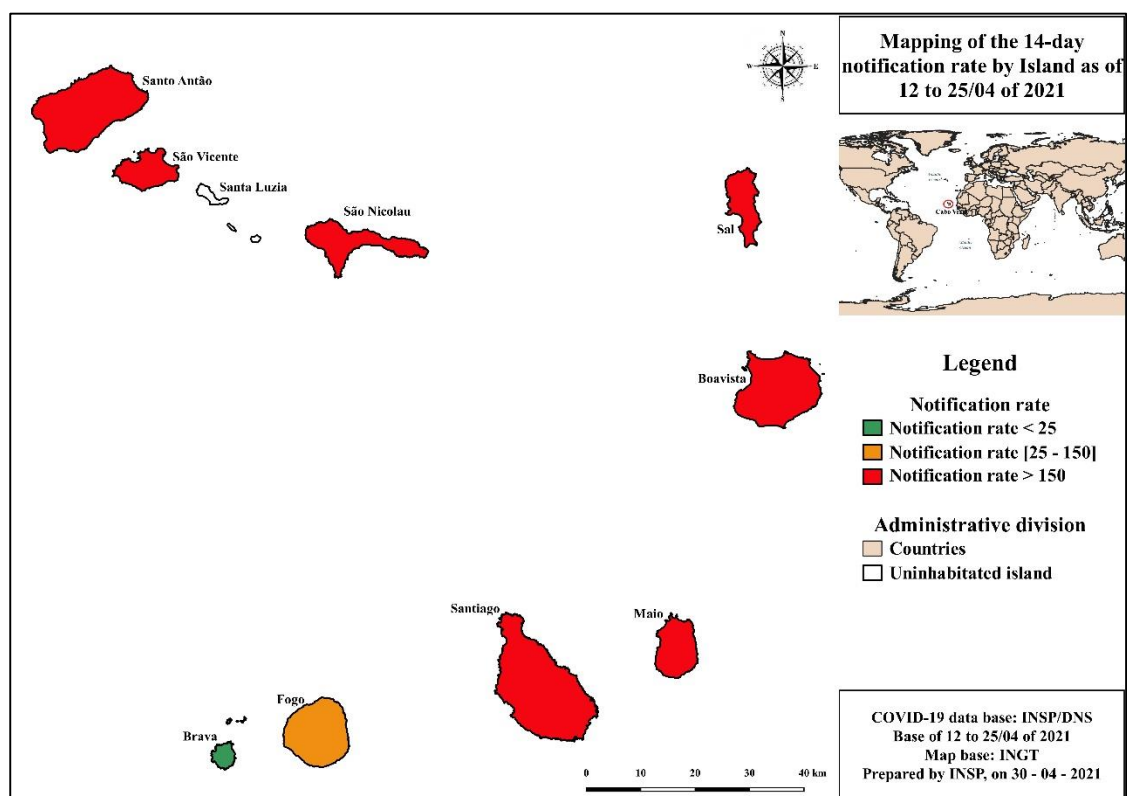


Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (12/04/2021 to 25/04/2021) and positivity rate in the previous week (19/04/2021 to 25/04/2021) by island¹.



¹ Map elaborated in accordance with resolution nº 169/2020. Cabo Verde, *BOLETIM OFICIAL*, Cabo Verde: Boletim Oficial I serie, numero 132 de 19 de novembro de 2020, 2020, p. 2945.

Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (12/04/2021 to 25/04/2021) by island ²

Criteria for conducting inter-island tests

<div> <div> <div>MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE E DA SEGURANÇA SOCIAL</div> <div>GOVERNO DE CABO VERDE</div> </div> <div>Direção Nacional de Saúde</div> </div>			
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

² Map elaborated in accordance with resolution nº 156/2020. Cabo Verde, *BOLETIM OFICIAL, SUPLEMENTO*. Cabo Verde: Boletim Oficial I serie, numero 135 de 14 de dezembro de 2020, 2020, p. 10.

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