



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

National Surveillance Report as of 27/12/2020

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Summary

- As of December 27th, a total of 19,895 COVID-19 cases have been diagnosed, of which 117 died due to COVID-19 (case fatality risk: 0.6%).
- The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate is 457.3 per 100,000 population.
- In the last 14 days (14 - 27 December), 4,061 cases were diagnosed.
 - The median age was 39 years (Interquartile range - IQR: 24-55 years); 52.7% were female (n = 2,142), 47% male (n = 1,909), and for 10 cases (0.3%) sex has not been recorded at the moment.
 - By place of exposure: 1.3% (n = 52) were imported and 98.7% (n = 4,009) were locally-acquired.
- As of December 28th, 149 people were still hospitalized. The median age of patients still hospitalized, as of 28th December, is 68 years (IQR: 57-80 years), 63.1% (n = 94) are males, and 36.9% (n = 55) are from Nicosia district.
- Of 28 cases in intensive care units (ICU) who are currently notified, 25 are intubated. The median age of current ICU patients is 72 (IQR: 67-82) years and 18 (64.3%) are males. Twenty-three (82.1%) patients currently in ICU have pre-existing conditions.
- A total of 743,693 molecular tests have been performed as of December 27th (82,231 per 100,000 population). In particular, over the last 14 days, 65,099 molecular tests have been performed (7,331 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 December 27th, 19,895 cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have been diagnosed (laboratory-confirmed) (Figure 1, 2 and 3).

In the last 14 days (14 - 27 December), 4,061 cases have been diagnosed. The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate of COVID-19 (per 100,000 population)¹, a measure which reflects the number of active COVID-19 cases in the population (prevalence)², is 457.3 per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

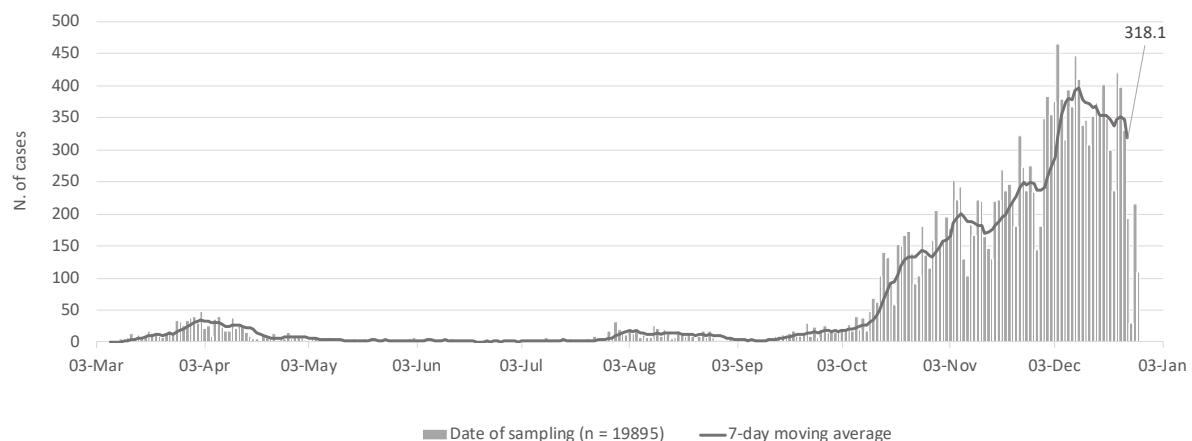


Figure 1: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on Dec 24th is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of sample collection.

¹Population denominator for end of year 2019, available at https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/populationcondition_21main_en/populationcondition_21main_en?OpenForm&sub=1&sel=4

²Coronavirus 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>

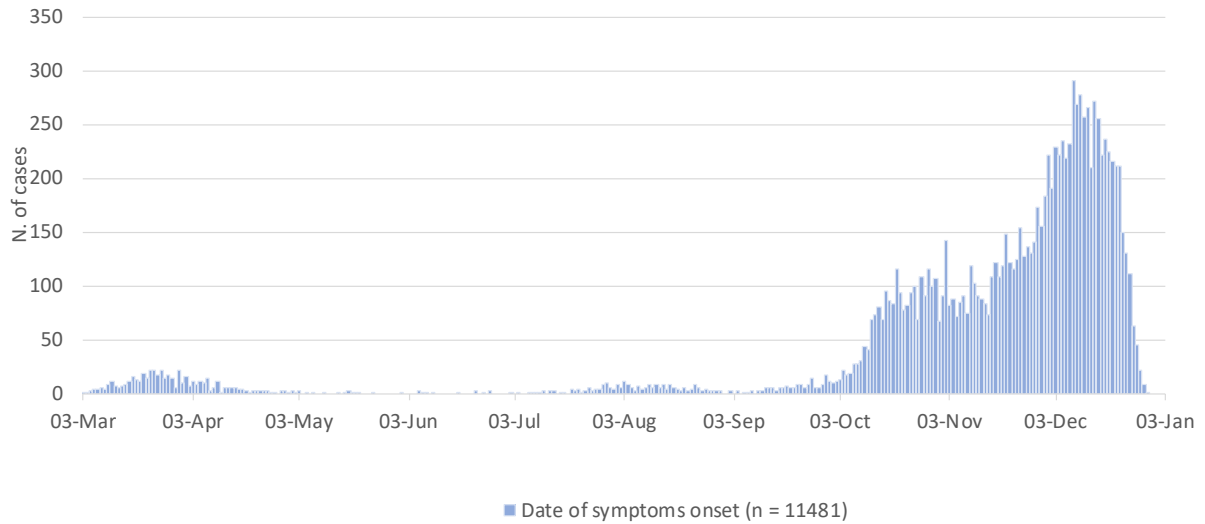


Figure 2: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of symptoms onset.

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.

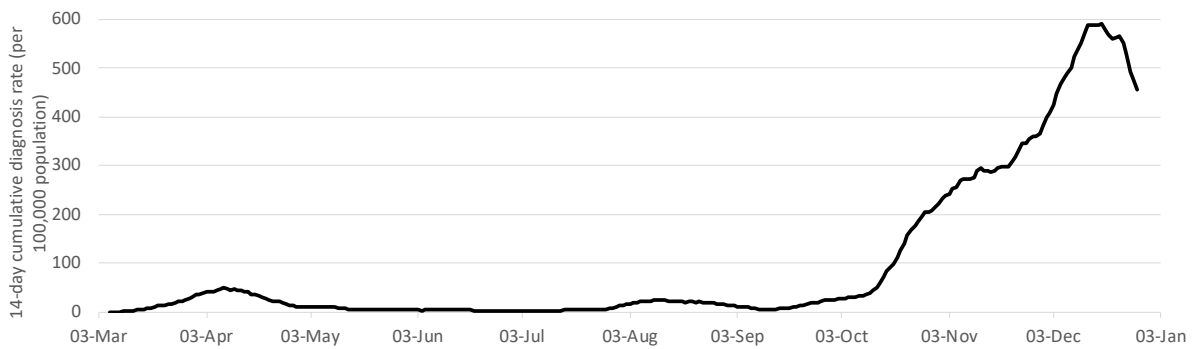


Figure 3: COVID-19 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate per 100,000 population (proxy of COVID-19 prevalence).



Characteristics of cases diagnosed in the last 14 days

Age, sex, and place of residence

Among 4,061 cases diagnosed since 14th December, 52.7% were female (n = 2,142), 47% male (n = 1,909), and for 10 cases (0.3%) sex is unknown at the moment.

By age group, cases included 752 infants, children and adolescents aged 0-19 years-old (18.5%), 2,529 adults aged 20-59 years (62.3%), 774 persons aged 60 years and older (19.1%), and for 6 cases (0.2%) age is unknown at the moment. Figure 4 shows the number of cases by 10-year age band and sex. The median age of all cases diagnosed in the last 14 days is 39 years (IQR: 24-55 years). The median age of adult cases (≥ 18 years) is 44 years (IQR: 31-58 years).

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

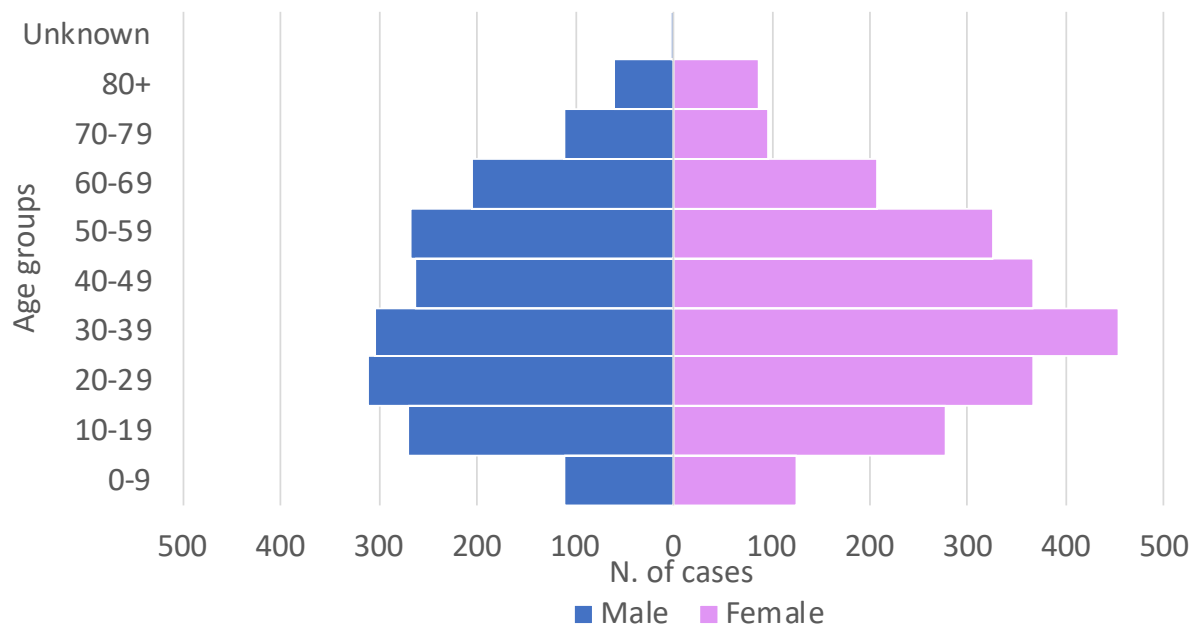


Figure 4: Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus, diagnosed in the last 14 days, by age group and sex.

Among all cases diagnosed in the last 14 days, 1,819 (44.8%) were reported in Nicosia district, 1,057 (26%) in Larnaka, 665 (16.4%) in Limassol, 216 (5.3%) in Pafos, 208 (5.1%) in Ammochostos, and 96 (2.4%) 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 (14 – 27 December), of 4,061 cases sampled and notified, 1.3% (n = 52) were imported and 98.7% (n = 4,009) were locally-acquired. 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

In the last 14 days (14 – 27 December), 30.4% (n = 1,235) reported no symptoms at diagnosis and 69.6% (n = 2,826) reported at least one symptom.

Pre-existing conditions

In the last 14 days (14 – 27 December), 1,087 cases (26.8%) reported at least one comorbidity.



Deaths

Among cases, 117 COVID-19 associated deaths were reported in Cyprus until December 29th (Case Fatality Risk - CFR: 0.6%).

The COVID-19 associated mortality is 13.2 per 100,000 population.

Deaths occurred in 76 men (65%) and 41 (35%) women; the median age of all COVID-19 associated deaths was 82 years (IQR: 74-86 years). By district of residence, deceased cases were 43 (36.8%) from Limassol, 35 (29.9%) from Nicosia, 19 (16.2%) from Larnaka, 10 (8.6%) from Ammochostos, 9 (7.7%) from Pafos and one death (0.9%) 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 (due to COVID-19) was 12 days (IQR: 7-18 days).

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

Among cases, 144 deaths (all causes) were reported in Cyprus until December 29th (CFR: 0.7%).

The mortality (all-causes) for people with COVID-19 is 16.2 per 100,000 population.

Deaths occurred in 95 men (66%) and 49 (34%) women; the median age of all deaths was 82 years (IQR: 73-87 years). By district of residence, deceased cases were 55 (38.2%) from Limassol, 38 (26.4%) from Nicosia, 24 (16.7%) from Larnaka, 12 (8.3%) from Pafos and Ammochostos, each, and three deaths (2.1%) 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 11 days (IQR: 6-17 days).

Figure 5b reports the number of all deaths among people with COVID-19 by date.

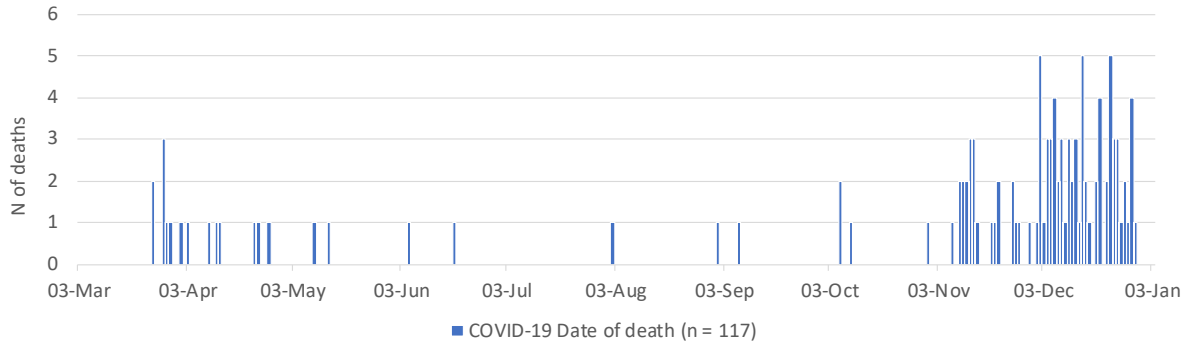


Figure 5a: Number of COVID-19 associated deaths in Cyprus by date of death.

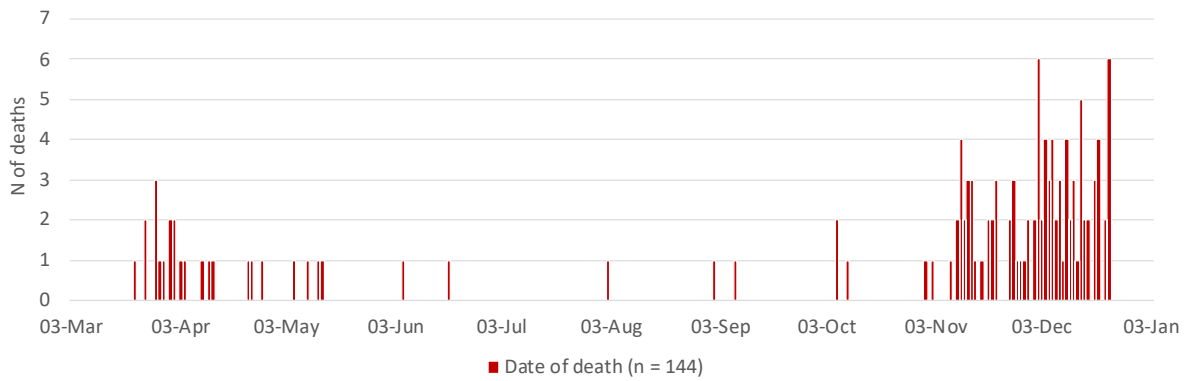


Figure 5b: Number of deaths (all causes) among COVID-19 cases in Cyprus by date of death.



Hospitalization and intensive care unit (ICU³) admissions⁴

In total, 4.9% (n = 966) of people with COVID-19 received hospital care, as of December 28th. The median age of hospitalized patients was 64 years (IQR: 49-78 years). Hospitalized cases were mainly males (n = 560; 58%).

The median age of patients still hospitalised as of 28th December (n = 149) is 68 years (IQR: 57-80 years), 63.1% (n = 94) are males, and 36.9% (n = 55) are from Nicosia district. Ninety-five cases (66%) still hospitalised have comorbidities.

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

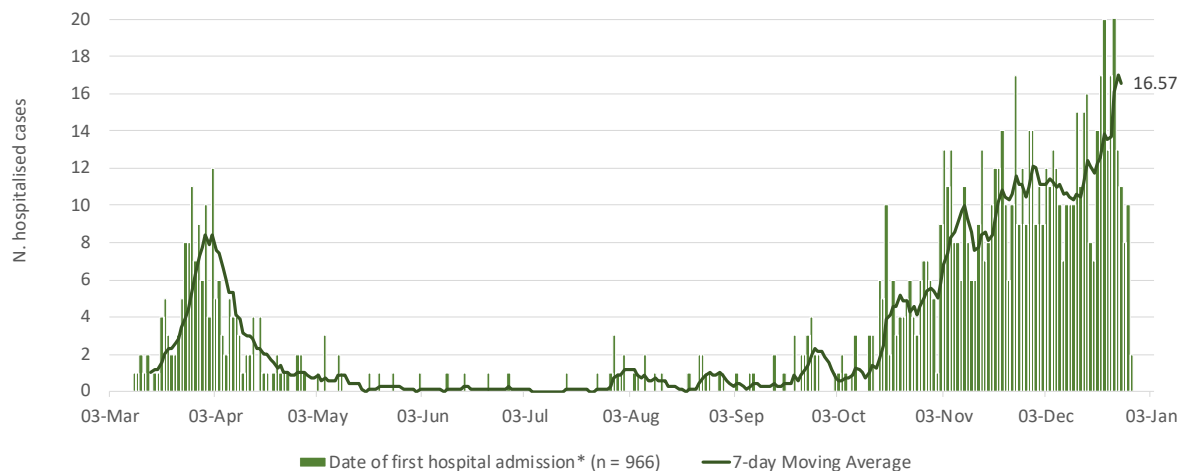


Figure 6a: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on Dec25th is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of first hospital admission.

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

Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases recently hospitalised could have not been notified.

³ Intensive care unit (ICU) refers only to the ICU in Limassol General Hospital and to the ICU in Nicosia General Hospital.

⁴ 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).

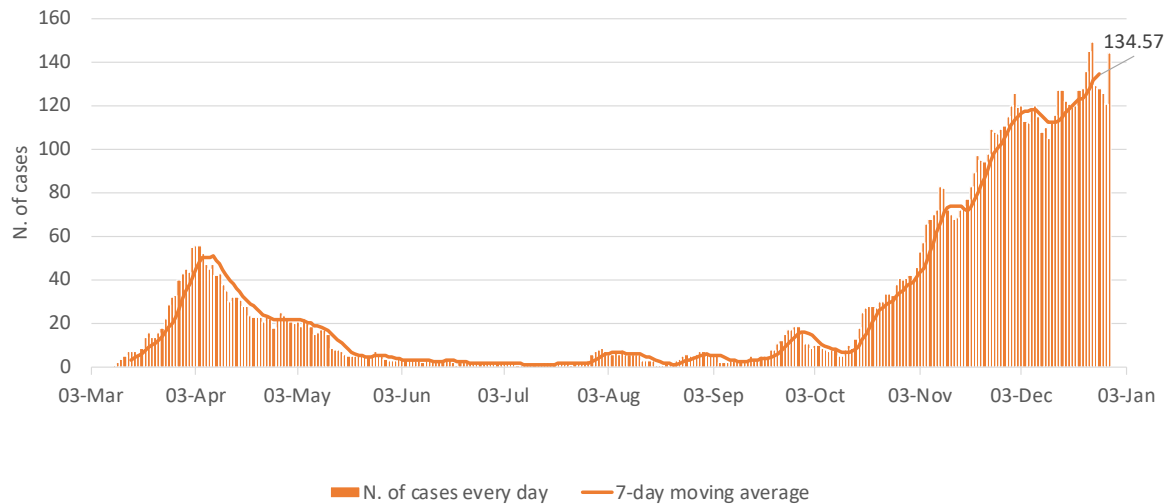


Figure 6b: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on Dec25th is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospital every day (excluding those in ICU).

Patients in hospital for only part of the day (e.g. transferred, dead) are included.

Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases recently hospitalised could have not been notified.



Overall, 93 cases (9.6% of all hospitalized patients) have been admitted to ICU. The median age of patients ever admitted to ICU was 69 years (IQR: 63-76 years). ICU patients are mainly male (n = 67; 72%). The overall median length of stay in ICU (for all ICU cases) was 11 days (IQR: 6-20 days).

As of December 28th and based on records which rapidly evolve, 28 cases are still in ICU (including deaths / discharged on that day). The median age of current ICU patients is 72 (IQR: 67-82) years and 18 (64.3%) are males. Twenty-three (82.1%) patients currently in ICU have pre-existing conditions.

The number of cases currently in ICU is 3.2 per 100,000 population (as of December 28th, including deaths/discharged on that day).

A total of 86 ICU patients (92.4% of all ICU patients) have been intubated - currently there are 25 patients intubated in ICU (including deaths/discharged on that day). Figure 7 shows the number of patients in ICU, by day and intubation status.

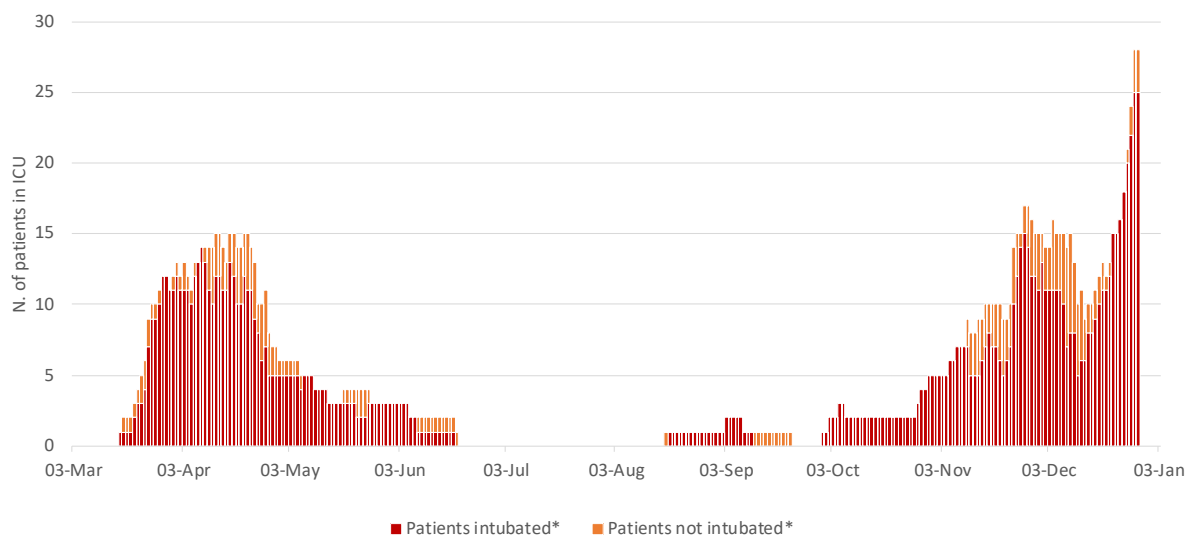


Figure 7: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in ICU by date and intubation.

**Date of discharge/transfer/death included*

Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases recently admitted in ICU or intubated could have not been notified/recorded.



Recovered/released

More updated information on recovery, based on new guidelines that do not require testing, will be available in next reports.



Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the KIOS Center of Excellence of the University of Cyprus for the development of the ICT system to support data management.

Appendix

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

Characteristics	Total (n = 4061)		Imported (n = 52)		Locally-acquired (n = 4009)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sex						
Male	1909	47.0	26	50.0	1883	47.0
Female	2142	52.7	25	48.1	2117	52.8
Unknown	10	0.2	1	1.9	9	0.2
Age groups (years)						
0-9	206	5.1	4	7.7	202	5.0
10-19	546	13.4	9	17.3	537	13.4
20-29	651	16.0	18	34.6	633	15.8
30-39	689	17.0	6	11.5	683	15.8
40-49	596	14.7	5	9.6	591	17.0
50-59	593	14.6	7	13.5	586	14.7
60-69	425	10.5	2	3.8	423	14.6
70-79	215	5.3	1	1.9	214	10.6
80+	134	3.3	0	0.0	134	5.3
Unknown	6	0.1	0	0.0	6	3.3
Median age in years (IQR)	39 (24-55)		26 (20-43)		39 (24-55)	
District						
Ammochostos	208	5.1	0	0.0	208	5.2
Larnaka	1057	26.0	15	28.8	1042	26.0
Limassol	665	16.4	5	9.6	660	16.5
Nicosia	1819	44.8	18	34.6	1801	44.9
Pafos	216	5.3	6	11.5	210	5.2
Other	96	2.4	0	0.0	96	2.4
Symptoms at diagnosis						
Yes	2826	69.6	27	51.9	2799	69.8
No	1235	30.4	25	48.1	1210	30.2
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0



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

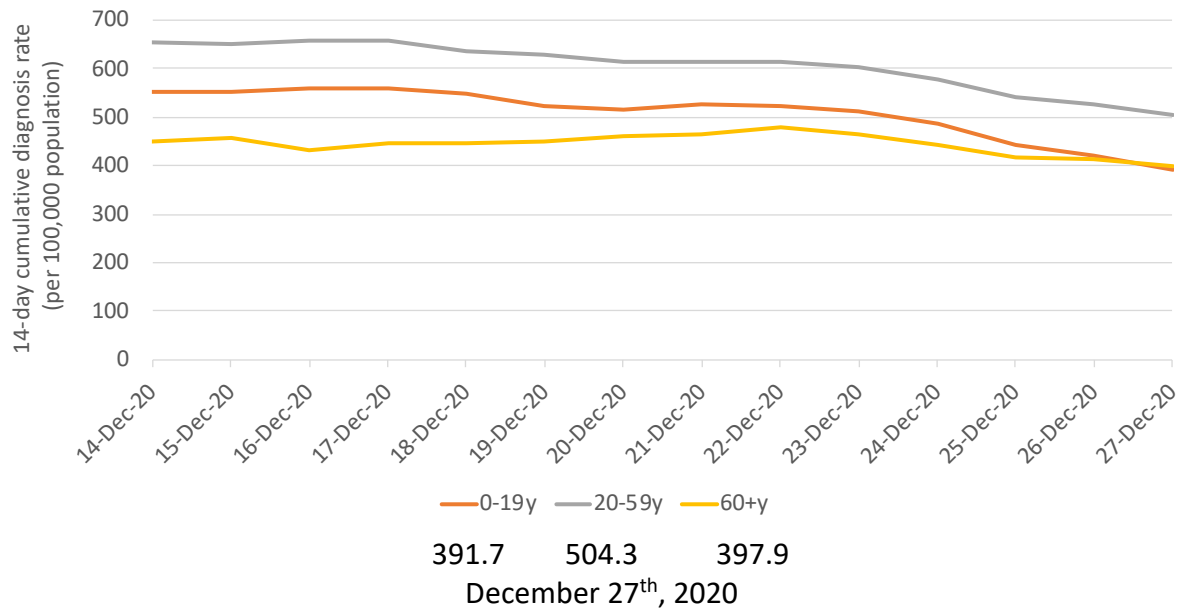




Figure A2: 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by district for the last 14 days.

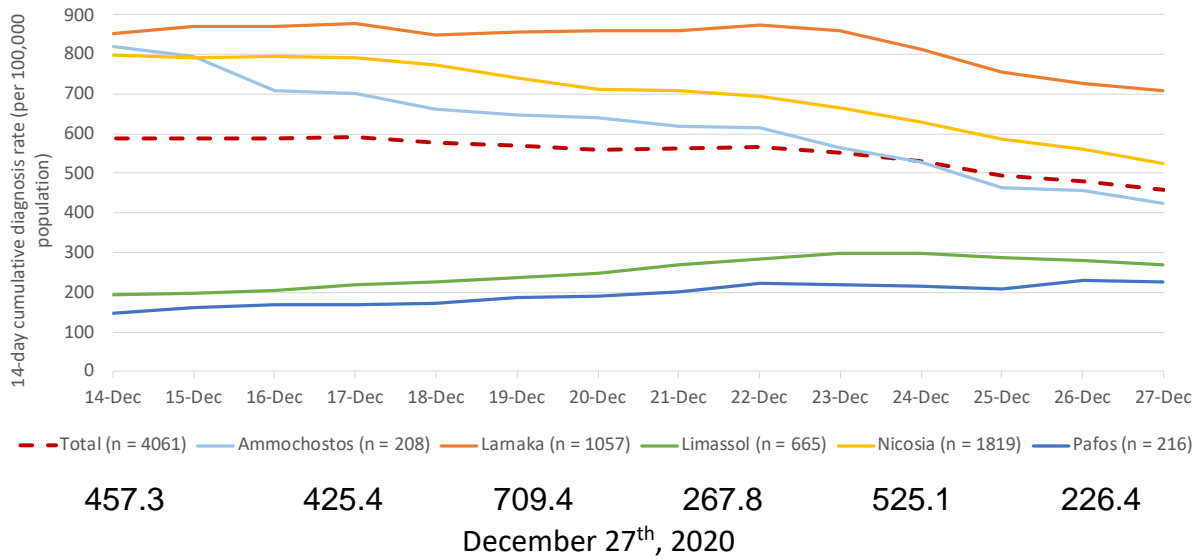




Figure A3A: Number of cases by origin of infection and by date of sample collection in the last 14 days (14 - 27, 2020).

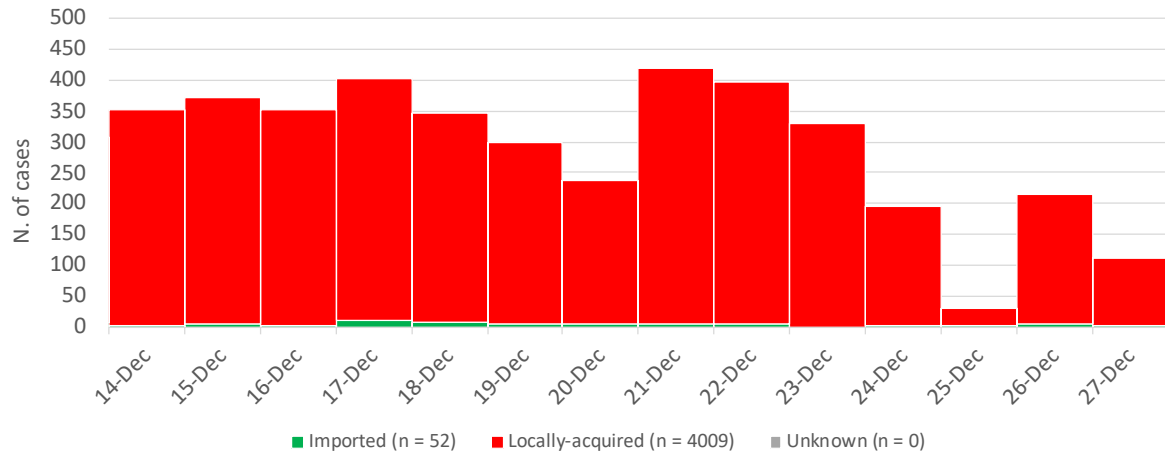




Figure A3B: Number and 7-day moving average of locally-acquired cases, by date of sample collection and district in the last 14 days (14 - 27, 2020).

