ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

National Surveillance Report as of 03/01/2022

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Summary

- As of January 3rd, 2022, 172,928 COVID-19 cases have been diagnosed, of which 647 died due to COVID-19 (case fatality risk: 0.4%).
- In the last 14 days (since 21 December, 2021), 28,414 cases were diagnosed. The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate is 3199.8 per 100,000 population.
    - The median age was 28 years (IQR: 21-41 years); sex information was available for 25,855 (91%) cases, of which 52.3% were females (n = 13,523), and 47.7% males (n = 12,332).
    - By place of exposure, information was available for 27,850 (98%) cases, of which 3.6% (n = 1,002) were imported and 96.4% (n = 26,848) were locally-acquired.
- As of January 4th, 2022, 218 people were still hospitalized (currently notified and among those diagnosed till January 3rd). The median age of patients still hospitalized due to COVID-19 (n = 218, including those discharged on that day) is 62 years (IQR: 48-71 years), 55.6% (n = 120 out of 216 with available information) are males, and 34.8% (n = 70 out of 201 with information on district) are from Limassol district. Fifty-nine cases (36%) still hospitalised have comorbidities (out of 164 with available information).
- As January 4th, 2022, of 36 cases in intensive care units (ICU), who are currently notified and diagnosed till January 3rd, 32 (88.9%) are intubated. The median age of current ICU patients is 64 (IQR: 56-70) years and 25 (69.4%) are males. Fourteen (41.2%) ICU patients have comorbidities (out of 34 with available information).
- Over the last 14 days, 165,680 RT PCR and 1,280,012 rapid antigen tests have been performed (18,657.7 RT PCR and 144,145.5 rapid antigen tests per 100,000 population).

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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 3rd, 2022, 172,928 cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have been diagnosed (laboratory-confirmed) (Figure 1, 2 and 3).
In the last 14 days (21 December 2021 – 3 January 2022), 28,414 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 3199.8 per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

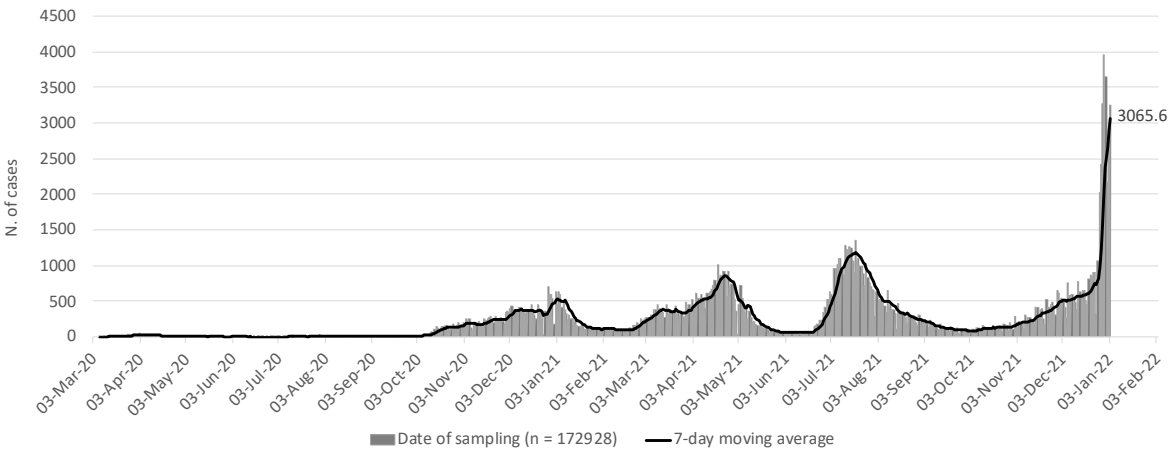

Figure 1: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on January 3rd, 2022, is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Republic of Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of sample collection*.
** when date of sample collection was not available, laboratory result date or hospitalisation date was used.*

[1]Population 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

[2]Coronavirus 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

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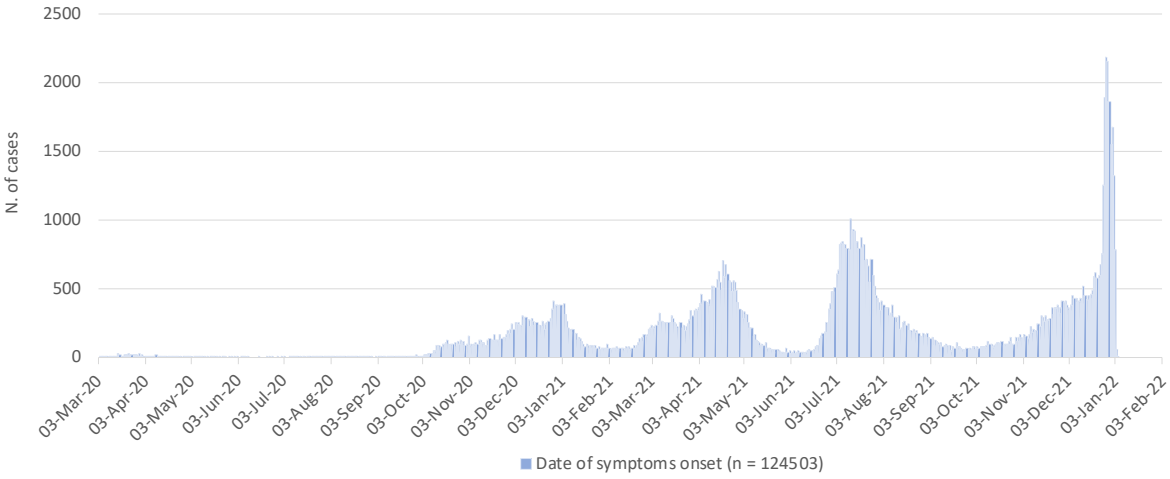

Figure 2: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Republic of Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of symptoms onset.
Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases with date of onset within the reporting period have not yet been diagnosed.

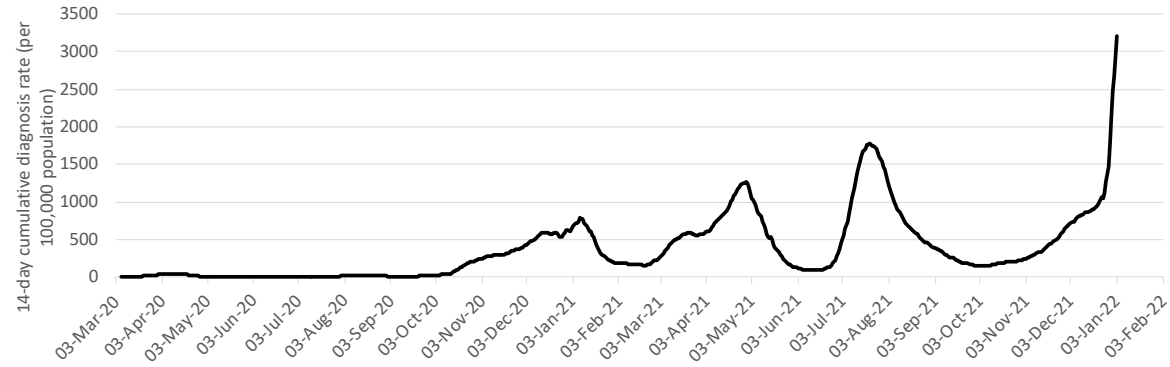

Figure 3: COVID-19 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate per 100,000 population (proxy of COVID-19 prevalence).

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Characteristics of cases diagnosed in the last 14 days

Age, sex, and place of residence

Among 28,414 cases diagnosed since December 21st, 2021, sex information was available for 25,855 (91%) cases, of which 52.3% were females (n = 13,523), and 47.7% males (n = 12,332).

By age group, cases included 6,158 individuals aged 0-19 years-old (21.7%), 20,429 individuals aged 20-59 years (71.9%), and 1,826 individuals aged 60 years and older (6.4%), for one case age was not known. 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 28 years (IQR: 21-41 years). The median age of adult cases (≥ 18 years) is 31 years (IQR: 24-44 years).
The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by age group is shown in figure A1 in the Appendix.

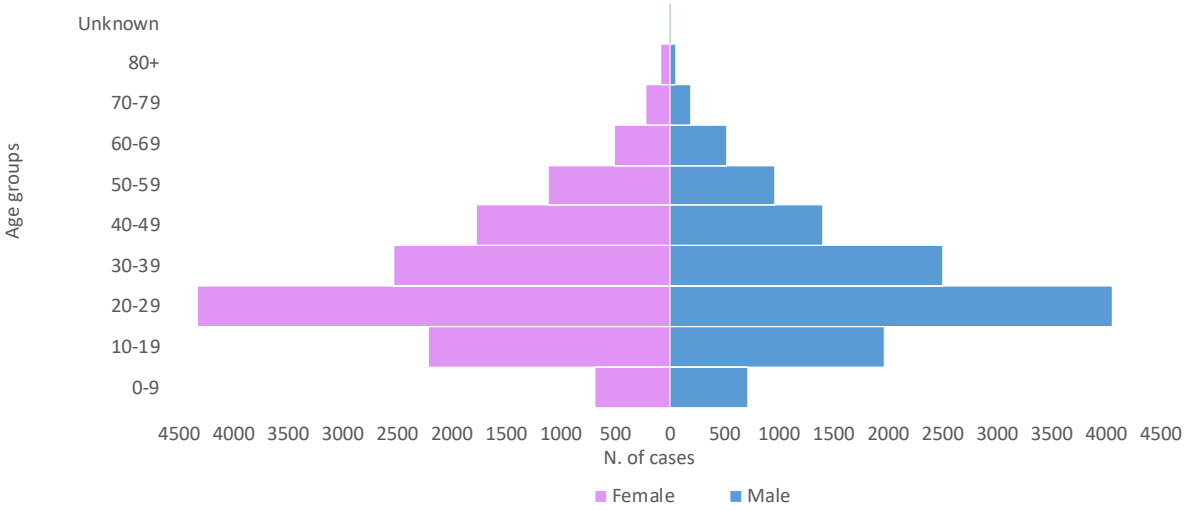

Figure 4: Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Republic of Cyprus, diagnosed in the last 14 days, by age group and sex (including only cases with sex information available).

Among all cases diagnosed in the last 14 days, district information was available for 25,573 (90%) cases, of which 11,974 (46.8%) were reported in Nicosia district, 6,352 (24.8%) in Limassol, 3,430 (13.4%) in Larnaca, 2,103 (8.2%) in Pafos, and 1,695 (6.6%) in Ammochostos and 19 (<0.1) cases had residence abroad. 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 (21 December 2021 – 3 January 2022), epidemiological link information was available for 27,850 (98%) cases, of which 3.6% (n = 1,002) were imported and 96.4% (n = 26,848) were locally-acquired.

Clinical features

In the last 14 days (21 December 2021 – 3 January 2022), information was available for 26,425 (93%) cases of which 27.9% (n = 7,382) reported no symptoms and 72.1% (n = 19,043) reported at least one symptom.

Pre-existing conditions

In the last 14 days (21 December 2021 – 3 January 2022), information was available for 26,033 cases (91.6%) of which 1,741 cases (6.7%) reported at least one comorbidity.

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Deaths

Among cases diagnosed until January 3rd, 2022, 647 COVID-19 associated deaths were reported in the Republic of Cyprus until January 4th, 2022 (Case Fatality Risk - CFR: 0.4%).
The COVID-19 associated mortality is 72.9 per 100,000 population.
Deaths occurred in 410 men (63.4%) and 237 (36.6%) women; the median age of all COVID-19 associated deaths was 77 years (IQR: 69-85 years). By district of residence, deceased cases were 222 (34.3%) from Limassol, 202 (31.2%) from Nicosia, 118 (18.2%) from Larnaca, 58 (9%) from Pafos, 38 (5.9%) from Ammochostos, and nine deaths (1.4%) occurred among cases for which district information was not available or who had a residence abroad.
The median time from date of sampling to death (due to COVID-19) was 14 days (IQR: 8-23 days).
Figure 5a reports the number of COVID-19 associated deaths by date.

Among cases diagnosed until January 3rd, 2022, 741 COVID-19 associated deaths were reported in the Republic of Cyprus until January 4th, 2022 (CFR: 0.4%).
The mortality (all-causes) for people with COVID-19 is 83.4 per 100,000 population.
Deaths occurred in 472 men (63.7%) and 269 (36.3%) women; the median age of all deaths was 77 years (IQR: 69-85 years). By district of residence, deceased cases were 261 (35.2%) from Limassol, 231 (31.2%) from Nicosia, 133 (18%) from Larnaca, 66 (8.9%) from Pafos, 41 (5.5%) from Ammochostos, and nine deaths (1.2%) occurred among cases for which district information was not available or were reported among cases who had a residence abroad.
The median time from date of sampling to death (all-causes) was 14 days (IQR: 7-23 days).
Figure 5b reports the number of all deaths among people with COVID-19 by date.

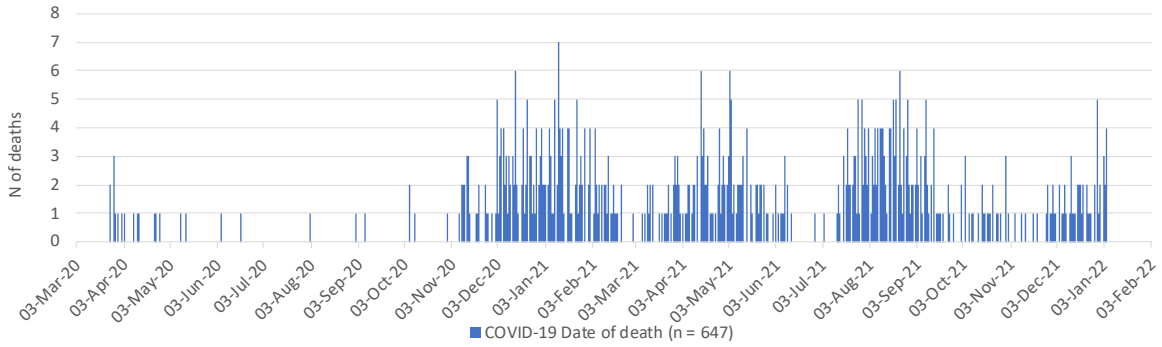

Figure 5a: Number of COVID-19 associated deaths in the Republic of Cyprus by date of death.

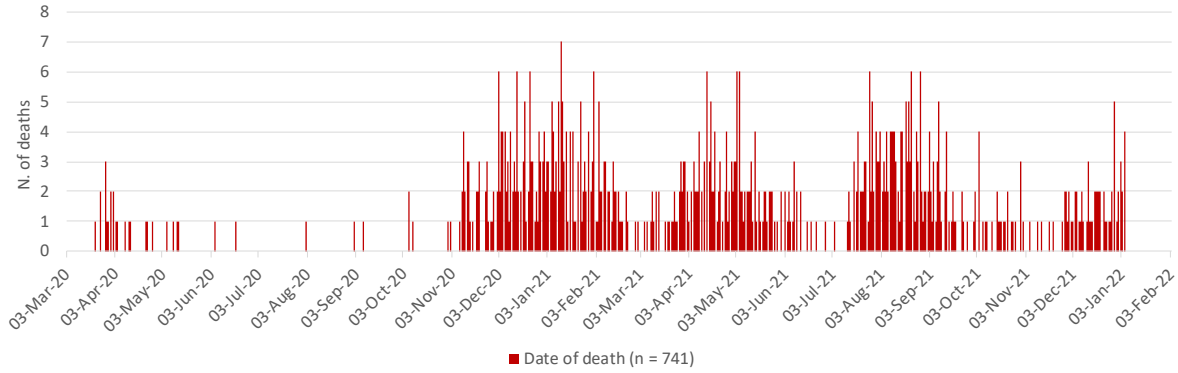

Figure 5b: Number of deaths (all causes) among COVID-19 cases in the Republic of Cyprus by date of death.

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Hospitalization and intensive care unit (ICU[3]) admissions[4]

In total, 3.8% (n = 6,583) of people with COVID-19 received hospital care, as of January 4th, 2022. The median age of hospitalized patients was 60 years (IQR: 47-72 years). Excluding eight cases (0.1%) for which sex information is not available, hospitalized cases were mainly males (n = 3,712; 56.5%).

The median age of patients diagnosed till January 3rd and still hospitalized, due to COVID-19, as of January 4th, 2022 (n = 218, including those discharged on that day) is 62 years (IQR: 48-71 years), 55.6% (n = 120 out of 126 with available information) are males, and 34.8% (n = 70 out of 201 with information on district) are from Limassol district. Fifty-nine cases (36%) still hospitalised have comorbidities (out of 164 with available information).

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

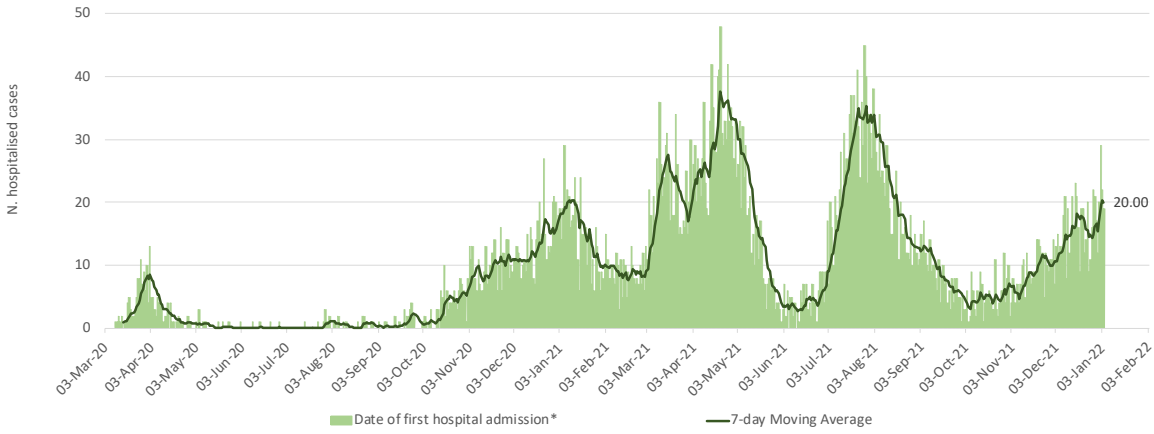

Figure 6a: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on January 4th, 2022 is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of first hospital admission, since 03/03/2020.

**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.

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

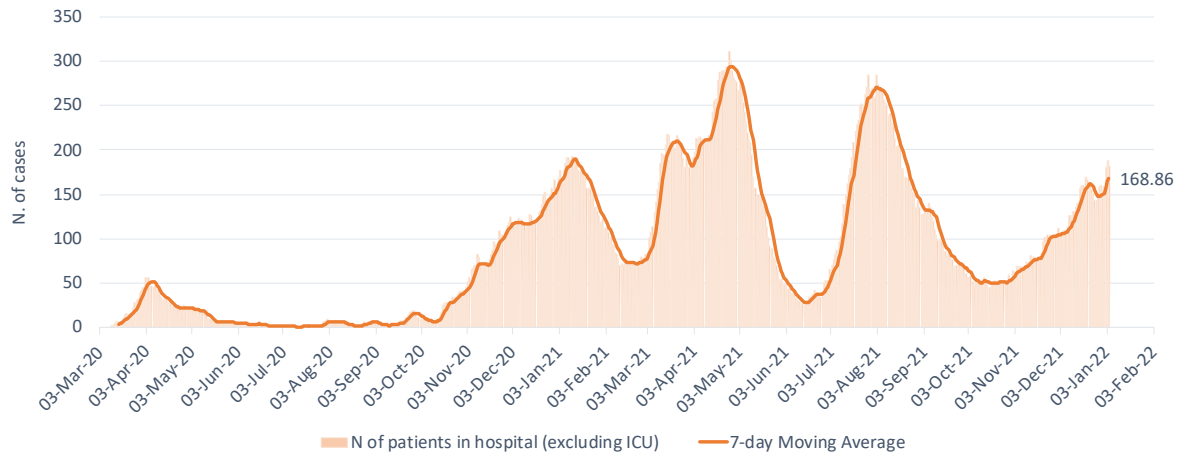

Figure 6b: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on January 4th, 2022 is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospital every day, since 03/03/2020, excluding those in ICU.
Patients in hospital for only part of the day (e.g. transferred, dead) are included.
Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases recently hospitalised could have not been notified.

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Overall, 725 cases (11% of all hospitalized patients) have been admitted to ICU. The median age of patients ever admitted to ICU was 66 years (IQR: 58-73 years). ICU patients were mainly males (n = 459, 63.3%).
The overall median length of stay in ICU (for all ICU cases) was 12 days (IQR: 7-21 days).

As of January 4th, 2022, and based on records which rapidly evolve, of those diagnosed till January 3rd, 36 cases are still in ICU (including deaths / discharged on that day). The median age of current ICU patients is 64 (IQR: 56-70) years and 25 (69.4%) are males. Fourteen (41.2%) ICU patients have comorbidities (out of 34 with available information).

The number of cases currently in ICU is 4.1 per 100,000 population (as of January 4th, 2022, including deaths/discharged on that day).

A total of 692 ICU patients (95.5% of all ICU patients) have been intubated - currently 32 (88.9%) patients in ICU are intubated (including deaths/discharged/extubated on that day).
Figure 7 shows the number of patients in ICU, by day and intubation status.

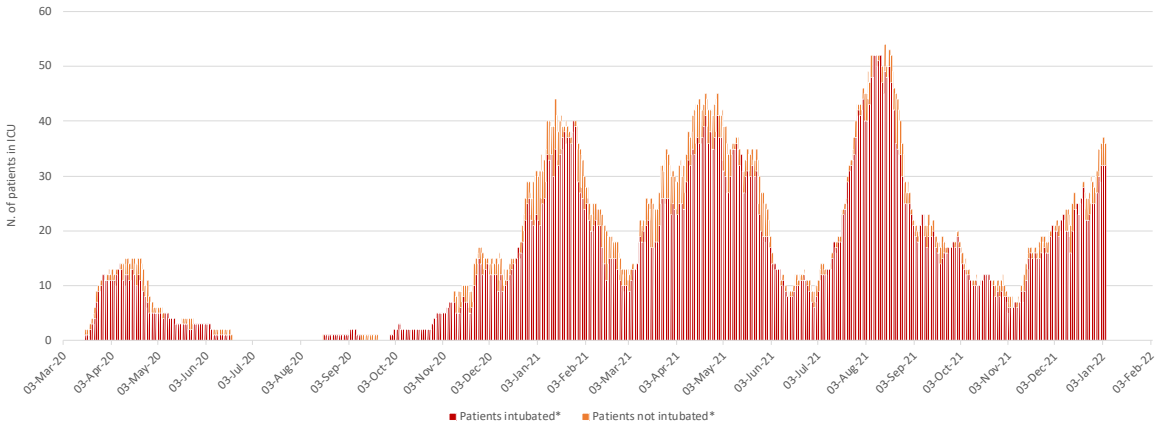

Figure 7: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in ICU by date and intubation.
**Date of discharge/transfer/death included*
Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases recently admitted in ICU or intubated could have not been notified/recorded.

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Recovered/released

As of January 3rd, 2022, among cases alive, 85.6% (n = 147,448) of COVID-19 cases have recovered/released from isolation[5,6,7].

[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.

[7] Since 4th August 2021: Asymptomatic individuals are discharged from self-isolation 10 days after testing positive for SARS-CoV-2. Individuals with mild/moderate symptoms are discharged from self-isolation 10 days after the onset of symptoms, provided that the patient has no fever for at least 3 days (without use of antipyretics) and has improvement of all other symptoms.

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.

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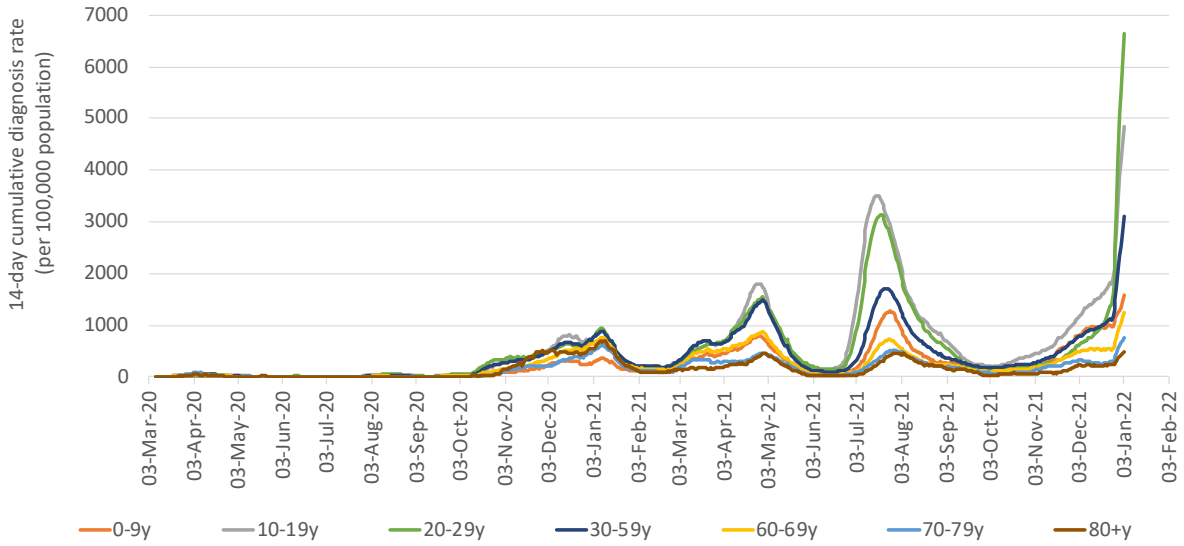
Appendix

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



1574.4	4843.6	6635.7	3092.1	1234.7	753.0	471.6

January 3rd, 2022

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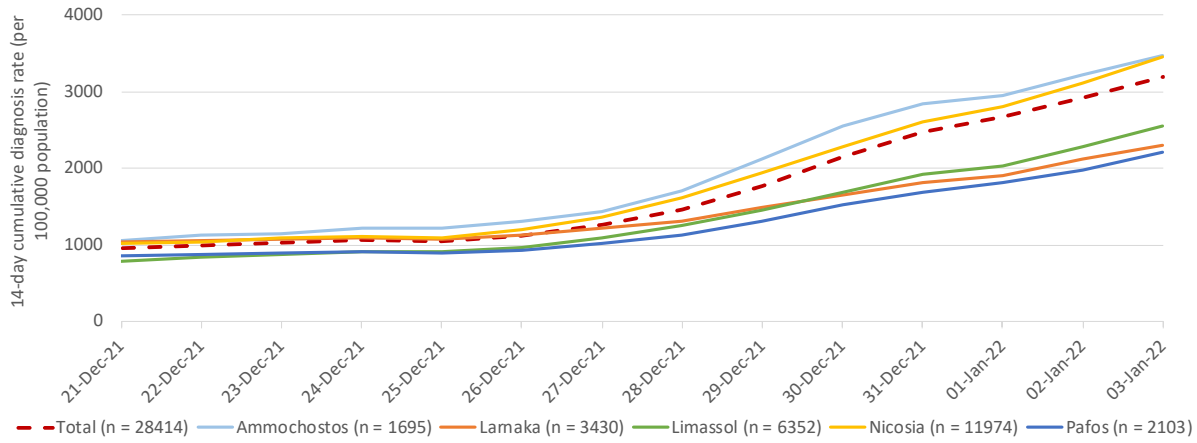
Figure A2: 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by district for the last 14 days.



3199.8	3466.3	2302.0	2558.2	3456.7	2204.4

January 3rd, 2022