



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

National Surveillance Report as of 24/11/2020

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Summary

- As of November 24th, a total of 9,251 COVID-19 cases have been diagnosed, of which 48 died due to COVID-19 (case fatality risk: 0.5%).
- The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate is 321.6 per 100,000 population.
- In the last 14 days (11-24 November), 2,817 cases were diagnosed.
 - The median age was 37 years (Interquartile range - IQR: 24-54 years); 49.6% were male (n = 1,396), 49.1% female (n = 1,384), and for 37 cases (1.3%) sex is unknown.
 - By place of exposure: 2.6% (n = 73) were imported, 81% (n = 2,282) were locally-acquired, and 16.4% (n = 462) are unknown
- As of November 26th, 106 people were still hospitalized. The median age is 72 years (IQR: 63-84 years), 50.9% (n = 54) are males.
- Among cases still hospitalised, 15 are in intensive care units (ICU) and 13 are intubated. The median age of current ICU patients is 69 (IQR: 64-72) years and 12 (80%) are males. Ten (66.7%) patients currently in ICU have pre-existing conditions.
- A total of 587,195 tests have been performed as of November 24th (67,039 per 100,000 population). In particular, over the last 14 days, 69,252 tests have been performed (7,906.4 per 100,000 population).



Epidemiological surveillance in the Republic of Cyprus

Analyses are based on laboratory-confirmed cases notified to the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit of the Ministry of Health.

As of November 24th, 9,251 laboratory-confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have been diagnosed (Figure 1, 2 and 3).

In the last 14 days (11 -24 November), 2,817 cases have been diagnosed. The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate of COVID-19 (per 100,000 population), a measure which reflects the number of active COVID-19 cases in the population (prevalence)¹, is 321.6 per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

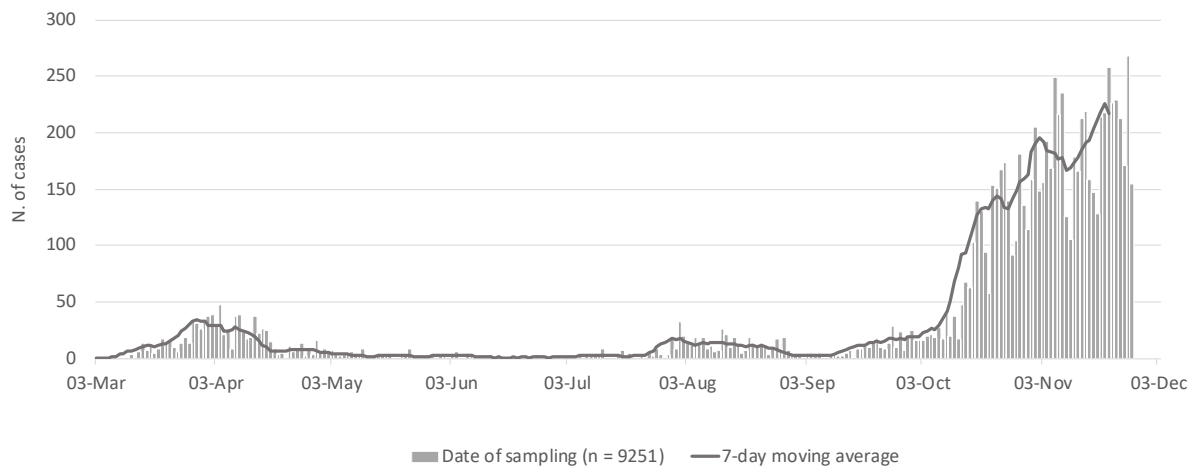


Figure 1: Number and 7-day moving average of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of sample collection.

¹Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic: increased transmission in the EU/EEA and the UK – seventh update, 25 March 2020. Stockholm: ECDC; 2020. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/RRA-seventh-update-Outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-COVID-19.pdf>

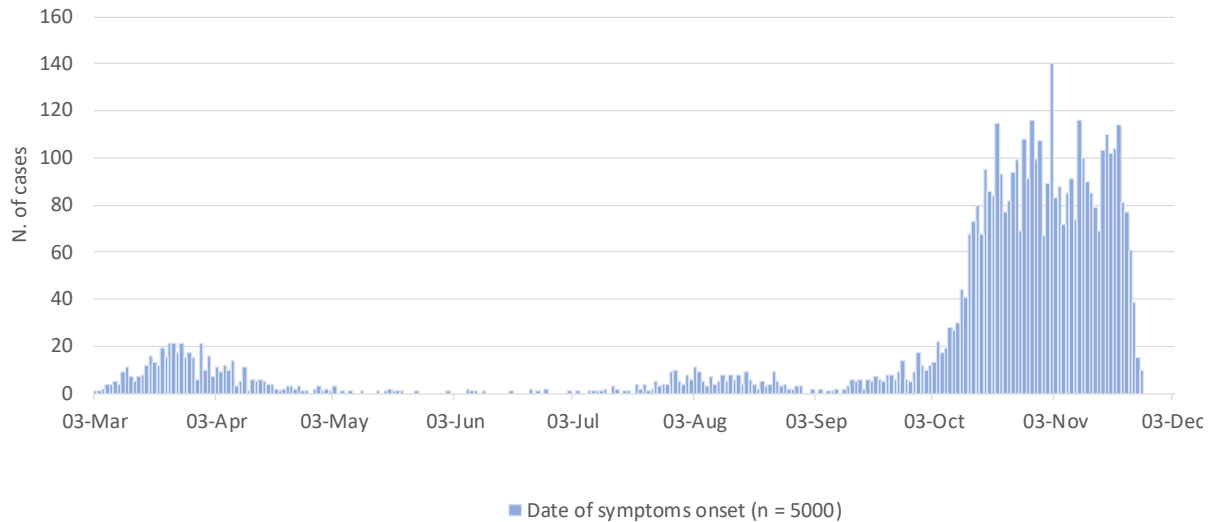


Figure 2: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of symptoms onset.
Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases with date of onset within the reporting period have not yet been diagnosed.

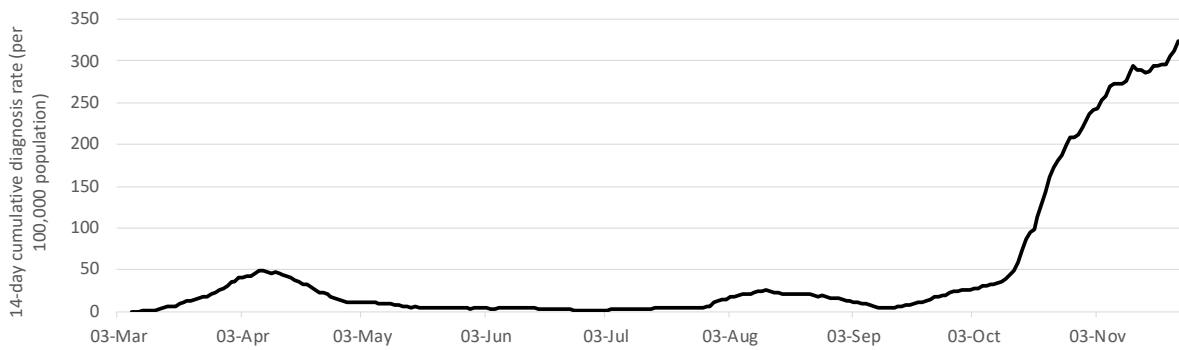


Figure 3: COVID-19 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate per 100,000 population (proxy of COVID-19 prevalence).



Characteristics of the cases diagnosed in the last 14 days

Age and sex

Among 2,817 cases diagnosed since 11th November, 49.6% were male (n = 1,396), 49.1% female (n = 1,384), and for 37 cases (1.3%) sex is unknown.

By age group, cases include 450 infants, children and adolescents aged 0-17 years-old (16%), 1,827 adults aged 18-59 years (64.9%), 526 persons aged 60 years and older (18.7%), and for 14 cases (0.5%) information was missing. Figure 4 shows the number of cases by 10-year age band. The median age of all cases diagnosed in the last 14 days is 37 years (IQR: 24-54 years). The median age of adult cases (≥ 18 years) is 41 years (IQR: 30-58 years).

The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by age groups is shown in figure A1 in Appendix.

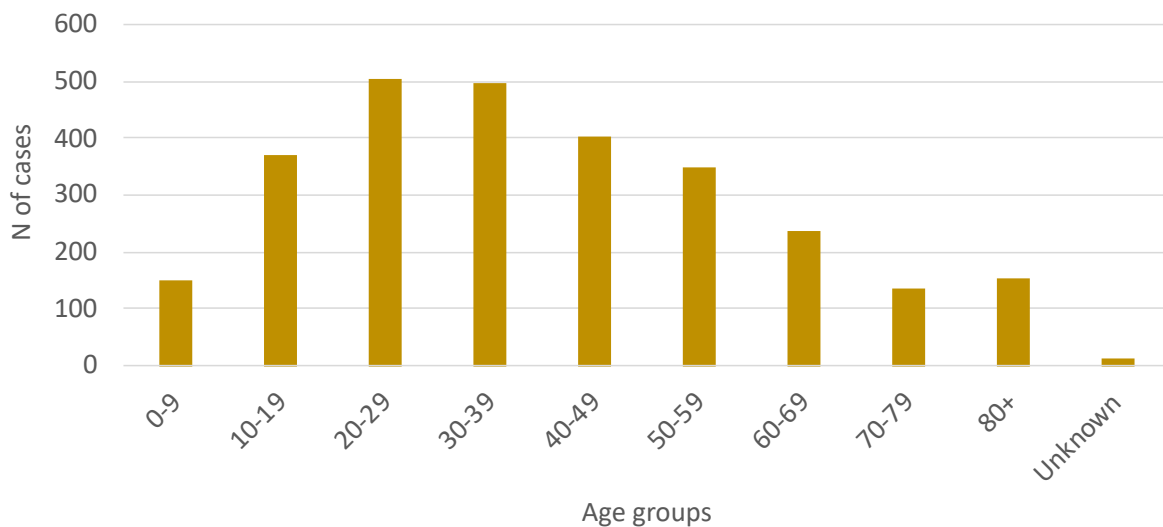


Figure 4: Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus, diagnosed in the last 14 days, by age groups.

Among all cases diagnosed in the last 14 days, 1,141 (40.5%) were reported in Limassol district, 973 (34.5%) in Nicosia, 334 (11.9%) in Larnaka, 185 (6.6%) in Ammochostos, 113 (4%) in Pafos, and 71 (2.5%) were reported either in the British bases or had a residence abroad, or information was not available. Figure A2 in appendix shows the 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by district.



Epidemiological link

In the last 14 days (11 -24 November), of 2,817 cases sampled and notified, 2.6% (n = 73) were imported, 81% (n = 2,282) were locally-acquired, and 16.4% (n = 462) are unknown. Table A1 and Figure A3 (A&B) in Appendix show the characteristics of cases by origin of infection and the daily number of locally-acquired cases by district in the recent period, respectively.

Clinical features

Of the 2,817 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19-cases, clinical information is available for 93.5 % (n = 2,633), of which 35.7% (n = 940) reported no symptoms at diagnosis and 64.3% (n = 1,693) reported at least one symptom.

Pre-existing conditions

Information on comorbidities was available for 2,629 (93.3%) cases. Of these, 778 (29.6%) reported at least one comorbidity.



Deaths

Among cases diagnosed until November 24th, 48 COVID-19 associated deaths were reported in Cyprus (Case Fatality Risk - CFR: 0.5%).

The COVID-19 associated mortality is 5.5 per 100,000 population.

Thirty-one deaths (64.6%) occurred in men and 17 (35.4%) in women; the median age of all deaths was 76.5 years (IQR: 68.5-83 years). Twenty-one deaths were reported among residents in Limassol, nine in Larnaka, eight in Pafos, seven in Nicosia, and three in Ammochostos.

The median time from date of sampling to death (due to COVID-19) was 11 days (IQR: 5-16 days).

Figure 5a reports the number of COVID-19 associated deaths by date.

Among cases diagnosed until November 24th, 64 deaths (all causes) were reported in Cyprus (CFR: 0.7%).

The mortality (all-causes) for people with COVID-19 is 7.3 per 100,000 population.

Fourty-three deaths (67.2%) occurred in men and 21 (32.8%) in women; the median age of all deaths was 77 years (IQR: 69-84 years). Twenty-eight deaths were reported among residents in Limassol, 12 in Larnaka, 10 in Pafos, eight in Nicosia, five in Ammochostos, and one death occurred among cases reported either in the British bases or had a residence abroad, or information was not available.

The median time from date of sampling to death (all-causes) was 8.5 days (IQR: 4.5-14.5 days).

Figure 5b reports the number of all deaths by date.

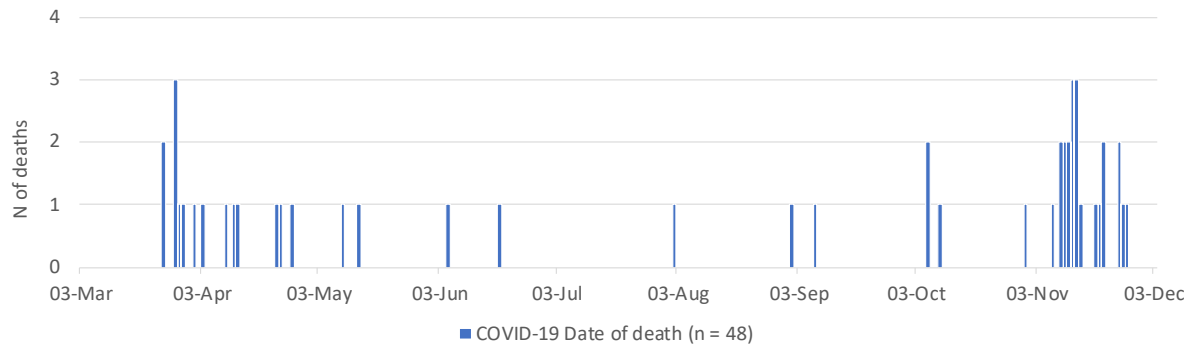


Figure 5a: Number of COVID-19 associated deaths in Cyprus by date of death.

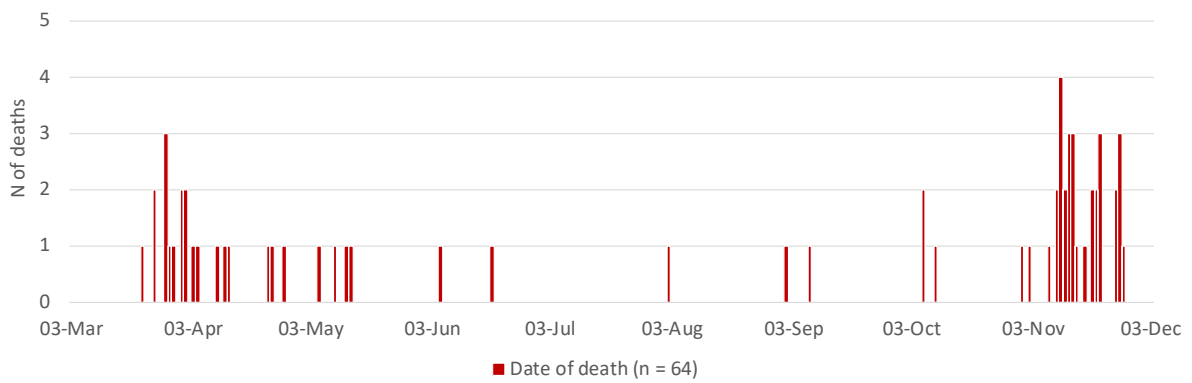


Figure 5b: Number of deaths (all causes) among COVID-19 cases in Cyprus by date of death.



Hospitalization and intensive care unit (ICU²) admissions³

In total, 6% (n = 550) of people with COVID-19 received hospital care, as of November 25th. The median age of hospitalized patients was 63 years (IQR: 48-76 years). Hospitalized cases were mainly males (n = 321; 58.4%).

The median age of patients still hospitalised (n = 106) is 72 years (IQR: 63-84 years), 50.9% (n = 54) are males, and 40.6% (n = 43) are from Limassol district. Sixty-three cases (70%) still hospitalised have comorbidities.

Figure 6a shows the total number of first hospital admissions by date.

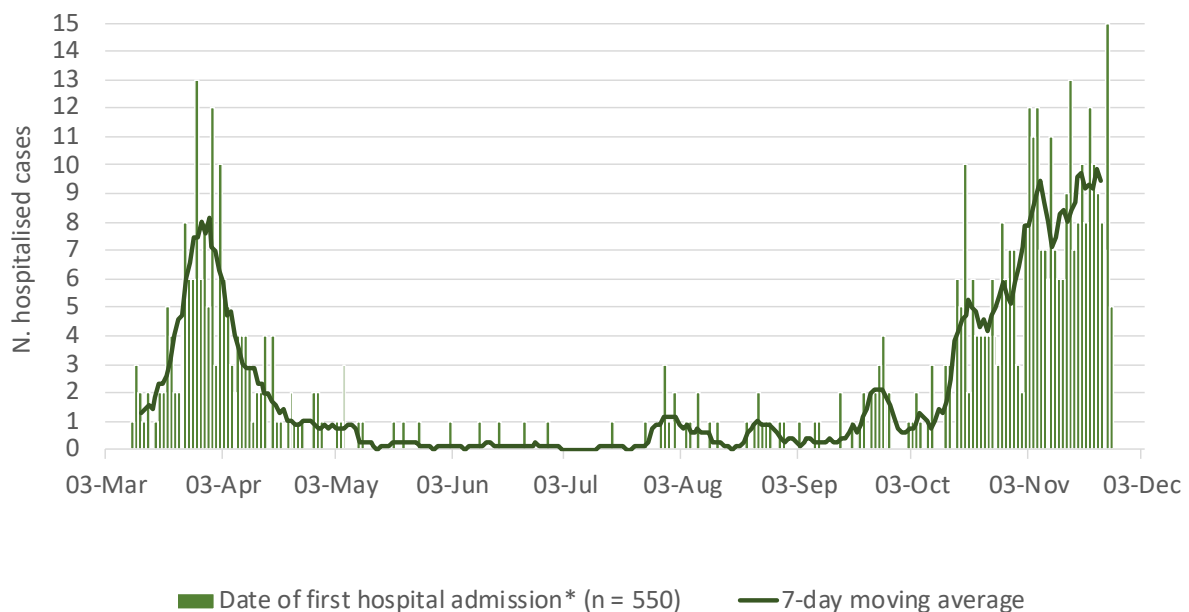


Figure 6a: Number and 7-day moving average of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of first hospital admission.

**Date of hospital admission was replaced with date of sampling for inpatients hospitalised prior to the beginning of the epidemic.*

² Intensive care unit (ICU) refers only to the ICU in Limassol General Hospital and to the ICU in Nicosia General Hospital.

³ Data on hospitalisation and ICU are provisional and should be interpreted with caution because delay in data reporting is likely; for the construction of the curve, people are no longer in an ICU/hospital the day next to the date of their discharge, death or transfer.



Figure 6b reports the number of individuals in hospital every day (excluding those in ICU).

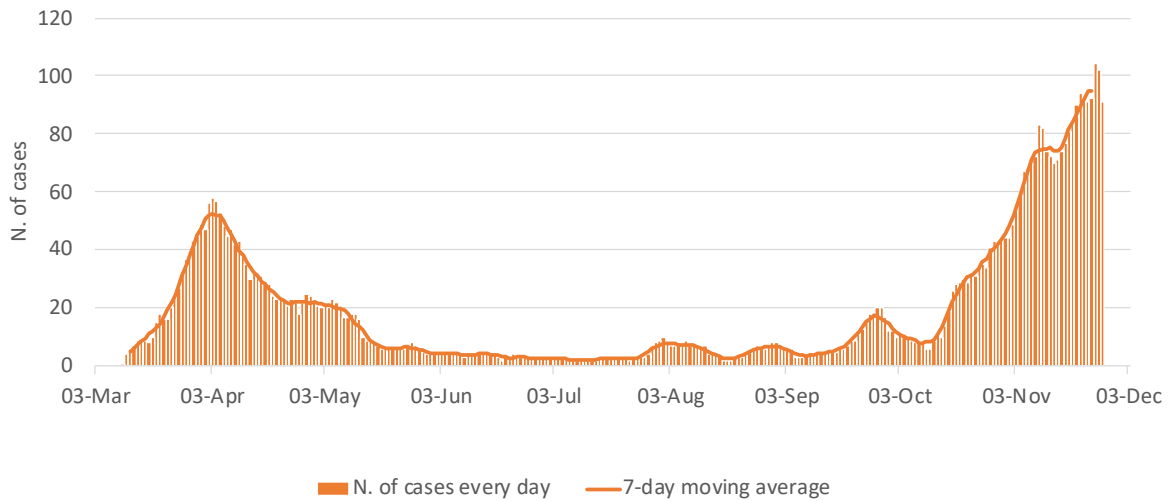


Figure 6b: Number and 7-day moving average of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospital every day (excluding those in ICU). *Patients in hospital for only part of the day (e.g. transferred, dead) are included.*



Overall, 58 cases (10.6% of all hospitalized patients) have been admitted to ICU. The median age of patients ever admitted to ICU was 68 years (IQR: 61-75 years). ICU patients are mainly male (n = 43; 74%). The overall median length of stay in ICU (for all 58 ICU cases) was 9.5 days (IQR: 5-27 days).

As of November 26th, 15 cases are still in ICU (including deaths / discharged on that day). The median age of current ICU patients is 69 (IQR: 64-72) years and 12 (80%) are males. Ten (66.7%) patients currently in ICU have pre-existing conditions.

The number of cases currently in ICU is 1.7 per 100,000 population (as of November 26th, including deaths/discharged on that day).

A total of 51 ICU patients (87.9% of all ICU patients) have been intubated - currently there are 13 patients intubated in ICU (including deaths/discharged on that day). Figure 7 shows the number of patients in ICU, by day and intubation status.

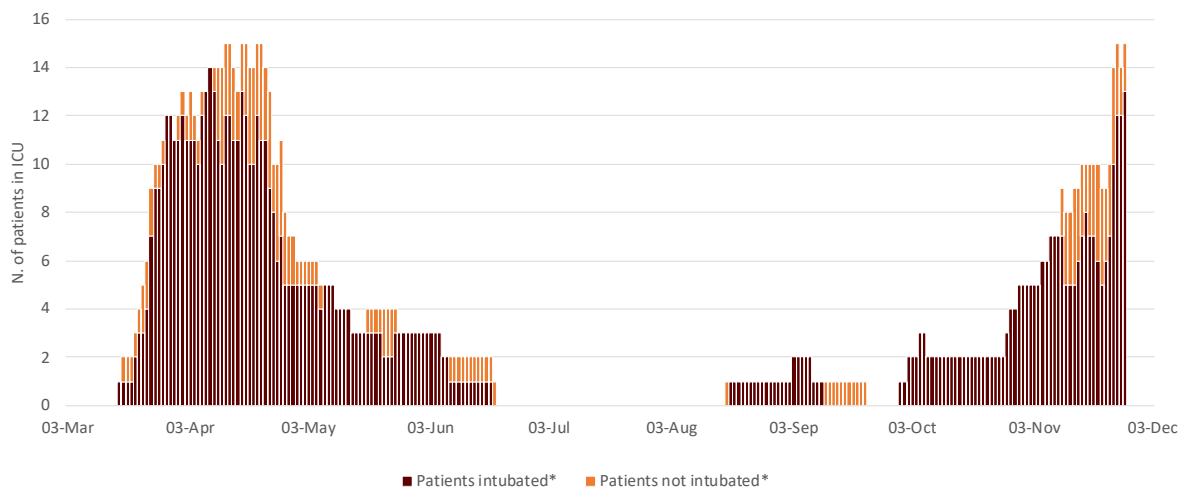


Figure 7: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in ICU by date and intubation.

**Date of discharge/transfer/death included*



Recovered/released

As of November 26th, among cases alive, 22.3% (n = 2,057) of COVID-19 cases have recovered⁴; of which 1,311 (63.7%) tested negative two consecutive times, and 746 (36.3%) have been released as per later guidelines⁵. The median time between the second negative result and the first date of sampling was 19 days (IQR: 18-30 days). *More updated information on recovery, based on new guidelines that do not require testing, will be available in the next report.*

⁴ For symptomatic cases, or for cases hospitalised, a COVID-19 case can be considered cured after the resolution of symptoms and two negative tests for SARS-CoV-2 at 24-hour interval at least. For asymptomatic cases, or for persons isolated at home, the negative tests to document virus clearance should be obtained at a minimum of 14 days after the initial positive test (end of the quarantine period).

Novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). Discharge criteria for confirmed COVID-19 cases- When is it safe to discharge COVID-19 cases from the hospital or end home isolation? - Technical Report, 10 March 2020. Stockholm: ECDC; 2020.

⁵ A person is released 21 days after the initial diagnosis, if he/she has a positive test 14 days after the initial diagnosis and remains in isolation for one more week without being further tested.



Acknowledgments

We thank the companies CELLOCK (<https://cellock.com>) and GEOMATIC (<https://geomatic.com>) for their volunteering support.

Appendix

Table A1: Characteristics of cases by origin of infection, diagnosed in the last 14 days.

Characteristics	Total (n = 2817)		Imported (n = 73)		Locally-acquired (n = 2282)		Unknown (n = 462)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sex								
Male	1396	49.6	37	50.7	1140	50.0	219	47.4
Female	1384	49.1	35	47.9	1135	49.7	214	46.3
Unknown	37	1.3	1	1.4	7	0.3	29	6.3
Age groups (years)								
0-9	150	5.3	1	1.4	130	5.7	19	4.1
10-19	370	13.1	10	13.7	308	13.5	52	11.3
20-29	505	17.9	25	34.2	390	17.1	90	19.5
30-39	497	17.6	15	20.5	404	17.7	78	16.9
40-49	405	14.4	11	15.1	340	14.9	54	11.7
50-59	350	12.4	8	11.0	294	12.9	48	10.4
60-69	236	8.4	0	0.0	202	8.9	34	7.4
70-79	135	4.8	1	1.4	112	4.9	22	4.8
80+	155	5.5	1	1.4	99	4.3	55	11.9
Unknown	14	0.5	1	1.4	3	0.1	10	2.2
Median age in years (IQR*)	37 (24-54)		30 (22-41)		37 (24-54)		38 (25-58)	
District								
Ammochostos	185	6.6	7	9.6	150	6.6	28	6.1
Larnaka	334	11.9	7	9.6	265	11.6	62	13.4
Limassol	1141	40.5	17	23.3	994	43.6	130	28.1
Nicosia	973	34.5	31	42.5	760	33.3	182	39.4
Pafos	113	4.0	8	11.0	93	4.1	12	2.6
Other	71	2.5	3	4.1	20	0.9	48	10.4
Symptoms at diagnosis								
Yes	1693	60.1	27	37.0	1460	64.0	206	44.6
No	940	33.4	37	50.7	773	33.9	130	28.1
Unknown	184	6.5	9	12.3	49	2.1	126	27.3



Figure A1. 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by age groups for the last 14 days.

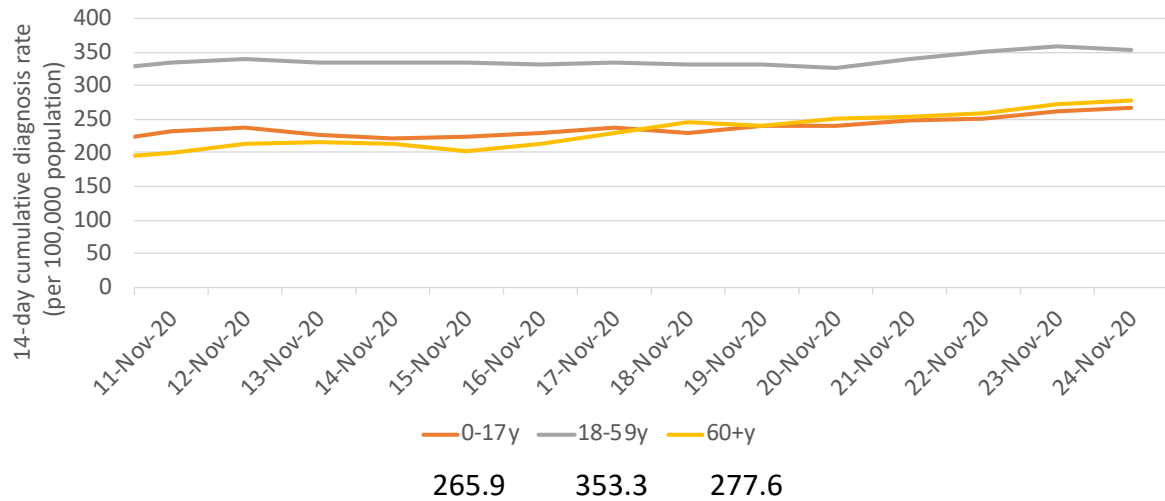




Figure A2: 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by district for the last 14 days.

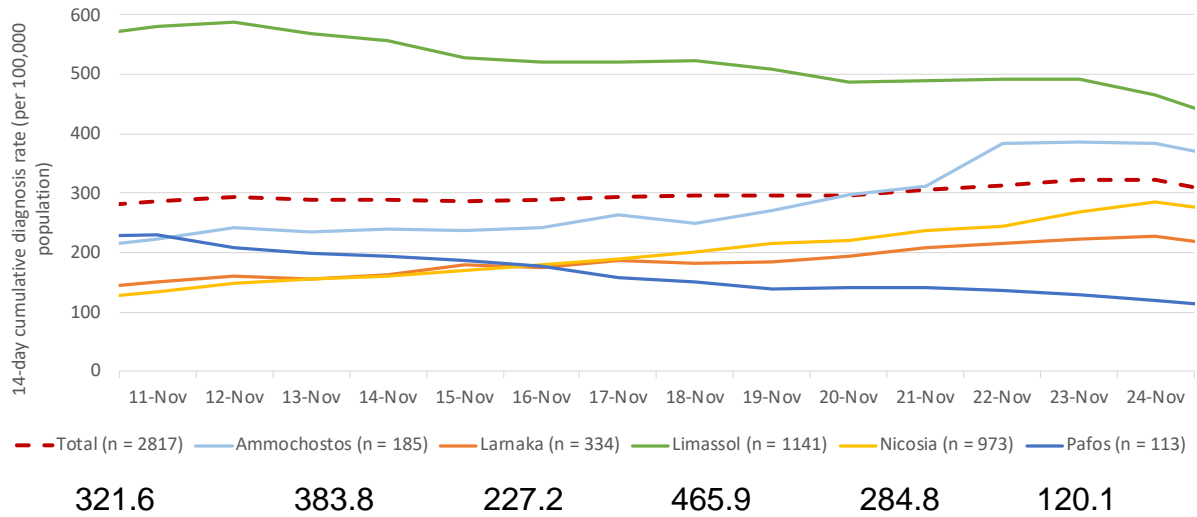




Figure A4A: Number of cases by origin of infection and by date of sample collection in the last 14 days (11-24 November, 2020).

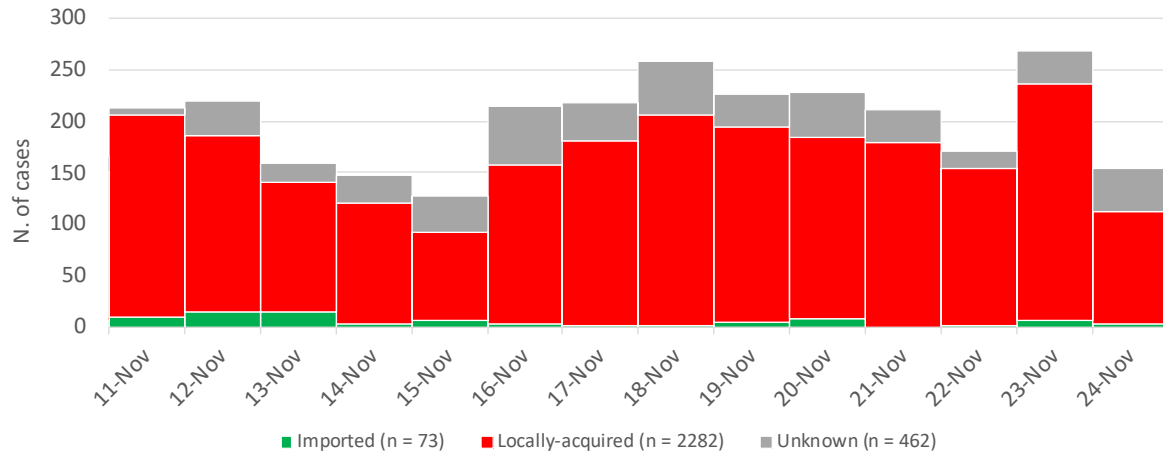




Figure A4B: Number and 7-day moving average of locally-acquired cases, by date of sample collection and district in the last 14 days (11-24 November, 2020).

