



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

National Surveillance Report as of 26/01/2021

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Summary

- As of January 26th, 2021, a total of 30,136 COVID-19 cases have been diagnosed, of which 193 died due to COVID-19 (case fatality risk: 0.6%).
- The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate is 243.8 per 100,000 population.
- In the last 14 days (13-26 Jan, 2021), 2,165 cases were diagnosed.
 - The median age was 39 years (Interquartile range - IQR: 25-55 years); 50.9% were female (n = 1,102), and 49.1% male (n = 1,063).
 - By place of exposure: 1.6% (n = 35) were imported and 98.4% (n = 2,130) were locally-acquired.
- As of January 27th, 2021, 159 people were still hospitalized (currently notified). The median age of patients still hospitalized is 71 years (IQR: 61-79 years), 59.1% (n = 94) are males, and 33.3% (n = 53) are from Limassol district.
- Of 39 cases in intensive care units (ICU), who are currently notified, 38 are intubated. The median age of current ICU patients is 71 (IQR: 63-76) years and 23 (59%) are males. Twenty-four (61.5%) patients currently in ICU have pre-existing conditions.
- Over the last 14 days, 26,328 RT PCR and 111,662 rapid tests have been performed (2,964.9 RT PCR and 12,573.5 rapid tests 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 January 26th, 2021, 30,136 cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have been diagnosed (laboratory-confirmed) (Figure 1, 2 and 3).

In the last 14 days (13-26 Jan, 2021), 2,165 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 243.8 per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

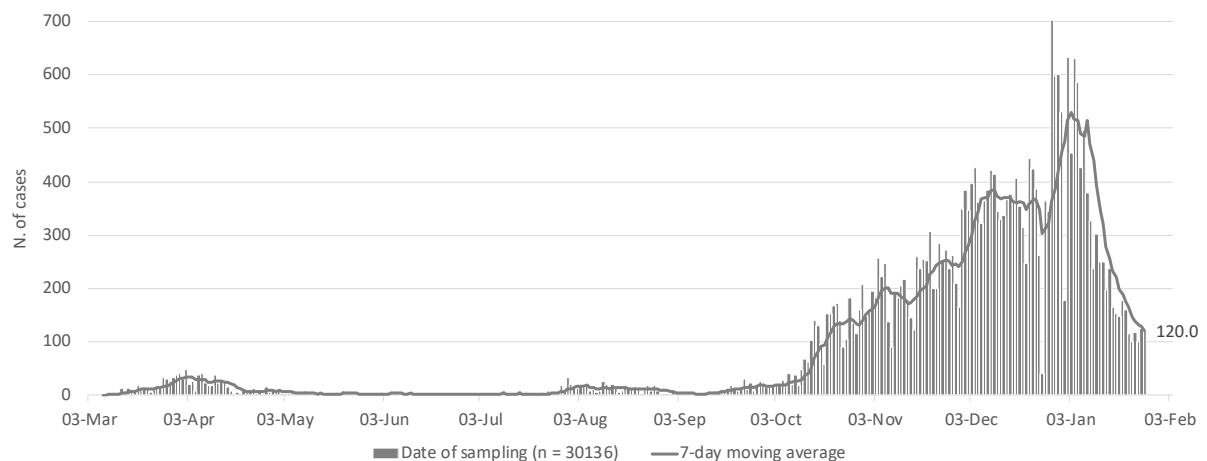


Figure 1: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on Jan 26th, 2021, is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of sample collection*.

* when date of sample collection was not available, laboratory result date or hospitalisation date was used.

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>

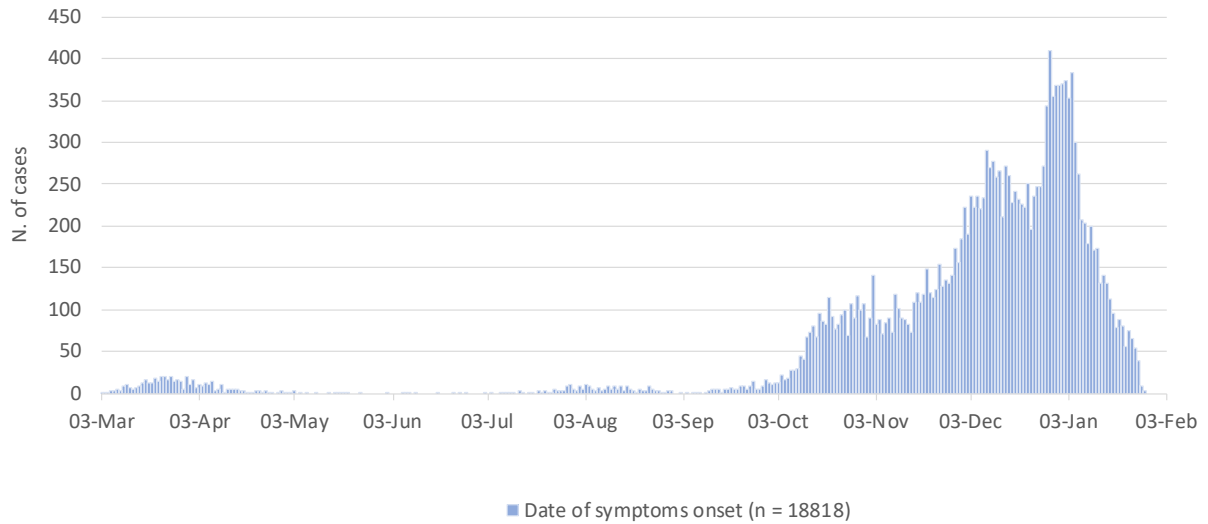


Figure 2: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of symptoms onset.

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.

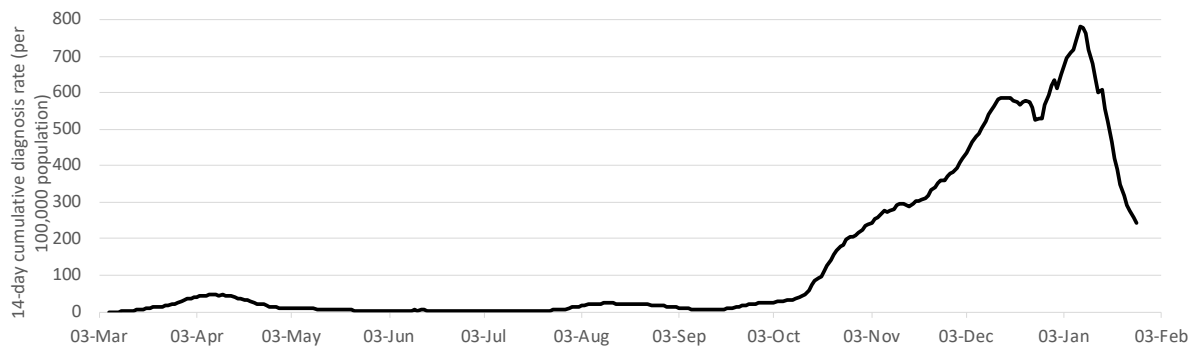


Figure 3: COVID-19 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate per 100,000 population (proxy of COVID-19 prevalence).



Characteristics of cases diagnosed in the last 14 days

Age, sex, and place of residence

Among 2,165 cases diagnosed since 13th January, 2021, 50.9% were female (n = 1,102), and 49.1% male (n = 1,063).

By age group, cases included 357 infants, children and adolescents aged 0-19 years-old (16.5%), 1,412 adults aged 20-59 years (65.2%), and 396 persons aged 60 years and older (18.3%). 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: 25-55 years). The median age of adult cases (≥ 18 years) is 43 years (IQR: 30-57 years). The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by age group is shown in figure A1 in the Appendix.

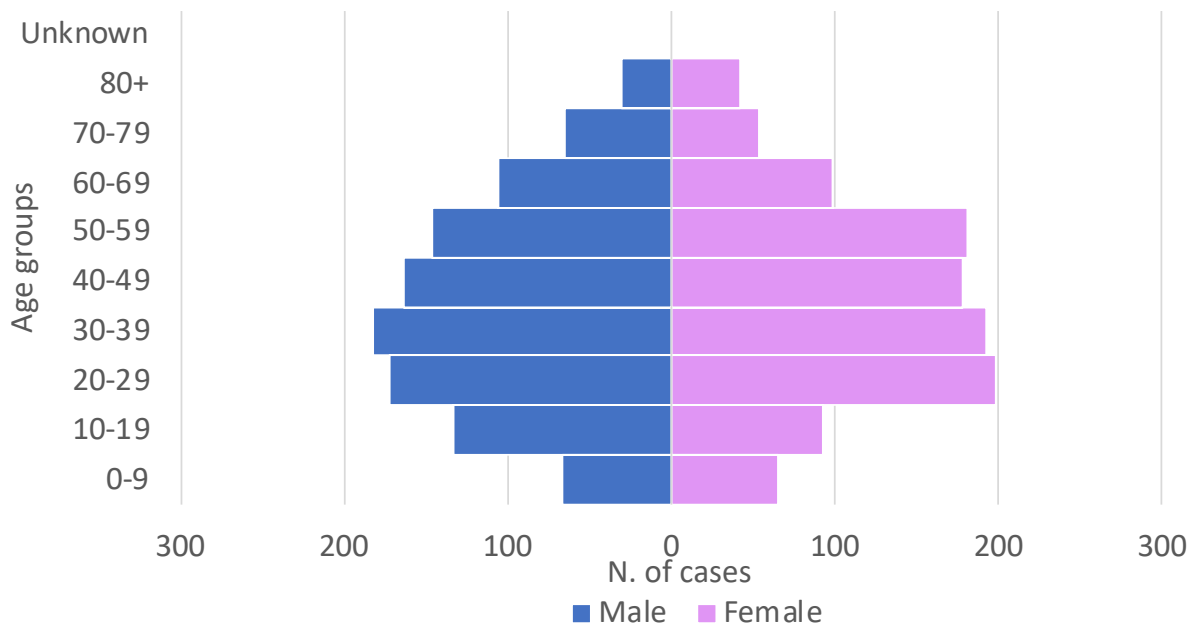


Figure 4: Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus, diagnosed in the last 14 days, by age group and sex.

Among all cases diagnosed in the last 14 days, 904 (41.8%) were reported in Limassol district, 696 (32.2%) in Nicosia, 321 (14.8%) in Larnaka, 124 (5.7%) in Pafos, 77 (3.6%) in Ammochostos, and 43 (2%) were reported either in the British bases or had a residence abroad, or information was not available. Figure A2 in the Appendix shows the 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by district.



Epidemiological link

In the last 14 days (13-26 Jan, 2021), of 2,165 cases sampled and notified, 1.6% (n = 35) were imported and 98.4% (n = 2,130) were locally-acquired. Table A1 and Figure A3 (A&B) in the 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 (13-26 Jan, 2021), 30.7% (n = 665) reported no symptoms at diagnosis and 69.3% (n = 1,500) reported at least one symptom.

Pre-existing conditions

In the last 14 days (13-26 Jan, 2021), 630 cases (29.1%) reported at least one comorbidity.



Deaths

Among cases, 193 COVID-19 associated deaths were reported in Cyprus until January 27th, 2021 (Case Fatality Risk - CFR: 0.6%).

The COVID-19 associated mortality is 21.7 per 100,000 population.

Deaths occurred in 130 men (67.4%) and 63 (32.6%) women; the median age of all COVID-19 associated deaths was 82 years (IQR: 74-87 years). By district of residence, deceased cases were 64 (33.2%) from Nicosia, 58 (30.1%) from Limassol, 38 (19.7%) from Larnaka, 15 (7.8%) from Pafos, 14 (7.2%) from Ammochostos and four 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 (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, 230 deaths (all causes) were reported in Cyprus until January 27th, 2021 (CFR: 0.8%).

The mortality (all-causes) for people with COVID-19 is 25.9 per 100,000 population.

Deaths occurred in 155 men (67.4%) and 75 (32.6%) women; the median age of all deaths was 82 years (IQR: 74-87 years). By district of residence, deceased cases were 72 (31.3%) from Limassol, 71 (30.9%) from Nicosia, 46 (20%) from Larnaka, 19 (8.3%) from Pafos, 16 (7%) from Ammochostos and six deaths (2.6%) 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: 6-18 days).

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

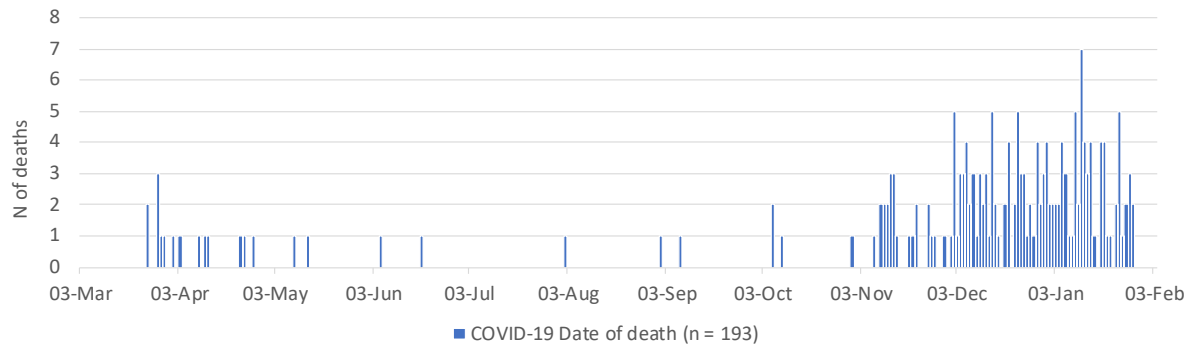


Figure 5a: Number of COVID-19 associated deaths in Cyprus by date of death.

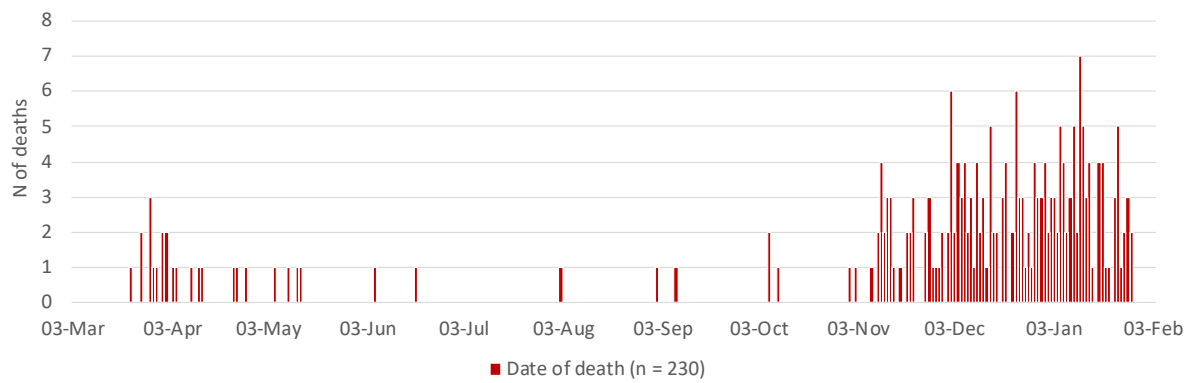


Figure 5b: Number of deaths (all causes) among COVID-19 cases in Cyprus by date of death.



Hospitalization and intensive care unit (ICU³) admissions⁴

In total, 4.9% (n = 1,474) of people with COVID-19 received hospital care, as of January 27th, 2021. The median age of hospitalized patients was 66 years (IQR: 52-78 years). Hospitalized cases were mainly males (n = 859; 58.3%).

The median age of patients still hospitalized as of 27th of January, 2021 (n = 159) is 71 years (IQR: 61-79 years), 59.1% (n = 94) are males, and 33.3% (n = 53) are from Limassol district. One-hundred-eight cases (67.9%) still hospitalised have comorbidities.

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

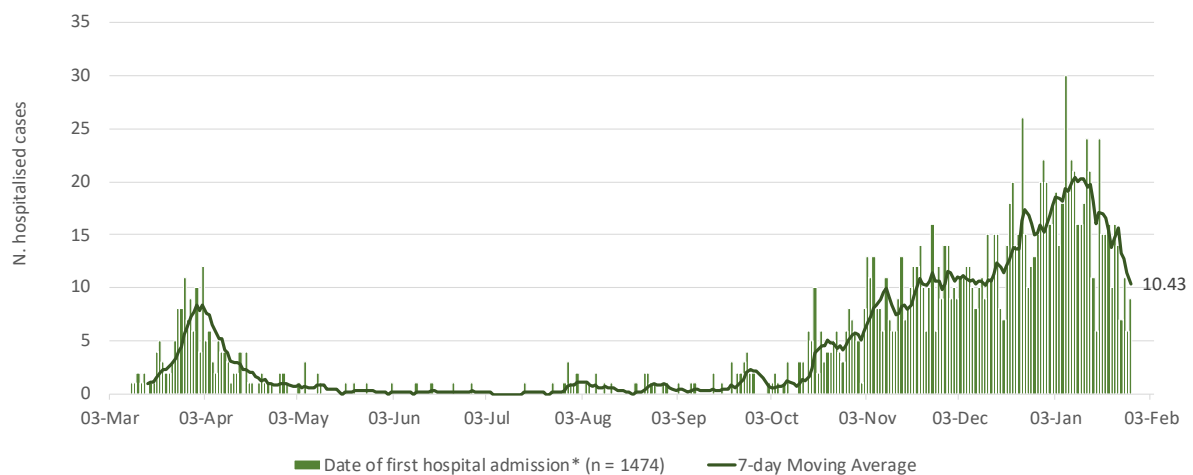


Figure 6a: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on Jan 27th, 2021 is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of first hospital admission.

**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).

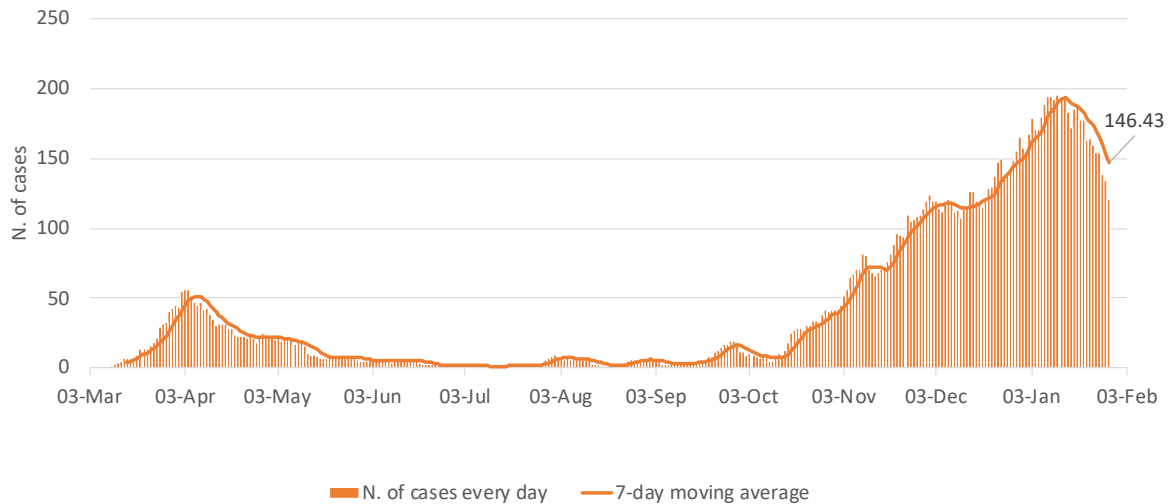


Figure 6b: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on Jan 27th, 2021 is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospital every day (excluding those in ICU).

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, 156 cases (10.6% of all hospitalized patients) have been admitted to ICU. The median age of patients ever admitted to ICU was 70 years (IQR: 62-76 years). ICU patients are mainly male (n = 105; 67.3%). The overall median length of stay in ICU (for all ICU cases) was 12 days (IQR: 8-22 days).

As of January 27th, 2021 and based on records which rapidly evolve, 39 cases are still in ICU (including deaths / discharged on that day). The median age of current ICU patients is 71 (IQR: 63-76) years and 23 (59%) are males. Twenty-four (61.5%) patients currently in ICU have pre-existing conditions.

The number of cases currently in ICU is 4.4 per 100,000 population (as of January 27th, 2021, including deaths/discharged on that day).

A total of 144 ICU patients (92.3% of all ICU patients) have been intubated - currently there are 38 patients intubated in ICU (including deaths/discharged/extubated on that day).

Figure 7 shows the number of patients in ICU, by day and intubation status.

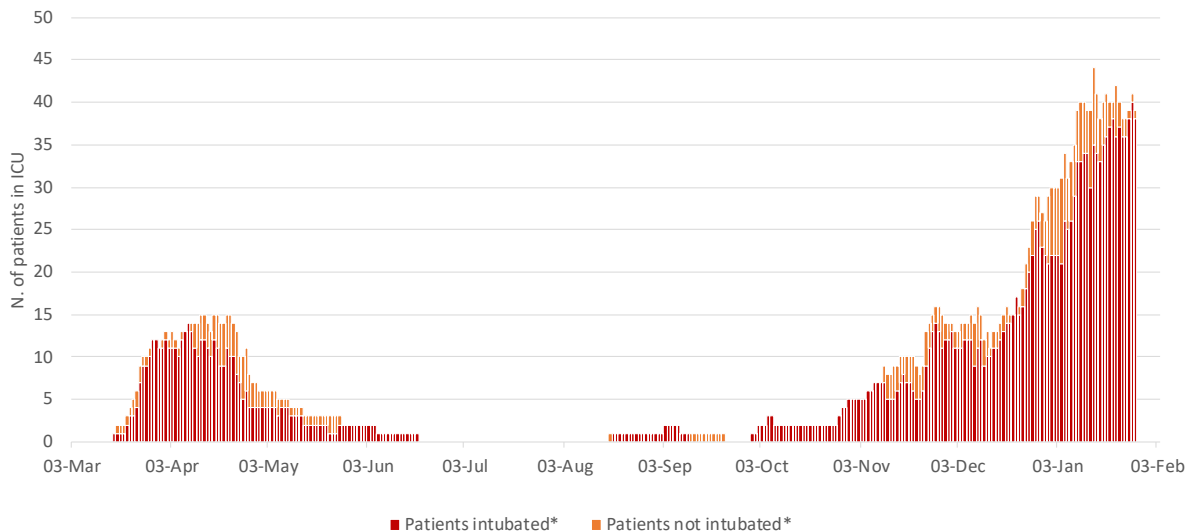


Figure 7: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in ICU by date and intubation.

**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

As of January 27th, 2021, among cases alive, 83% (n = 24,929) of COVID-19 cases have recovered/released from isolation⁵; of which 1,315 (5.3%) tested negative two consecutive times, and 23,614 (94.7%) have been released as per later guidelines⁶.

⁵ 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.

⁶ May – November 2020: 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.

Since 8th November 2020: A person who remained asymptomatic throughout his/her follow-up is released 14 days after initial diagnosis (date of sampling) and General Practitioner (GP) confirmation; a person with mild/moderate symptoms is released in absence of fever AND improvement of other symptoms (confirmed by GP) AND 14 days after onset of symptoms; cases requiring hospitalisation (severe cases), immunosuppressed individuals, residents and staff of vulnerable groups (i.e., nursing homes, refugee camps, prisons) are released in absence of fever AND 20 days after onset of symptoms. The criterion of two consecutive negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR results from respiratory samples, taken at least 24 hours apart, is recommended for immunosuppressed and critically ill COVID-19 patients.



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 (13-26 Jan, 2021).

Characteristics	Total (n = 2165)		Imported (n = 35)		Locally-acquired (n = 2130)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sex						
Male	1063	49.1	17	48.6	1046	49.1
Female	1102	50.9	18	51.4	1084	50.9
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Age groups (years)						
0-9	131	6.1	1	2.9	130	6.1
10-19	226	10.4	7	20.0	219	10.3
20-29	370	17.1	8	22.9	362	17.0
30-39	374	17.3	4	11.4	370	17.0
40-49	341	15.8	4	11.4	337	17.4
50-59	327	15.1	5	14.3	322	15.8
60-69	205	9.5	4	11.4	201	15.1
70-79	119	5.5	1	2.9	118	9.4
80+	72	3.3	1	2.9	71	5.5
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	3.3
Median age in years (IQR)	39 (25-55)		36 (20-57)		39 (25-55)	
District						
Ammochostos	77	3.6	1	2.9	76	3.6
Larnaka	321	14.8	7	20.0	314	14.7
Limassol	904	41.8	14	40.0	890	41.8
Nicosia	696	32.1	10	28.6	686	32.2
Pafos	124	5.7	2	5.7	122	5.7
Other	43	2.0	1	2.9	42	2.0
Symptoms at diagnosis						
Yes	1,500	69.3	22	62.9	1478	69.4
No	665	30.7	13	37.1	652	30.6
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.

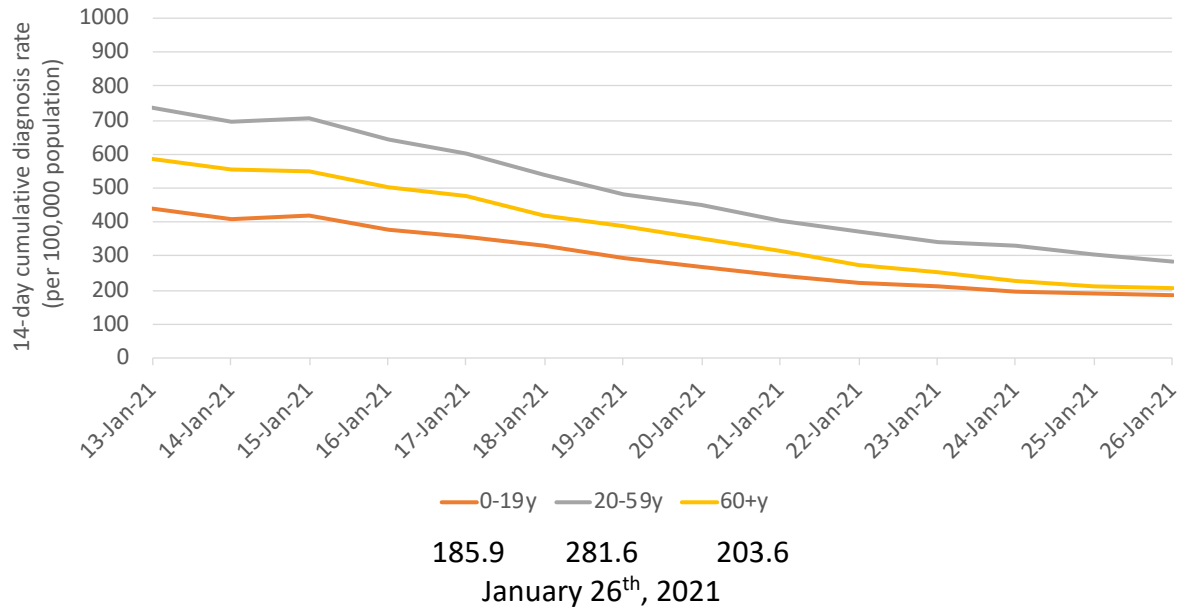




Figure A2: 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by district for the last 14 days.

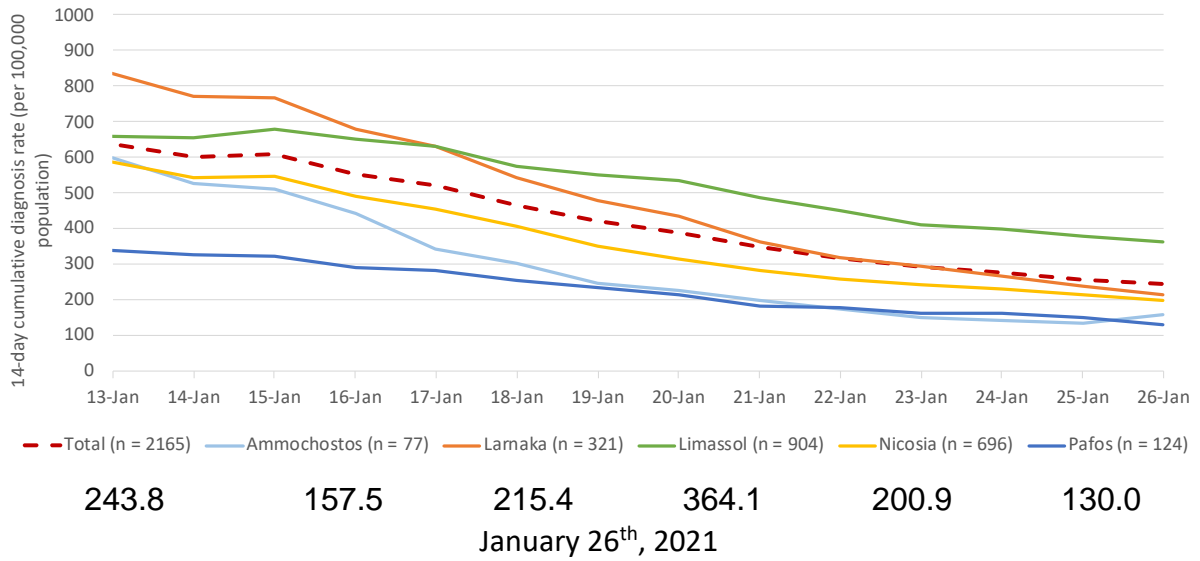




Figure A3A: Number of cases by origin of infection and by date of sample collection in the last 14 days (13-26 Jan, 2021).

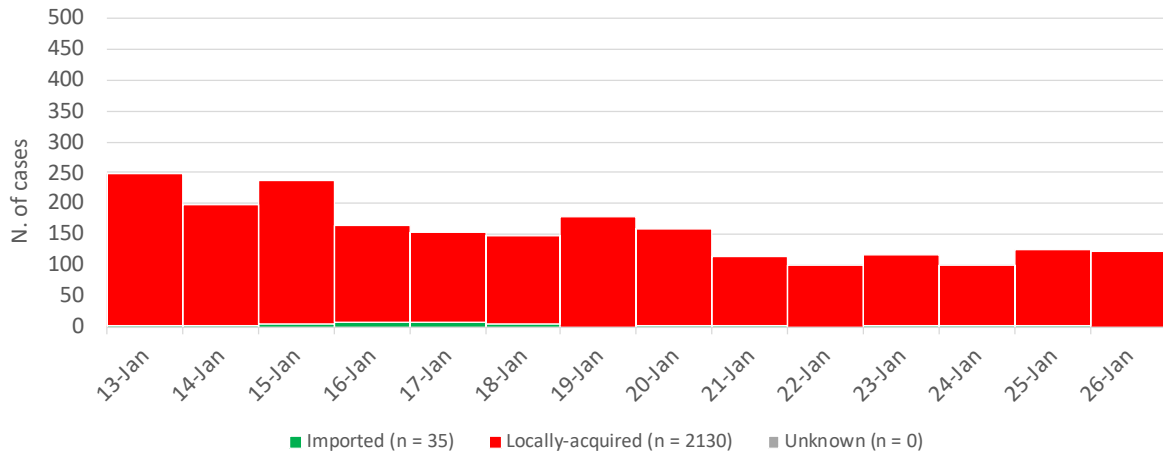




Figure A3B: Number and 7-day moving average of locally-acquired cases, by date of sample collection and district in the last 14 days (13-26 Jan, 2021).

