



Collective Prevention Services

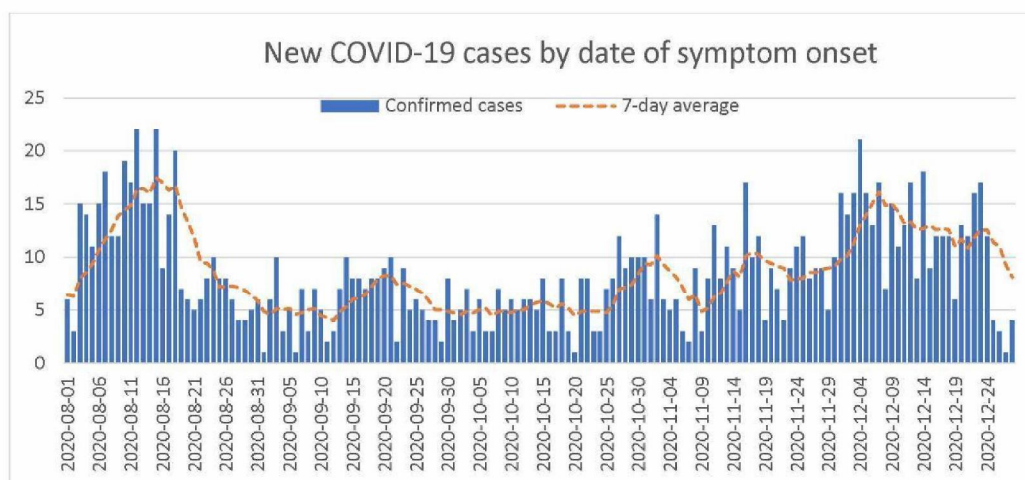
COVID-19 Response Overview

Monday January 4th, 2021

Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19

As of Monday January 4th, 2021, CPS has registered a total of **1,462** confirmed COVID-19 cases. Sint Maarten is seeing on average around **10 to 15 new cases per day**. The increasing trend in cases that started at the beginning of December seems to have reversed, however is not yet back to the long-term average of 5 new cases per day. Also, the reduced number of new cases over the last few days could be a result of a backlog from the holidays. CPS expects to see a new increase in cases in one to two weeks time due to the holiday festivities.

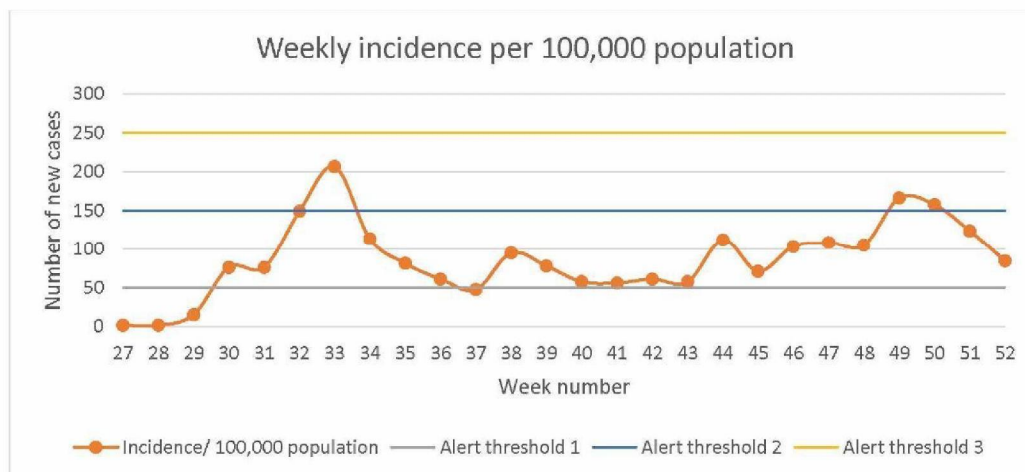
Figure 1. Trend of COVID-19 cases from August 1, 2020 onwards



COVID-19 Incidence

After a peak in cases in August (week 33), the incidence of Covid-19 on Sint Maarten has fluctuated around 50-100 new cases per 100,000 population per week (Figure 2). These numbers are based on an estimated total population of 59,000 people.

Figure 2. Weekly COVID-19 incidence from August 1, 2020 onwards





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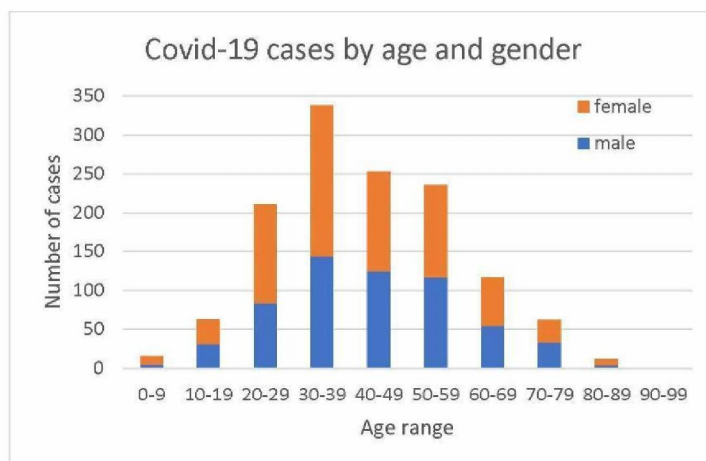
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Demographics of COVID-19

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 (56%) than males (44%) have contracted COVID-19. Children are routinely tested by CPS with parental approval.

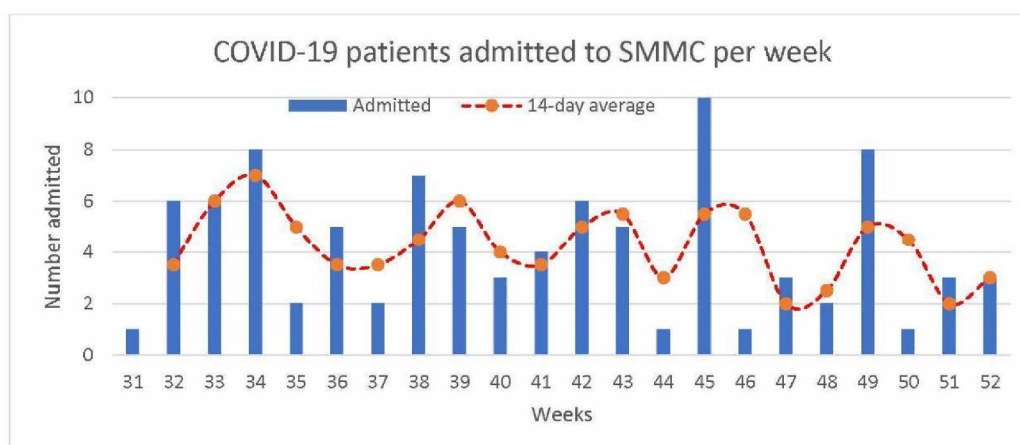
Figure 3. Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases from July 1, 2020 onwards



Hospitalizations and Deaths

From July 1st, 2020 to date, a total of **93** COVID-19 patients have been admitted to the Sint Maarten Medical Center (SMMC). The number of new admissions is still stable with around **2 to 6 patients per week** (Figure 4). The hospital currently has a total of 22 beds for COVID-19 patients of which 12 are ICU beds. Around 40% of hospitalised people need a respirator. Patients are usually discharged from the hospital within one week. Since July 1st, **12 persons have died** from COVID-19 related illness (6 males; 6 females; aged between 41-92 years). All of them had underlying conditions.

Figure 4. Trend of hospitalized COVID-19 patients from July 1, 2020 onwards





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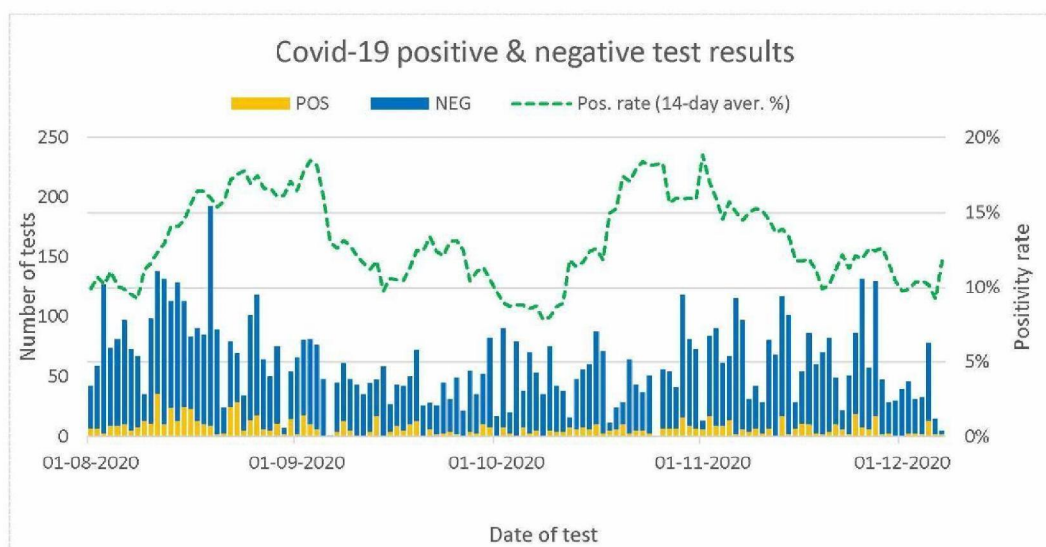
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Positivity rate

Since July 1st, 2020 to date, a total of **10,242 Covid-19 PCR tests** have been conducted for the local community on Sint Maarten by two laboratories (Figure 5). This number is exclusive of tests conducted for incoming travellers at the airport and harbour. The number of daily tests that is performed fluctuates around 50-100 per day. Maximum total test capacity is up to 200 PCR tests per day. The positivity rate fluctuates between 10-15% (green line).

Sint Maarten routinely tests symptomatic adults and children. From mid-November 2020, Sint Maarten also tests all close contacts with PCR regardless of their symptoms. As usual, symptomatic close contacts will be tested immediately when they develop symptoms. In addition, asymptomatic close contacts are tested at Day 10 of their quarantine period. Preliminary data shows that around 10% of asymptomatic close contacts test positive at Day 10.

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



COVID-19 Vaccines for Sint Maarten

The Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) is expected to receive a first batch of COVID-19 vaccines through EU bulk procurement in early 2021. VWS will make a tranche of these vaccines, including materials for logistics and administration, available for the Caribbean Islands including Sint Maarten. VWS and therefore Sint Maarten are expected to receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. It is not yet known how many vaccines Sint Maarten will receive.

VSA and CPS co-chaired the first multidisciplinary working group meeting on December 8, 2020. The outcomes of this meeting contributed to further development of the Implementation Plan for Sint Maarten's COVID-19 vaccination programme. Topic-specific working groups have been set up around vaccine legislation and procurement, logistics, delivery, communication, and registration and surveillance with members from VSA, CPS and external groups. These groups will meet regularly to finalize and operationalize the implementation plans over the coming weeks.