



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

National Surveillance Report as of 31/10/2020

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Summary

- As of October 31st, a total of 4,422 COVID-19 cases and 33 deaths (case fatality risk: 0.8%) have been reported in the Republic of Cyprus.
- The 14-day cumulative notification rate is 207.9 per 100,000 population.
- In the last 14 days (18-31 October), 1,800 cases were diagnosed.
 - The median age is 33 years (Interquartile range - IQR: 23-48 years); 51.5% are male.
 - By place of exposure, 6.7% were imported, 85.3% were locally-acquired, and for 8% place of exposure is unknown.
- As of October 31st, 43 people are hospitalised. The median age is 65 years (IQR: 54-76 years) and 60.5% are males.
- Among cases hospitalised, five are in intensive care units (ICU) and intubated. The mean age of ICU patients is 67.4 years, and both are males.
- A total of 483,898 tests have been performed as of October 31st (55,245.8 per 100,000 population). In particular, over the last 14 days 49,643 tests have been performed (5,667.7 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 October 31st, 4,422 laboratory-confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have been reported (Figure 1a,1b and 2). The 14-day cumulative notification 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 207.9 per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

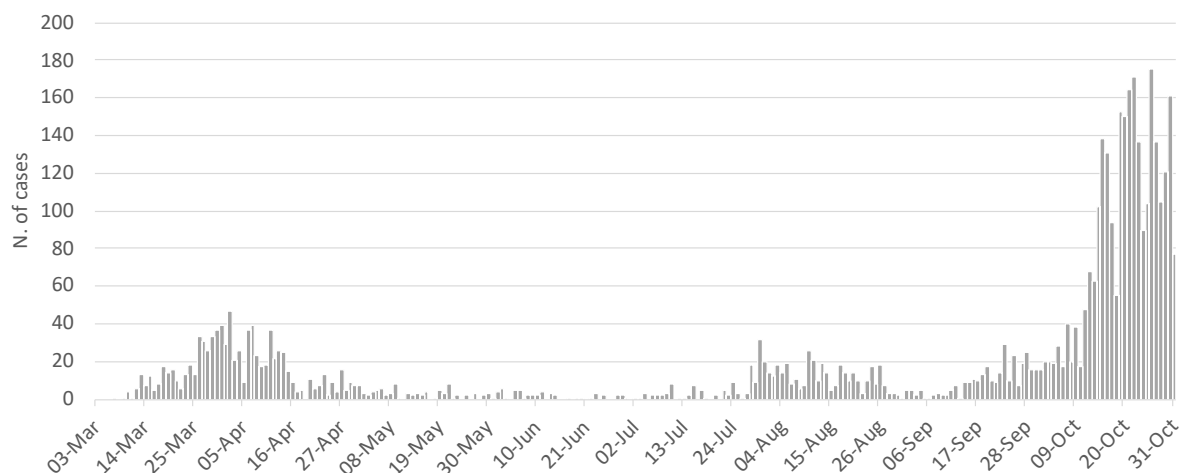


Figure 1a: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of sample collection.

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>

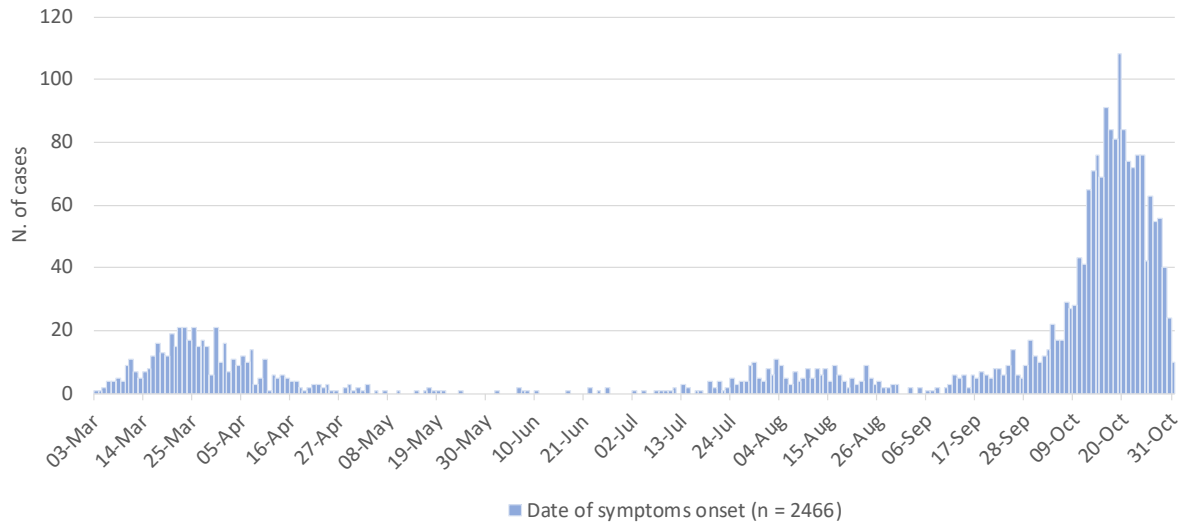


Figure 1b: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of symptoms onset (n = 2,466).

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.

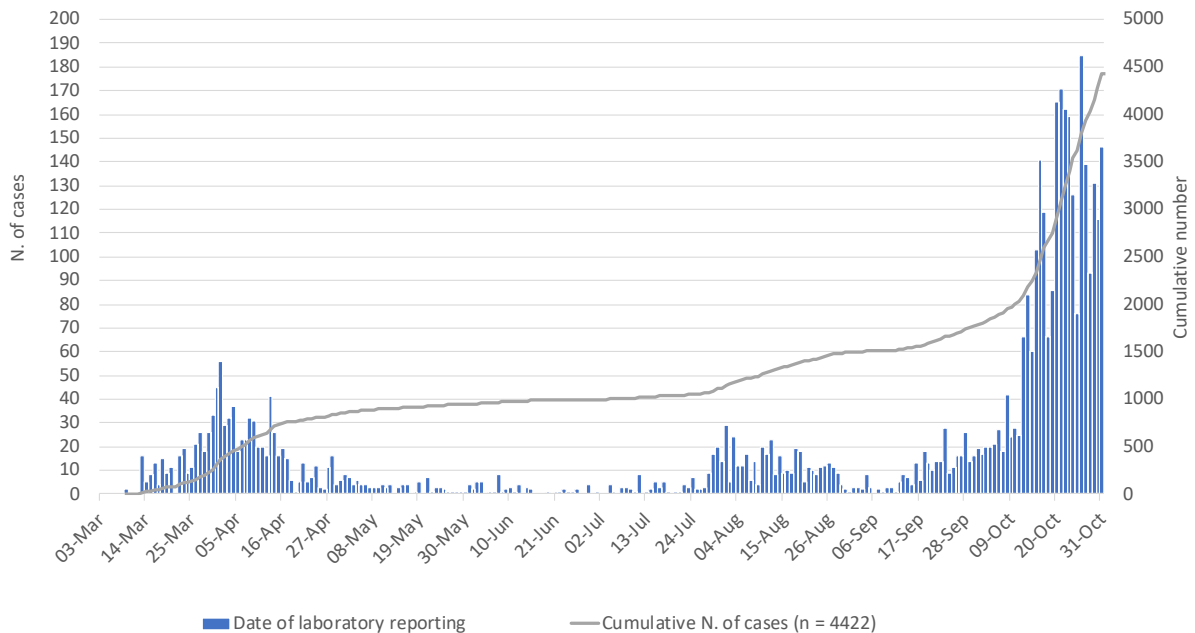


Figure 2: Number and cumulative number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus since 03/03/2020, by date of laboratory reporting (n = 4,422).

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.

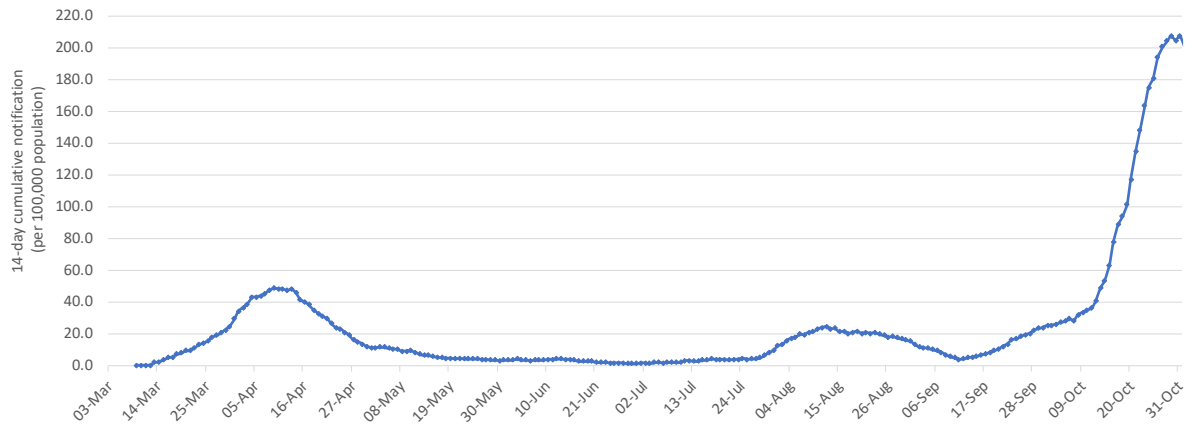


Figure 3: COVID-19 14-day cumulative notification rate per 100,000 population (proxy of COVID-19 prevalence).
March 23rd represents the first 14th day since cases have been reported.



Characteristics of the cases diagnosed in the last 14 days

Age and sex

Among 1,800 cases diagnosed since 18th October, 51.5% are male (n = 927) and 48.3% female (n = 869); for four cases (0.2%) sex is unknown.

By age group, cases include 289 infants, children and adolescents aged 0-17 years-old (16.1%), 1,307 adults aged 18-59 years (72.6%), 186 persons aged 60 years and older (10.3%), and for 18 cases (1%) 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 33 years (IQR: 23-48 years). The median age of adult cases (≥ 18 years) is 38 years (IQR: 27-51 years).

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

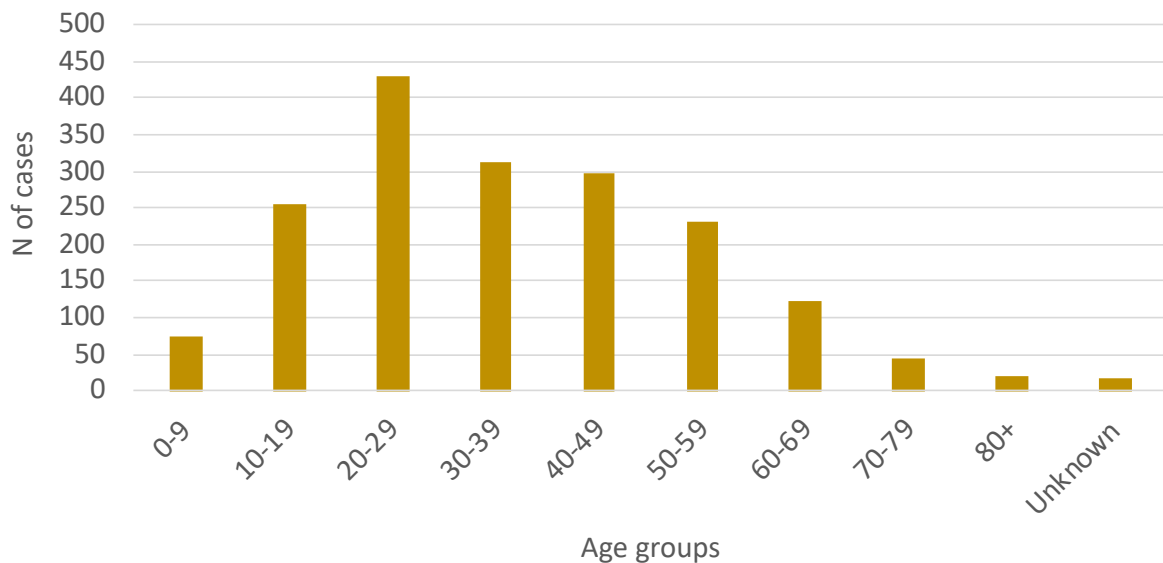


Figure 4: Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cyprus, diagnosed in the last 14 days, by age groups.

Among all cases diagnosed in the last 14 days, 1,046 (58.1%) were reported in Limassol district, 273 (15.2%) in Pafos, 187 (10.4%) in Nicosia, 109 (6.1%) in Larnaka, 71 (3.9%) in Ammochostos, and 114 (6.3%) 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 incidence rate (per 100,000 population) by district.



Epidemiological link

In the last 14 days (18-31 October), of 1,800 cases sampled and notified, 6.7% (n = 120) were imported, 85.3% (n = 1,536) were locally-acquired, and 8% (n = 144) are unknown. Table A1 and Figure A3 in Appendix show the characteristics of cases by origin of infection and the daily number of cases by origin of infection in the recent period, respectively.

Clinical features

Of the 1,800 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19-cases, clinical information is available for 95.3 % (n = 1,716), of which 27% (n = 463) reported no symptoms at diagnosis and 73% (n = 1,253) reported at least one symptom.

Pre-existing conditions

Information on comorbidities was available for 1,693 (94.1%) cases. Of these, 421 (24.9%) reported at least one comorbidity.



Deaths

As of October 31st, 33 deaths were reported in Cyprus (Case Fatality Risk - CFR: 0.8%).

The mortality for COVID-19 is 3.8 per 100,000 population.

Twenty-three deaths (69.7%) occurred in men and 10 (30.3%) in women; the median age of all deaths was 76 years (IQR: 68-79 years). Twelve deaths were reported among residents in Larnaka, eight in Pafos, five in Nicosia and in Limassol each, and three in Ammochostos.

The median time from date of sampling to death was 11 days (IQR: 5-29 days).

For 26 deaths, COVID-19 was the underlying cause of death (COVID-19 CFR: 0.6%). Figure 5 reports the number of deaths by date.

Over the last 14 days one death was reported (mortality for COVID-19: 0.1 per 100,000 population).

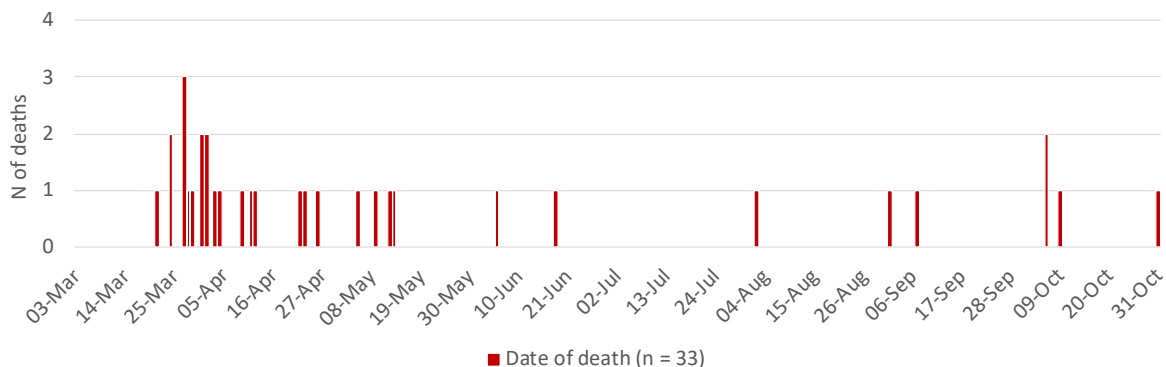


Figure 5: Number of deaths among COVID-19 cases in Cyprus by date of death (n = 33).



Hospitalization and intensive care unit (ICU²) admissions³

In total, 7.4% (n = 328) of people with COVID-19 received hospital care, as of October 31st. The median age of hospitalized patients was 59 years (IQR: 47-72 years). Hospitalized cases were mainly males (n = 199; 60.7%).

The median age of patients still hospitalised (n = 43) is 65 years (IQR: 54-76 years) and 60.5% are male.

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

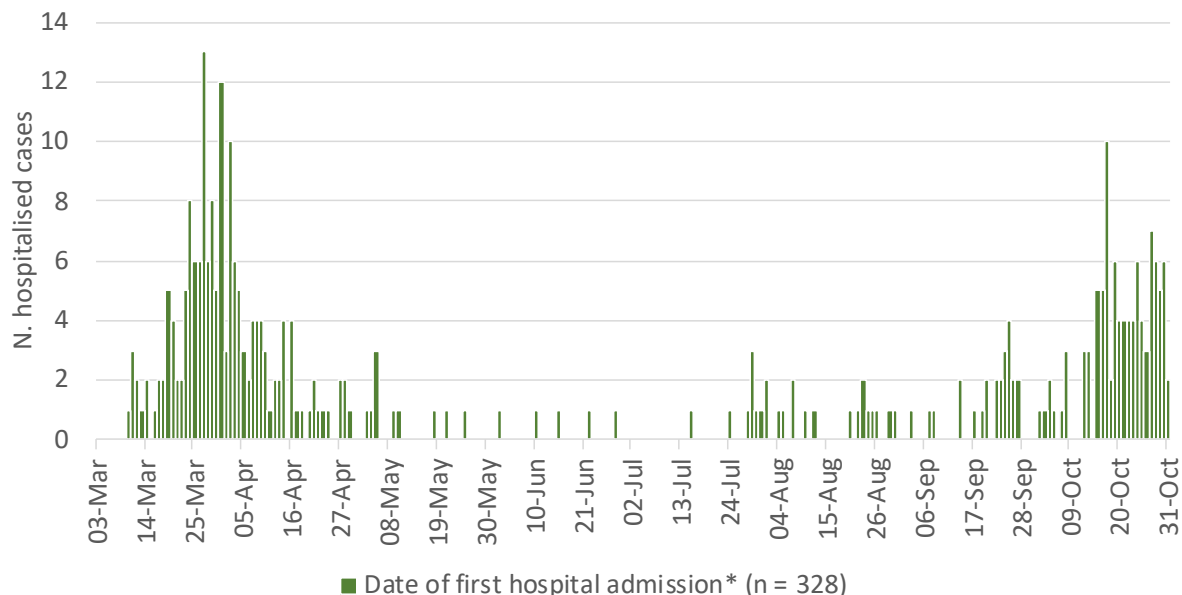


Figure 6a: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of first hospital admission (n = 328).

**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).

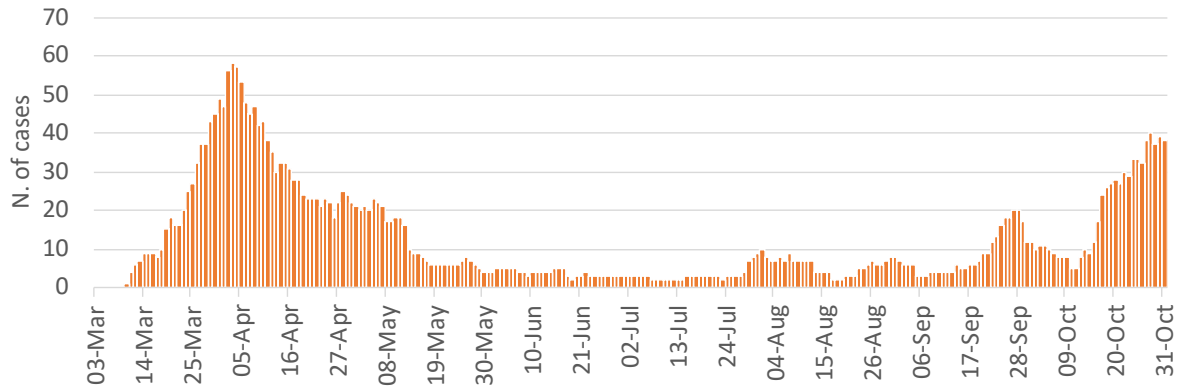


Figure 6b: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospital every day (excluding those in ICU).



Overall, 39 cases (11.9% of all hospitalized patients) have been admitted to ICU. The median age of patients ever admitted to ICU was 66 years (IQR: 58-74 years). ICU patients are mainly male (n = 29; 74.4%). The overall median length of stay in ICU (for all 39 ICU cases) was 11 days (IQR: 7-30 days).

As of October 31st, five cases were still in ICU (including deaths/ discharged on that day). The mean age of ICU patients is 67.4 years and 80% are males. The number of cases currently in ICU is 0.6 per 100,000 population (as of October 31st, including deaths/discharged on that day).

A total of 34 ICU patients (87.2% of all ICU patients) have been intubated - currently there are five patients intubated in ICU (as of October 31st, including deaths/discharged on that day).

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

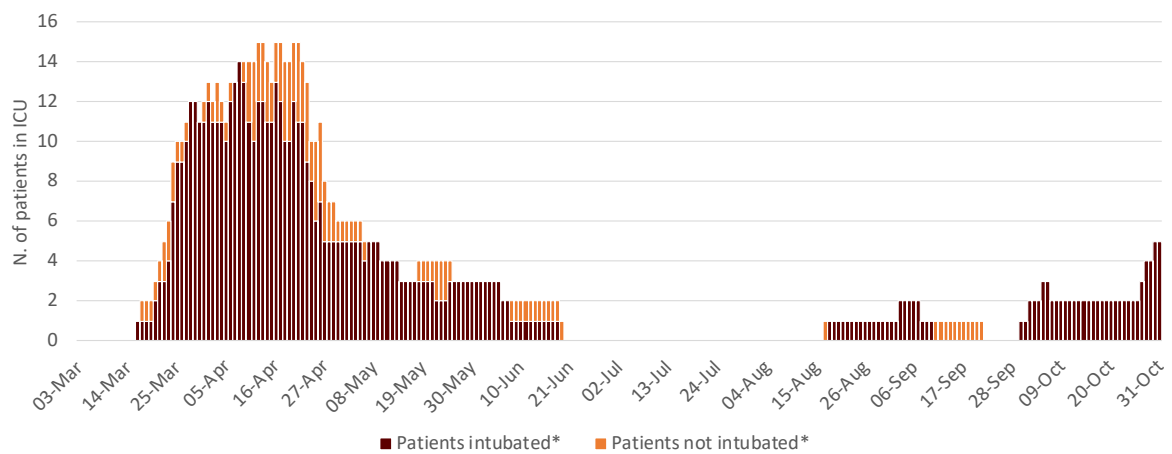


Figure 7: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in ICU by date and intubation.

**Date of discharge/transfer/death included*



Recovered/released

As of October 31st, among cases alive, 36.8% (n = 1,627) of COVID-19 cases have recovered⁴; of which 1,129 (69.4%) tested negative two consecutive times, and 498 (30.6%) have been released as per the new guidelines⁵. The median time between the second negative result and the first date of sampling was 20 days (IQR: 18-33 days).

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 = 1800)		Imported (n = 120)		Locally-acquired (n = 1536)		Unknown (n = 144)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sex								
Male	927	51.5	59	49.2	777	50.6	91	63.2
Female	869	48.3	61	50.8	759	49.4	49	34.0
Unknown	4	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	2.8
Age groups (years)								
0-9	74	4.1	1	0.8	71	4.6	2	1.4
10-19	254	14.1	9	7.5	229	14.9	16	11.1
20-29	429	23.8	37	30.8	355	23.1	37	25.7
30-39	312	17.3	20	16.7	265	17.3	27	18.8
40-49	297	16.5	22	18.3	252	16.4	23	16.0
50-59	230	12.8	17	14.2	199	13.0	14	9.7
60-69	121	6.7	4	3.3	109	7.1	8	5.6
70-79	45	2.5	7	5.8	36	2.3	2	1.4
80+	20	1.1	0	0.0	17	1.1	3	2.1
Unknown	18	1.0	3	2.5	3	0.2	12	8.3
Median age in years (IQR*)	33 (23-48)		33 (24-48)		33 (23-48)		33 (23-45.5)	
District								
Ammochostos	71	3.9	15	12.5	54	3.5	2	1.4
Larnaka	109	6.1	19	15.8	85	5.5	5	3.5
Limassol	1046	58.1	41	34.2	945	61.5	60	41.7
Nicosia	187	10.4	15	12.5	163	10.6	9	6.3
Pafos	273	15.2	11	9.2	248	16.1	14	9.7
Other	114	6.3	19	15.8	41	2.7	54	37.5
Symptoms at diagnosis								
Yes	1253	69.6	61	50.8	1128	73.4	64	44.4
No	463	25.7	52	43.3	395	25.7	16	11.1
Unknown	84	4.7	7	5.8	13	0.8	64	44.4



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

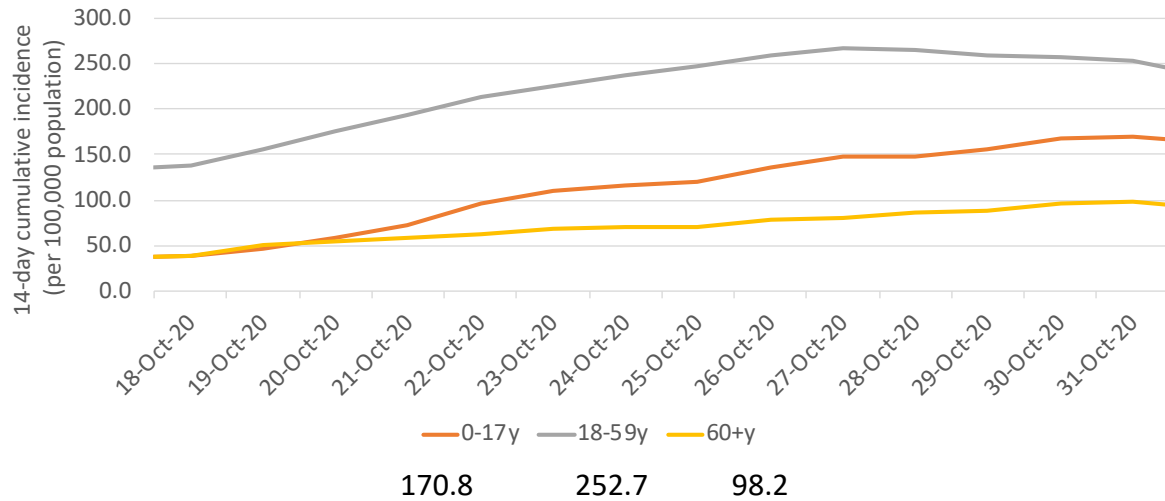




Figure A2: 14-day cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000 population) by district for the last 14 days.

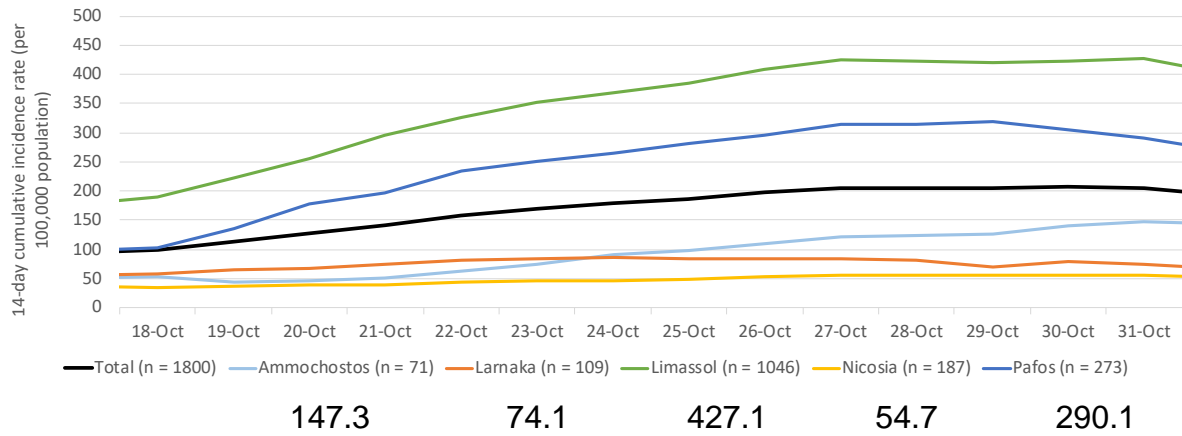




Figure A3: Number of cases by origin of infection, by date of sample collection in the last 14 days (18-31 October, 2020).

