



Collective Prevention Services

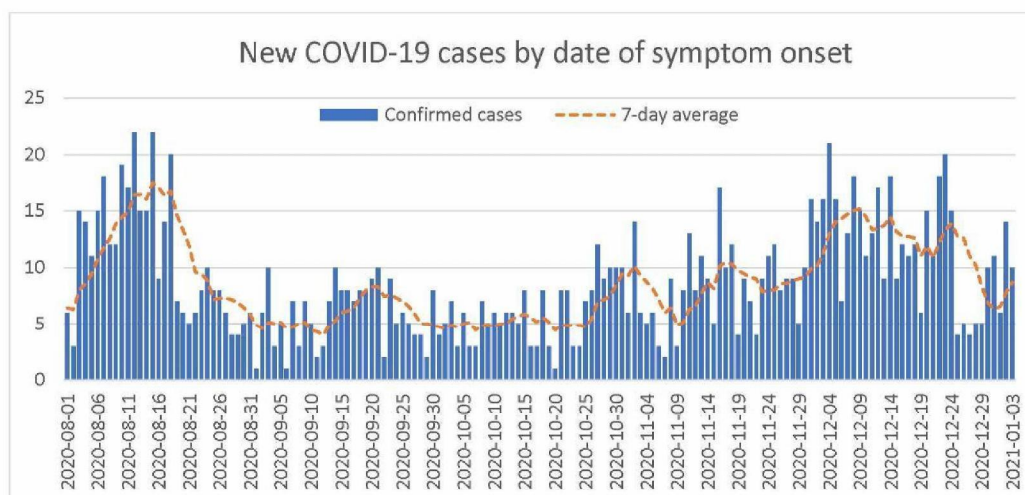
COVID-19 Response Overview

Monday January 11th, 2021

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19

As of Monday January 11th, 2021 at noon, CPS has registered a total of **1,555** confirmed COVID-19 cases. Sint Maarten is seeing on average around **10 to 15 new cases per day**. The reduced number of new cases over the last two weeks is likely an artifact of people not coming forward for testing during this period. CPS expects to see a new increase in cases in one to two weeks' time due to the holiday festivities.

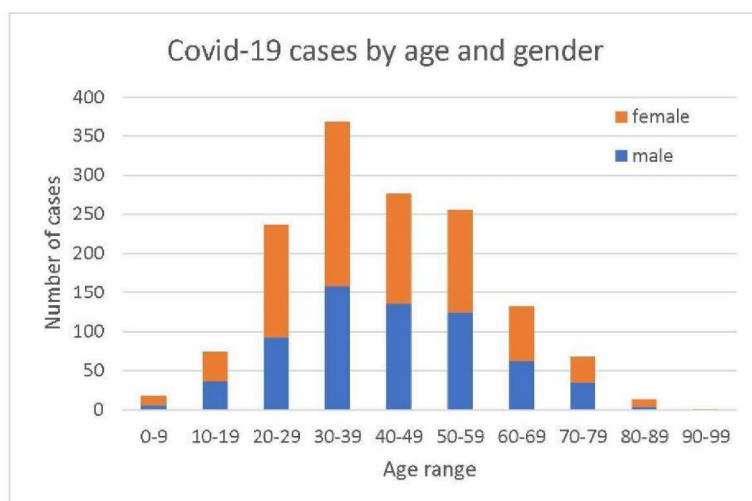
Figure 1. Trend of COVID-19 cases from August 1, 2020 onwards



Demographics of COVID-19

Sint Maarten's COVID-19 cases occur across all age groups with the majority being between 20 and 59 years of age (Figure 3). More females (55%) than males (45%) have contracted COVID-19.

Figure 3. Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases from July 1, 2020 onwards





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Schools

CPS has identified several schools where persons have been classified as confirmed or a close contact of a case and as a result these persons have been instructed to isolate or quarantine. This information is promptly shared with the Ministry ECYS' Division of Inspection.

Since October 2020, there have been **47 Covid-19 positive cases** across 16 schools. Of these, 31 cases were among school-going students aged 0-18 years and 16 cases were among school staff. The source of infection is usually someone in their household. To date, CPS has found no transmission of COVID-19 between school-going students, from school-going students to school staff members or vice versa. No clusters of cases have been identified in schools.

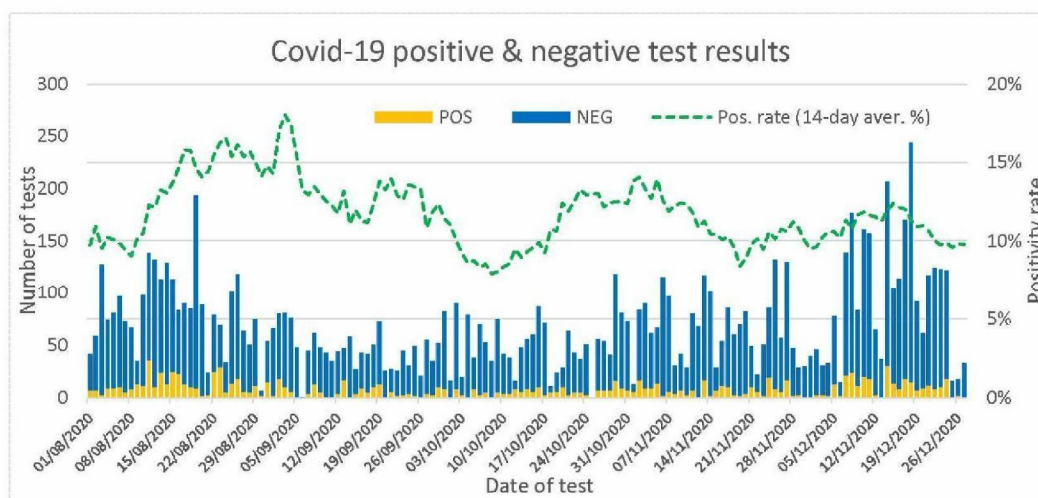
Positivity rate

Since July 1st, 2020 to date, a total of **11,535 Covid-19 PCR tests** have been conducted for the local community on Sint Maarten by two laboratories (Figure 5). Test throughput has increased in the month December from on average around 60 tests per day to 120 tests per day. The positivity rate fluctuates around 10% (green line).

Sint Maarten routinely tests symptomatic adults and children. From mid-November 2020, CPS started to test close contacts with PCR at Day 10 of their quarantine period.

As of January 8, 2021, if close contacts are PCR negative at Day 10, they are released from quarantine at Day 10 instead of Day 14.

Figure 5. Number of tests and trend in positivity rate from August 1, 2020 onwards



COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing

CPS has started the implementation of rapid antigen tests for qualitative detection of COVID-19. On December 22, 2020, a first pilot was conducted to assess logistics of offering people the rapid antigen test at CPS' testing drive-through at Point Blanche. In the next phase, the performance of the rapid



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antigen test will be validated by running the test side by side with a PCR test, the gold standard, on at least 600 people.

Starting on January 11, 2021, anyone with COVID-19 related symptoms or who has been in close contact with a known COVID-19 case is invited to come to the test drive-through without the need for an appointment. People who consent will be tested with both PCR and the rapid antigen test. Until the results of the validation study are complete, people will still be contacted by CPS with their PCR result.

COVID-19 Vaccination

CPS and the Department of Public Health have been preparing for the COVID-19 vaccine. Based on meetings held with the Ministry VWS, it is estimated that St. Maarten will receive vaccines starting in mid-February.

The RIVM will be planning a visit to St. Maarten during the week of January 18 to discuss vaccine storage, cold chain management and training. In the interim, CPS and Public Health are in the process of finalizing the COVID-19 Implementation Plan which includes human resource needs to administer the vaccination among the population.

In addition, an advice was sent forward outlining priority groups to receive initial vaccines. Once this priority group has been confirmed, CPS and Public Health will continue to work with media partners to develop key public messaging.