

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde

Current Situation

At the end of the fiftieth epidemiological week of 2021, Cabo Verde registered 38589 accumulated cases of COVID-19. On that day, the 19th of December, the country reported 93 active cases, 38119 cumulative recovered cases, and 351 cumulative deaths from COVID-19. During epidemiological weeks 49 and 50, the country did not register any deaths from COVID-19.

In the period corresponding to epidemiological weeks 49 and 50 (06/12/2021 to 19/12/2021), the country recorded 139 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, 06/12/2021 to 19/12/2021

Island	Nº of cases notified	14-day incidence rate per 100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	42	121
São Vicente	21	25
São Nicolau	18	174
Sal	16	38
Boavista	2	10
Maio	2	26
Santiago	33	12
Fogo	5	16
Brava	0	0
Cabo Verde	139	25

Sources: SVIR, DNS, MSSS, as of 19/12/2021**

Between 06/12/2021 to 19/12/2021, the cumulative incidence rate of notified COVID-19 cases at the national level was 25 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. The island of São Nicolau reported the highest incidence rate of 174 cases per 100 000 inhabitants, followed by the islands Santo Antão (121) and Sal with 38 per 100 000 inhabitants. The cumulative incidence rate was under 25 in the islands of Boavista, Santiago, Fogo, and Brava (*Table 1*).

During epidemiological week 50, a total of 3840 samples were processed nationwide through RT-PCR and antigen tests (AG-RDT) diagnostic methods combined. In this week, the country registered a positivity rate of 2.5% and a testing rate of 682 tests per 100 000 inhabitants. The islands of São Nicolau, Santo Antão, and Santiago reported the highest positivity rates during epidemiological week 50, with 13.7%, 13%, and 2.4%, respectively (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Number of tests performed, positivity rate, and testing rate per 100,000 populations in epidemiological week 50 (13/12/2021 to 19/12/2021) by island

Ilha	Number of testes performed *	Positivity rate (%)	Testing rate/100 000 inhabitants
Santo Antão	1451	13,0	554,7
São Vicente	196	0,5	1 293,3
São Nicolau	28	13,7	543,5
Sal	239	0,6	1 272,5
Boavista	887	1,0	209,9
Maio	680	0,0	1 329,5
Santiago	153	2,4	461,5
Fogo	99	0,5	597,9
Brava	107	0,0	617,3
Cabo Verde	3840	2,5	670

*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 19/12/21

Figure 1. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (06/12/2021 to 19/12/2021) and positivity rate in the previous week (13/12/2021 to 19/12/2021) 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 26 de novembro de 2020, 2020, p. 2945.

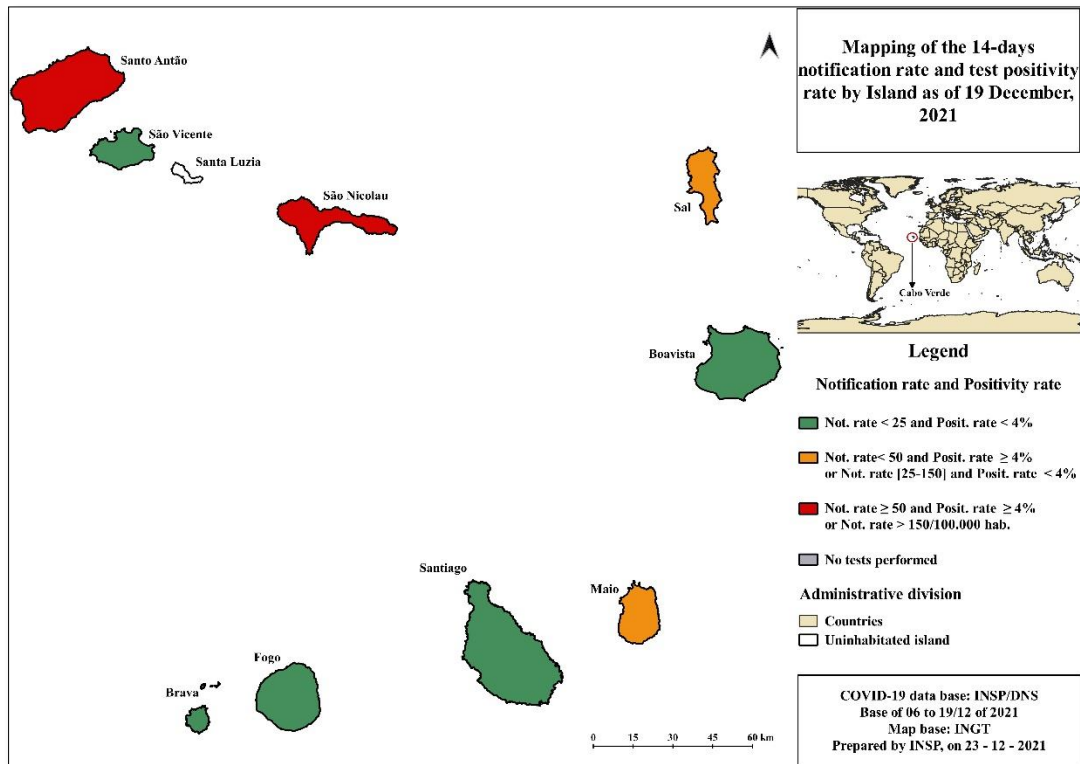
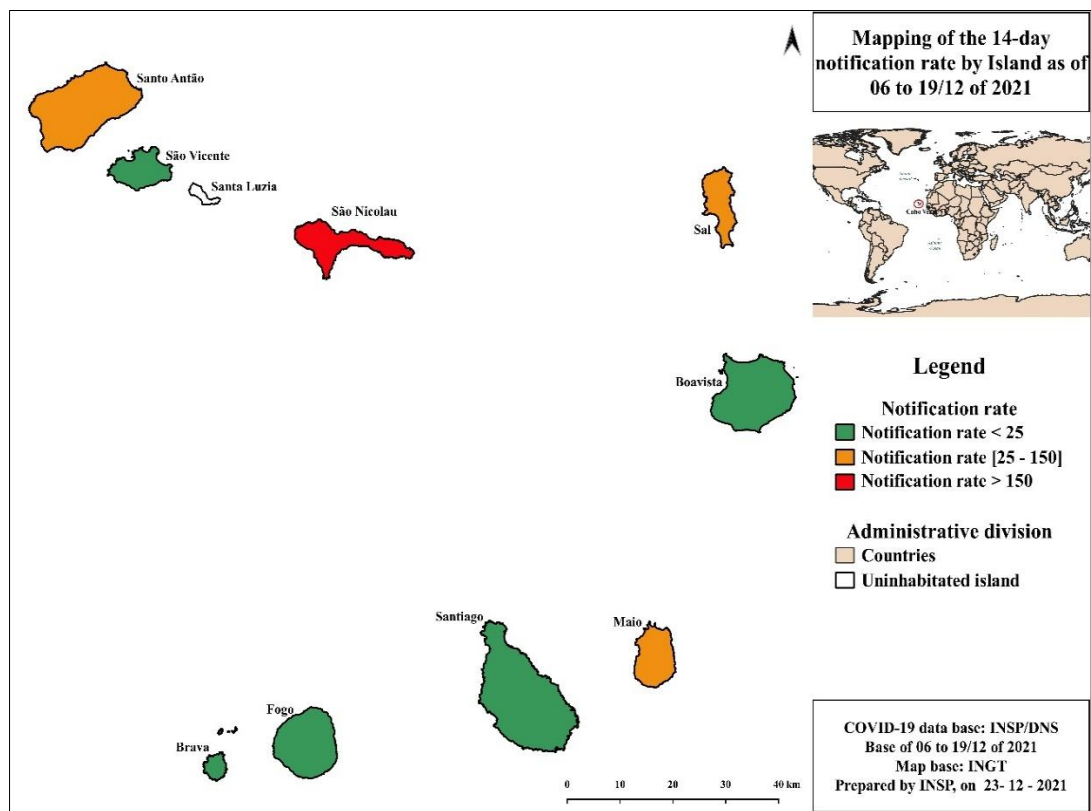


Figure 2. Incidence rate of cases reported in the last 14 days per 100 thousand inhabitants (06/12/2021 to 19/12/2021) by island²



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.

Highlights

1. Published in Official Bulletin No. 81 Series I of August 23, 2021, Resolution No. 82/2021 that:

"Approves the requirement to present a valid RT-PCR or negative antigen test, every fourteen days, or the COVID Vaccination Certificate, to workers and public and private service providers that provide services to the public or who have direct contact with the public, as well as those who share common spaces and transport service with them, as a measure to protect public health and reinforce vaccination, in the face of COVID-19."

The resolution was approved by the Council of Ministers on August 19, 2021, and took effect the day following publication.

2. According to the official resolution nº 75 Series I of July 30, the Government:

- Approves the acceptability of the COVID Certificate, as a document proving the low risk of its holder being a COVID-19 active patient and a measure to facilitate free movement and carrying out activities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Approval of the regime for the issuance, verification, and acceptance of COVID Certificates from Cape Verde and recognition of COVID Certificates issued by third countries or multilateral institutions.

The "COVID Certificate of Cape Verde" is issued by the Ministry of Health, free of charge (except in the case of issuing a new certificate due to loss or request for issuance in paper format), through the web platform <https://nhacard.gov.cv/>, at the municipal health units, at "Casa do Cidadão" and in the Municipal Councils counters, and also in the "Nha Card" application, available in Google Play and Apple Store.

The resolution No. 78/2021 of the Official Bulletin No. 75 Series I can be accessed at https://covid19.cv/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/bo_30-07-2021_75.pdf.

3. Taking into account the evolution of the COVID-19 epidemic in the country, the government of Cabo Verde has declared, on October 28, that the country is going from the "state of contingency" to the "state of alert". This implies the following changes:

- The use of masks in public open spaces is no longer mandatory.
- The functioning of establishments with dance activities is allowed.
- Withdrawing of the limit in the number of participants attending cultural, sporting, artistic, recreational, and leisure events, held in venues and spaces with entrance control.

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