

Saint Lucia COVID-19 Data Summary & Analysis (January 31 2021)

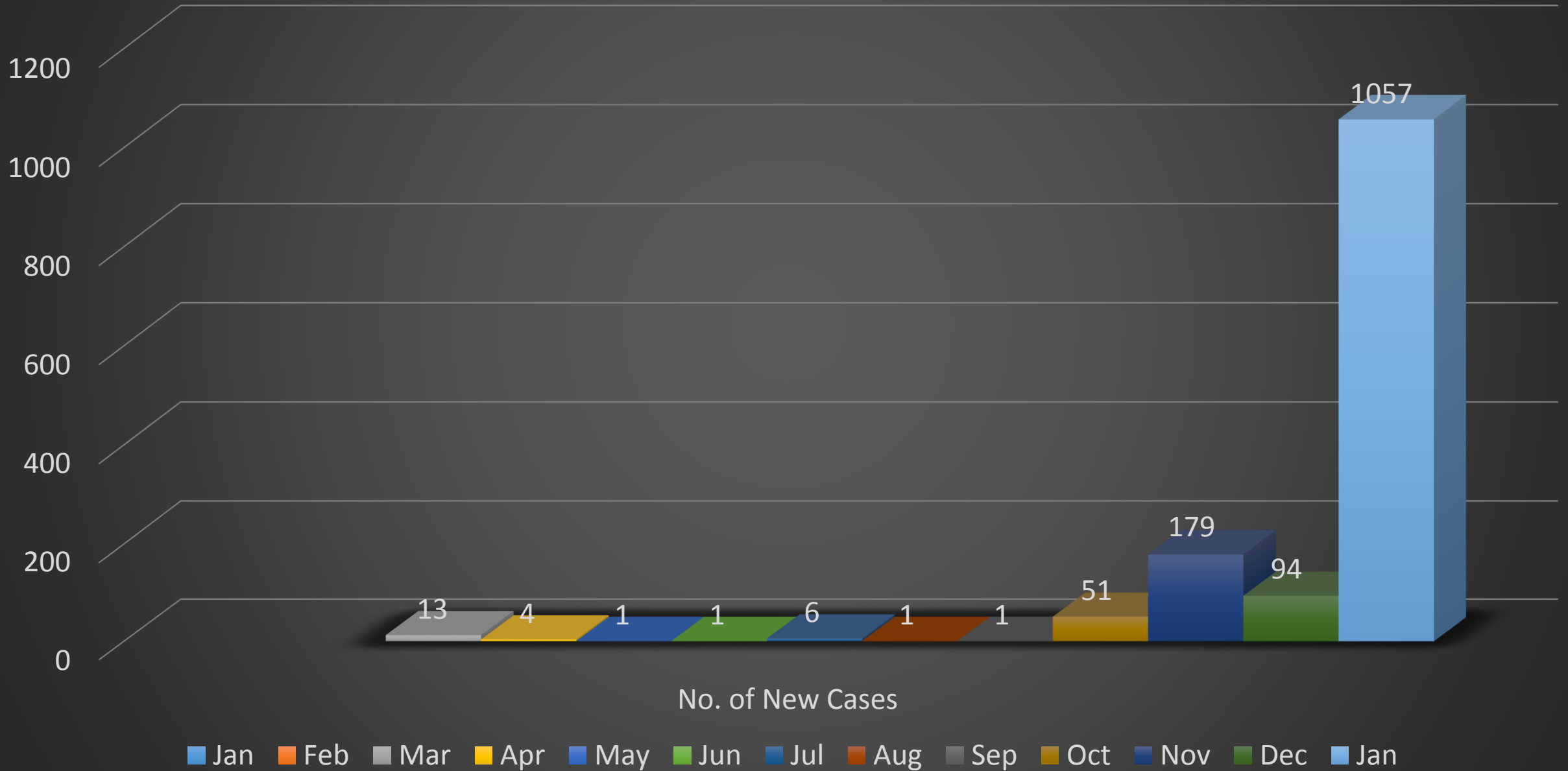
Prepared by Calixte George Jr.

Note: This is not an official document. It was compiled independently of health authorities but utilises published press releases and the COVID-19 Response website of the Department of Health & Wellness, as well as comparative country data from Worldometer.

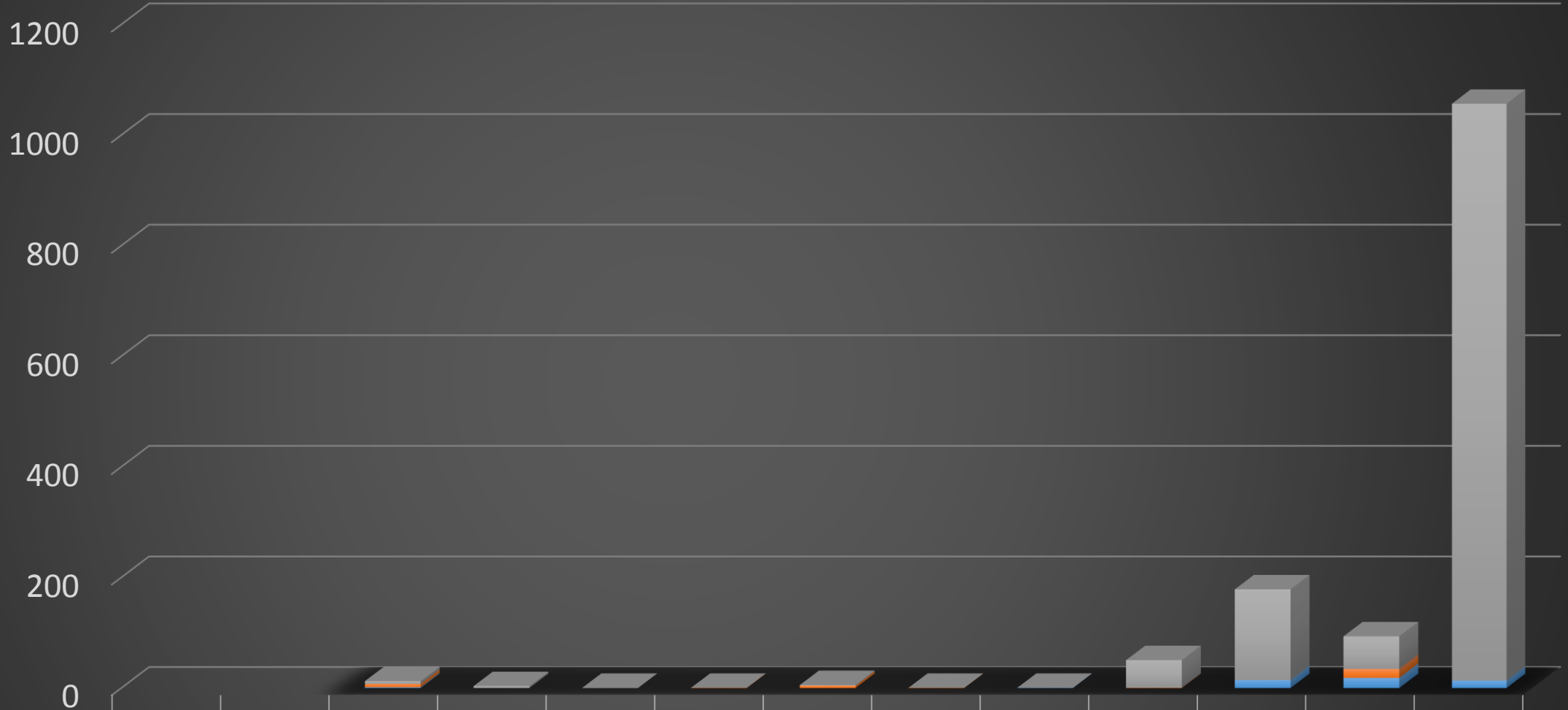
SNAPSHOT (as at January 31, 2021).

- Total Confirmed Cases: 1,411
- Total New Cases for Month of January: 1,057
- Total Active Cases: 769
- Active Cases as % of Total Cases: 73%
- Total Recoveries: 627
- Total COVID-19 Related Deaths: 15
- Case Fatality Rate: 1.1%
- Total Tests (from COVID-19 Dashboard): 23,599
- Total Imported Cases: 53
- % Female: 54%

Saint Lucia COVID-19 Confirmed Positive Cases by Month, Mar 2020 - Jan 2021.



COVID-19 Confirmed Cases in Saint Lucia by Month, Jan 2020 to Jan 2021

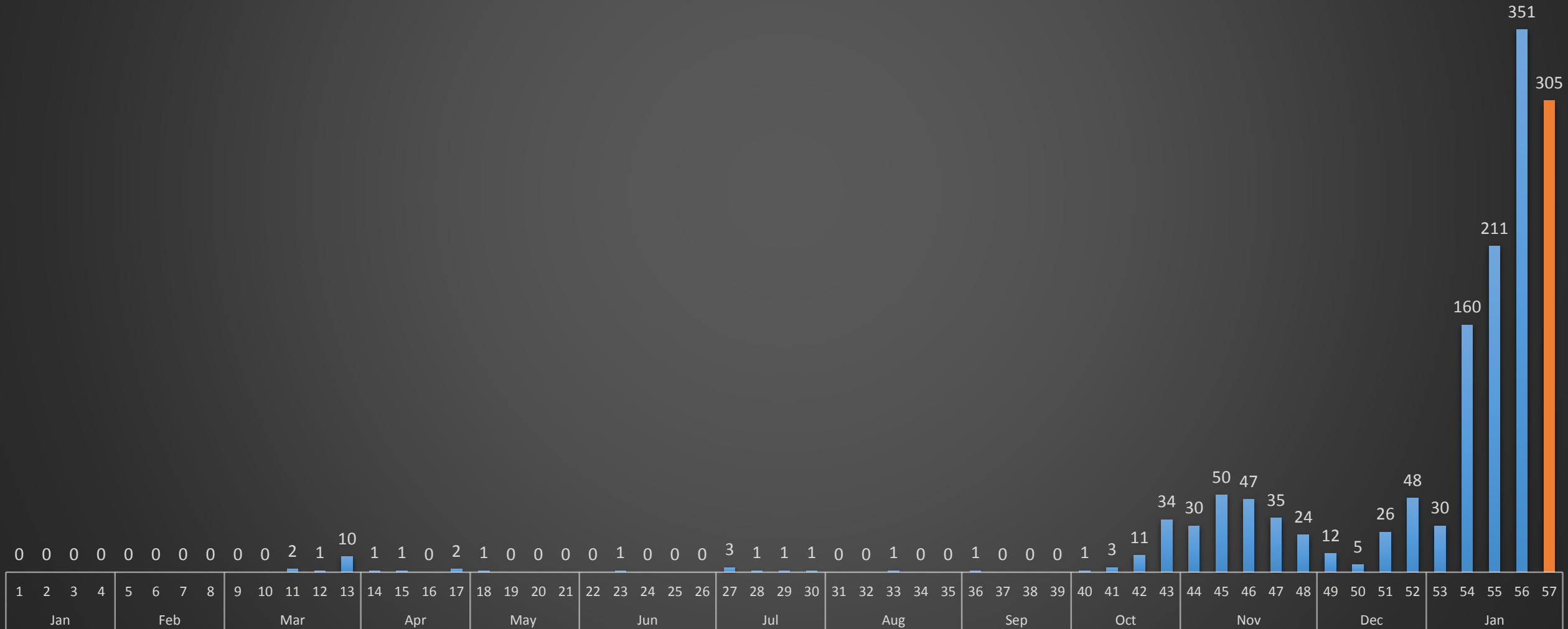


Resident			5	4	1	0	1	0	0	50	164	59	1043
Returning National			6	0	0	1	5	1	0	1	0	16	0
Visitor			2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	15	19	14

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Resident			5	4	1	0	1	0	0	50	164	59	1043
Returning National			6	0	0	1	5	1	0	1	0	16	0
Visitor			2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	15	19	14

Saint Lucia Weekly New COVID-19 Cases, Jan 2020 - Jan 2021

Current Week (orange bar) is No 57 (Fri Jan 29 - Thu Feb 4). As such, only 3 days have transpired for the week, accounting for 305 new cases.



COMPARING THE SECOND & THIRD WAVES...

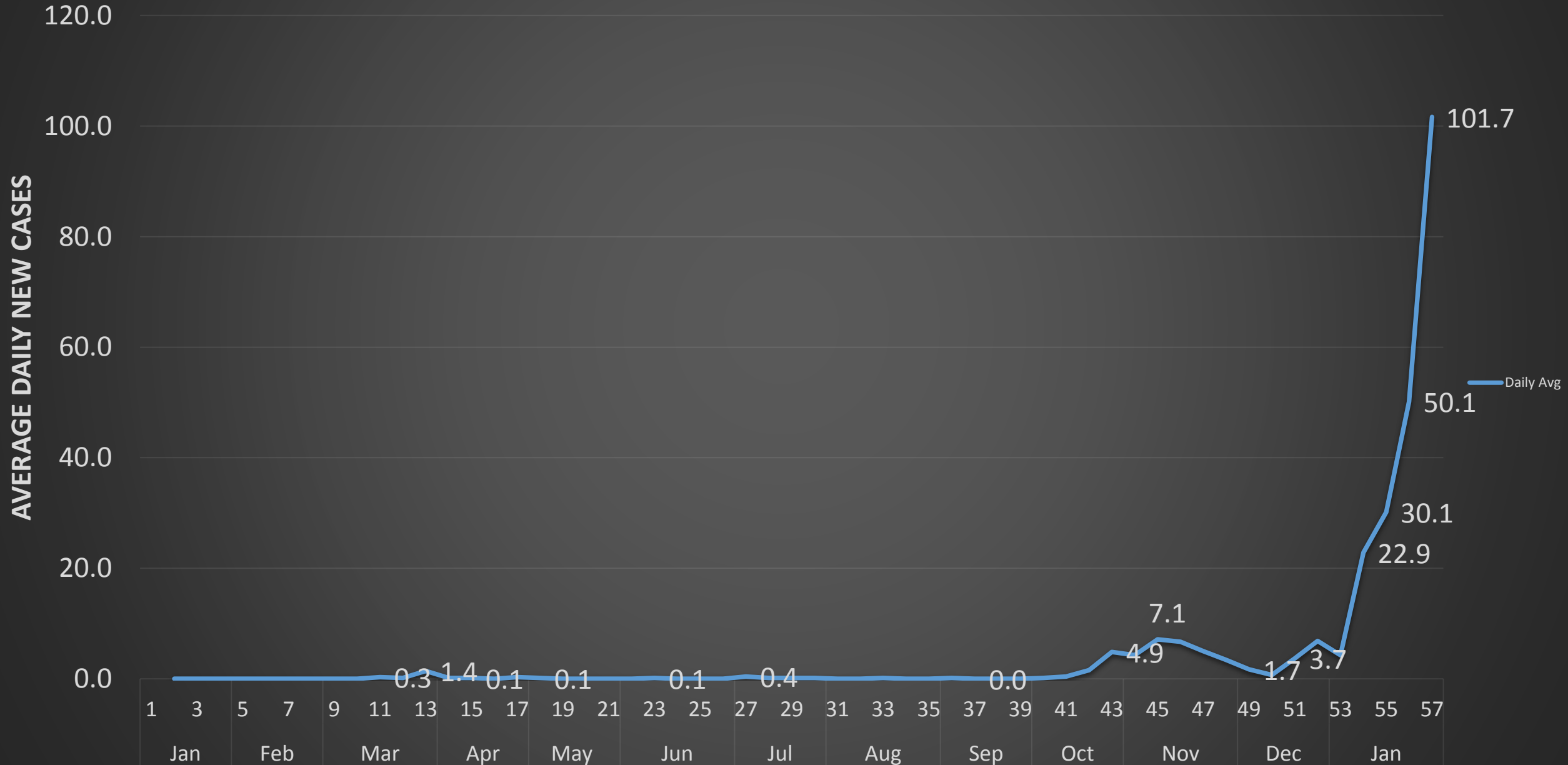
- Current wave is a tsunami in comparison to the Oct/Nov. wave.
- Highest number of new cases per week (the peak) during the “2nd Wave” was 50 (Fri 6 – Thu 12 Nov) or 7 new cases per day.
- If we consider weeks with 10+ cases per week to be part the wave, the 2nd wave lasted 8 weeks (16 Oct – 10 Dec)
- By week 50 (Dec 11-17) there were just 5 new cases.
- Current 3rd wave has been picking up speed throughout the month of January (see table).
- By the second week of January, it was already 3 times the peak rate of the 2nd wave. It is now rising 15 times as fast, without a peak in sight.
- Measures applied in 2nd Wave will be insufficient to slow the rate of spread.
- Also, as predicted, measures in place since Jan 22 and extended to February 3rd will be insufficient as well. In fact current rate of increase is now more than 3 times the rate prior to the implementation of measures.

Week	Start	End	New Cases in Week	Avg. Daily New Cases
53	01 January 2021	07 January 2021	30	4
54	08 January 2021	14 January 2021	160	23
55	15 January 2021	21 January 2021	211	30
56	22 January 2021	28 January 2021	351	50
57*	January 29 2021	31 January 2021	305	102

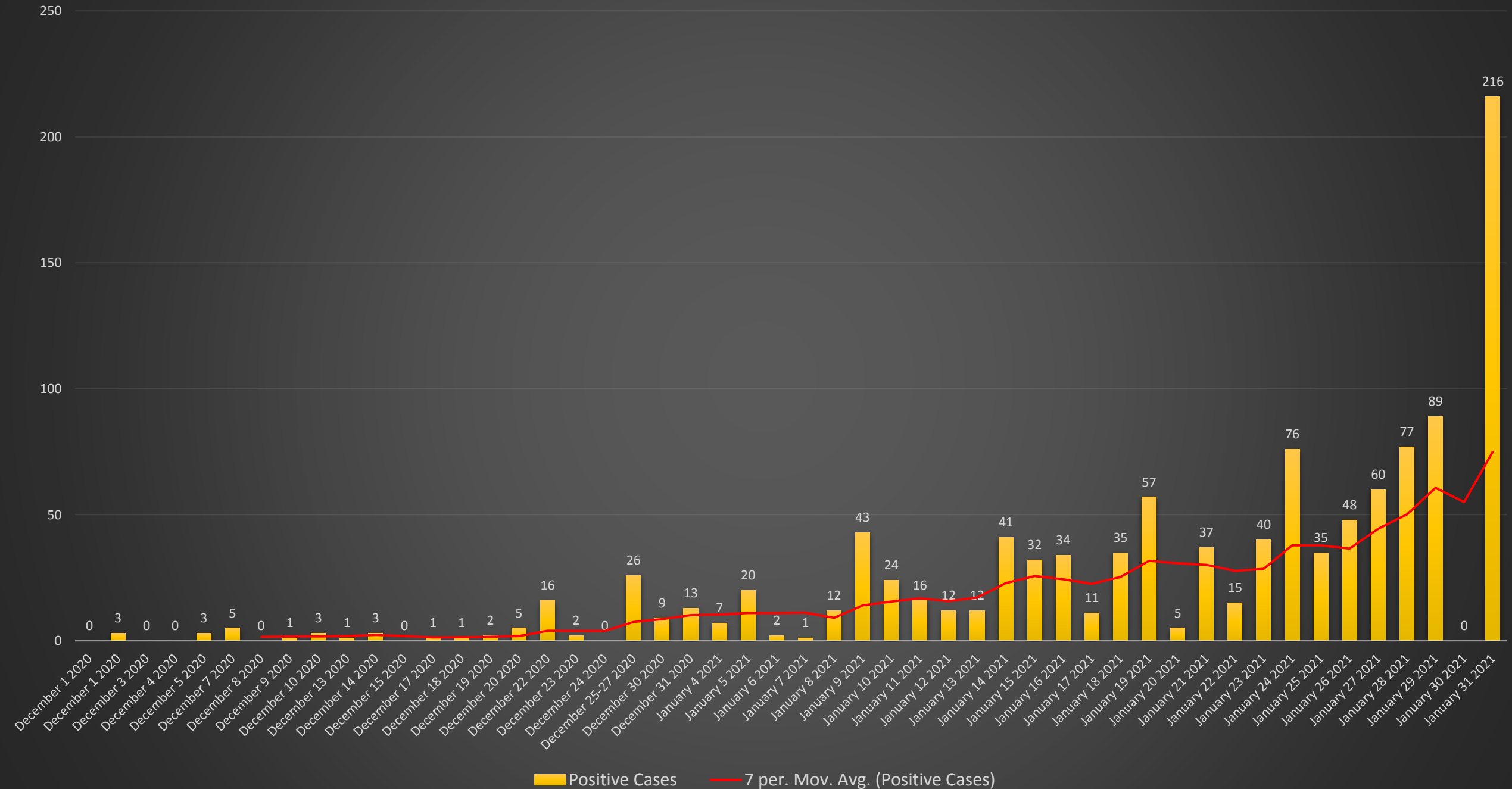
WHY IS THE 3rd WAVE SO POWERFUL?

- 3rd Wave suggests **multiple** imported sources. However, no epidemiological data has been published.
- We saw a massive rise in arrivals including visitors. The Prime Minister stated that December saw 45% of 2019 visitor arrivals, equivalent to approx. 17,000.
- Protocols were eased for Christmas at a time of heightened risks due to the importation of cases.
- Electronic monitoring was still not in place for returning nationals who were cleared for home quarantine, thereby making the island susceptible to breaches.
- Health authorities confirmed through testing by CARPHA/UWI the presence of the UK Variant B117.
- 5 cases were identified (2 UK Nationals who entered the island on Dec 17 and Dec 22) and 3 Saint Lucians from Babonneau, Dennery and Micoud. This clearly indicates community spread of the variant.
- The new variant is estimated to be over 50% more infectious, and possibly more deadly.
- It appears that clusters grew without quicker action to shut down properties and avert spread.

Average Daily New Cases by Week from Jan 2020 to Week of Jan 29 to Feb 4 2021.



Daily Confirmed Positive Cases Dec 1 2020 - January 31 2021

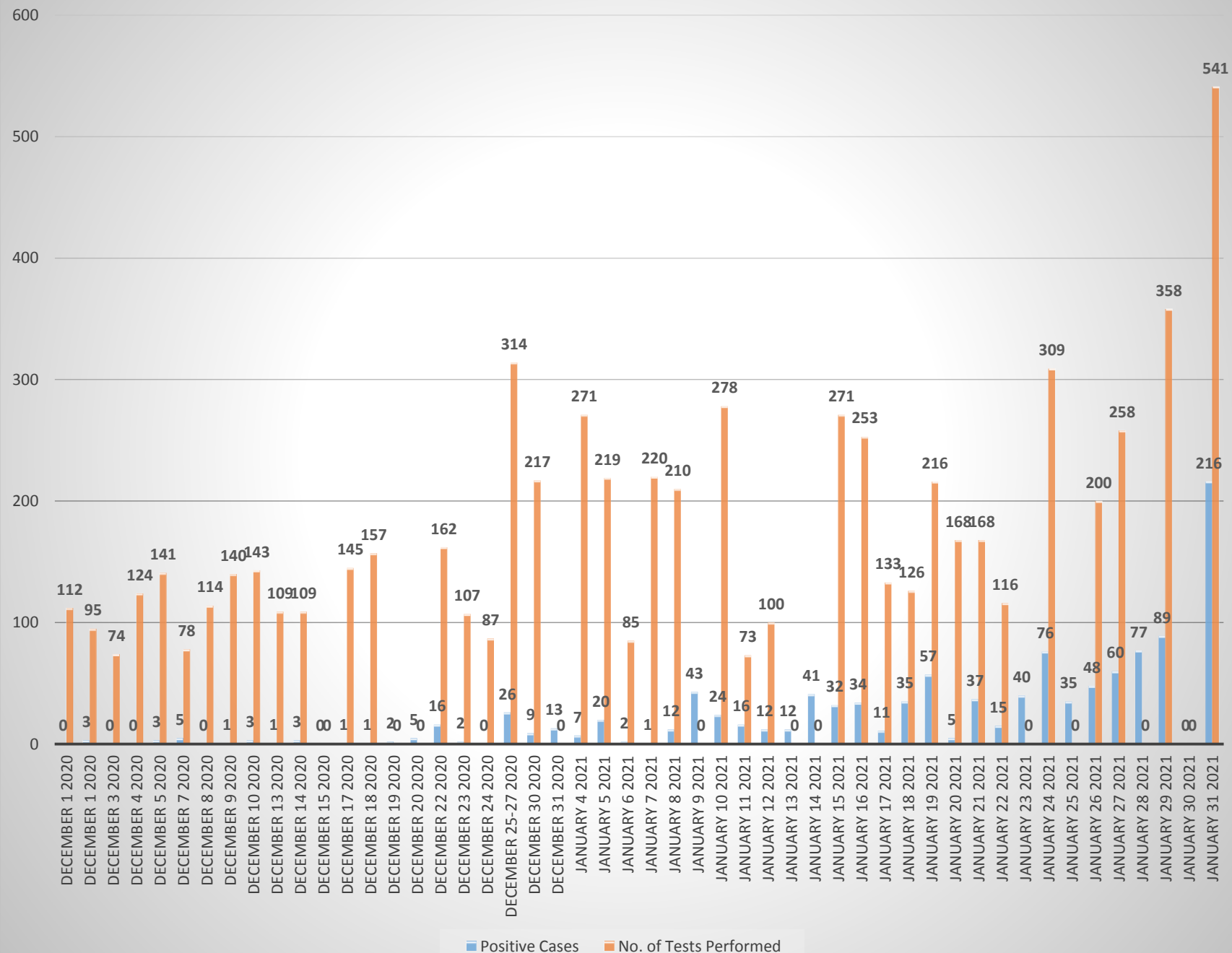


TESTING RATE...

January Testing Data

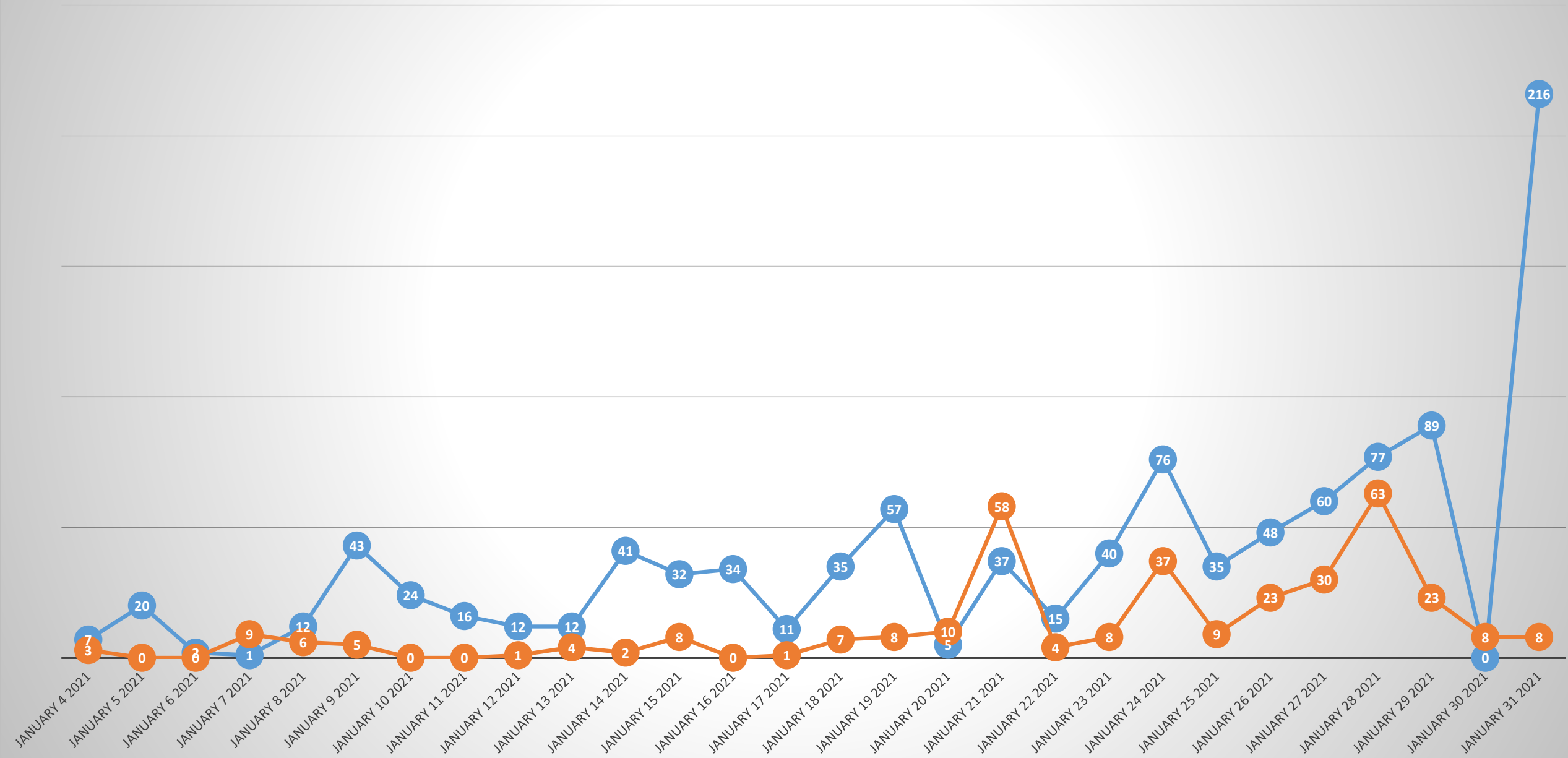
- 6 of 26 press releases had no testing data...
- Approximately 4,750 tests performed for January.
- Average of 153 tests per day performed for January.
- In last two weeks, testing has stepped up to about 250 tests/day.
- Stated testing capacity is 300 tests/day.
- Timely testing remains a major limiting factor in the ability to contain spread.
- For January, about 1 in 5 tests (18%) came back positive; for the past 2-weeks, 1 in 4 (26%); and within the last 7-days 1 in 3 (30%).

Tests Sampled vs. Positives Confirmed, Dec-Jan 28 2021

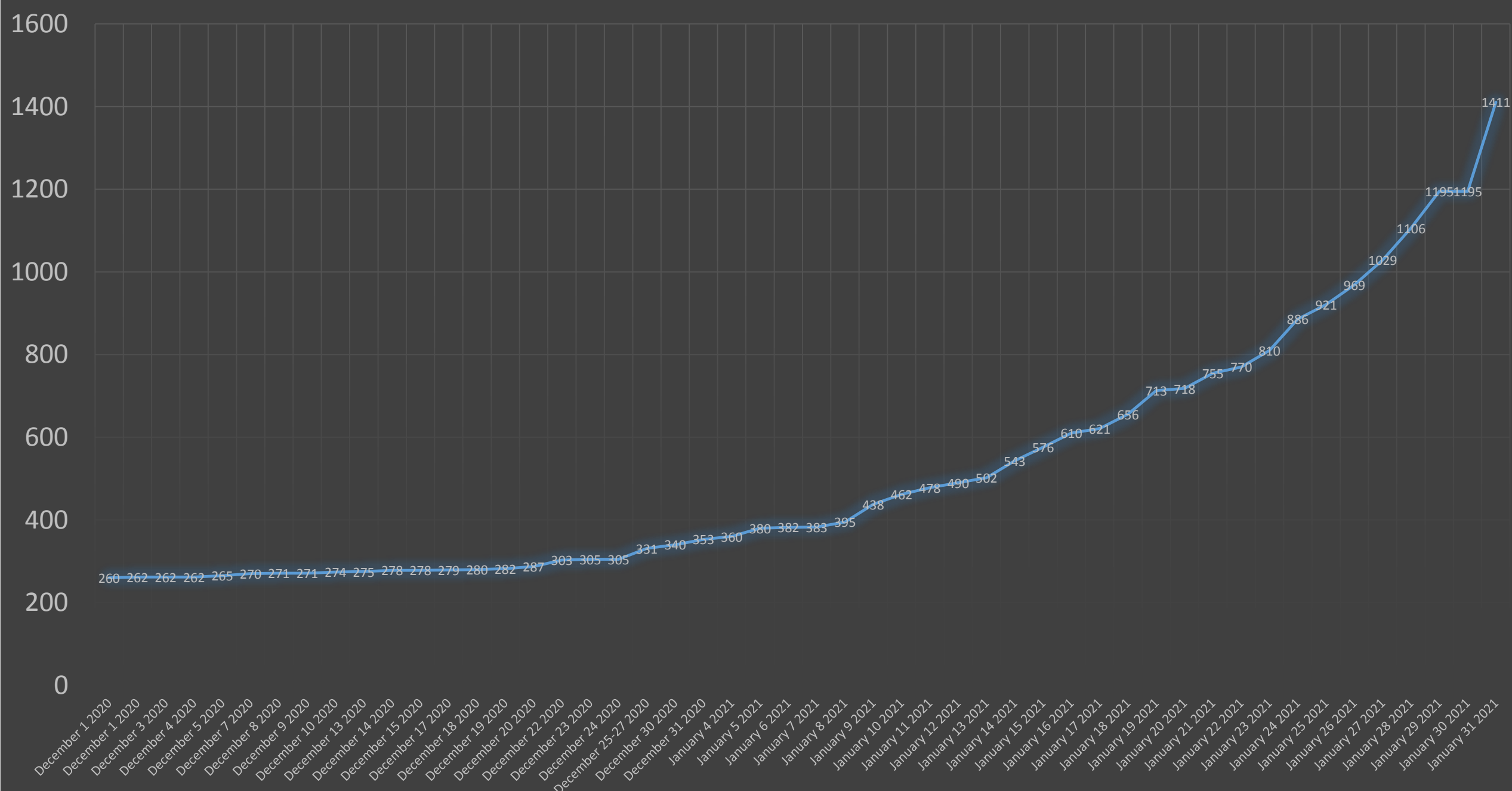


COVID-19 Daily New Cases & Recoveries, January 2021

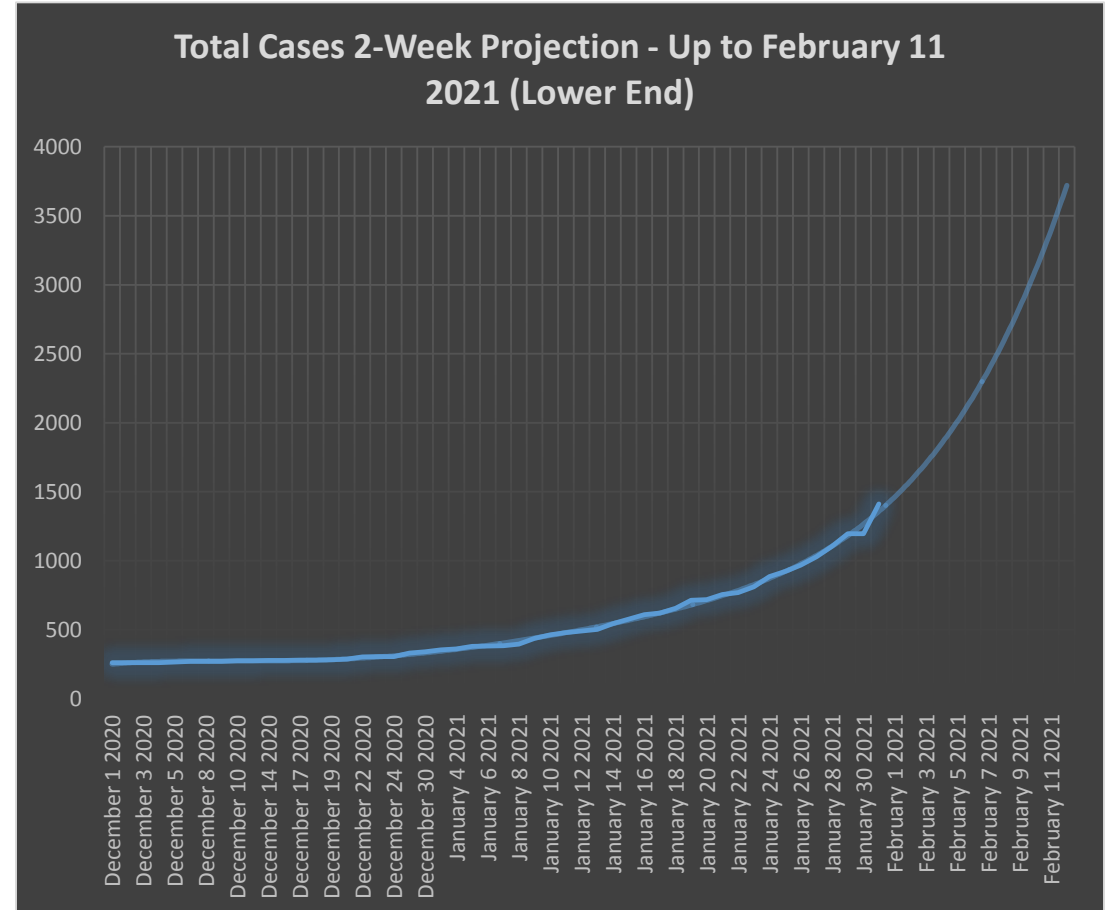
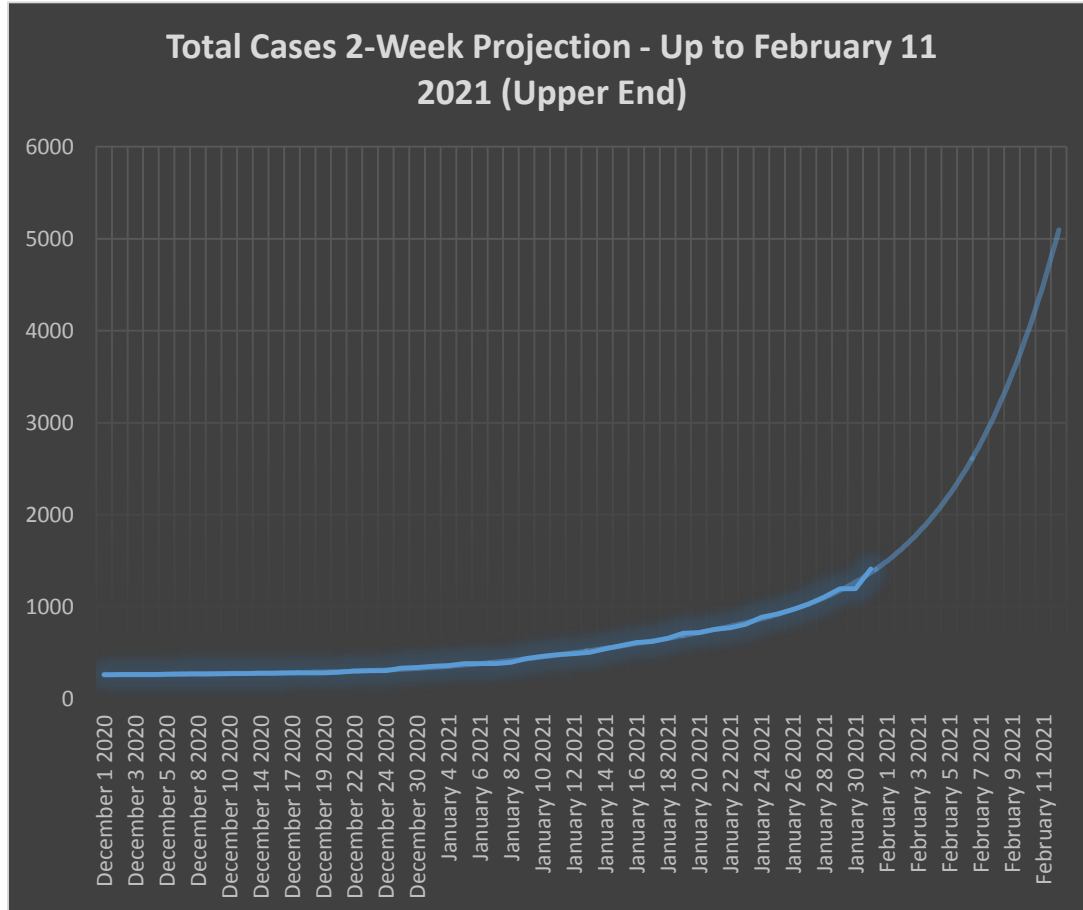
● New Cases ● Recoveries



Total Cases Dec 2020 - Jan 2021

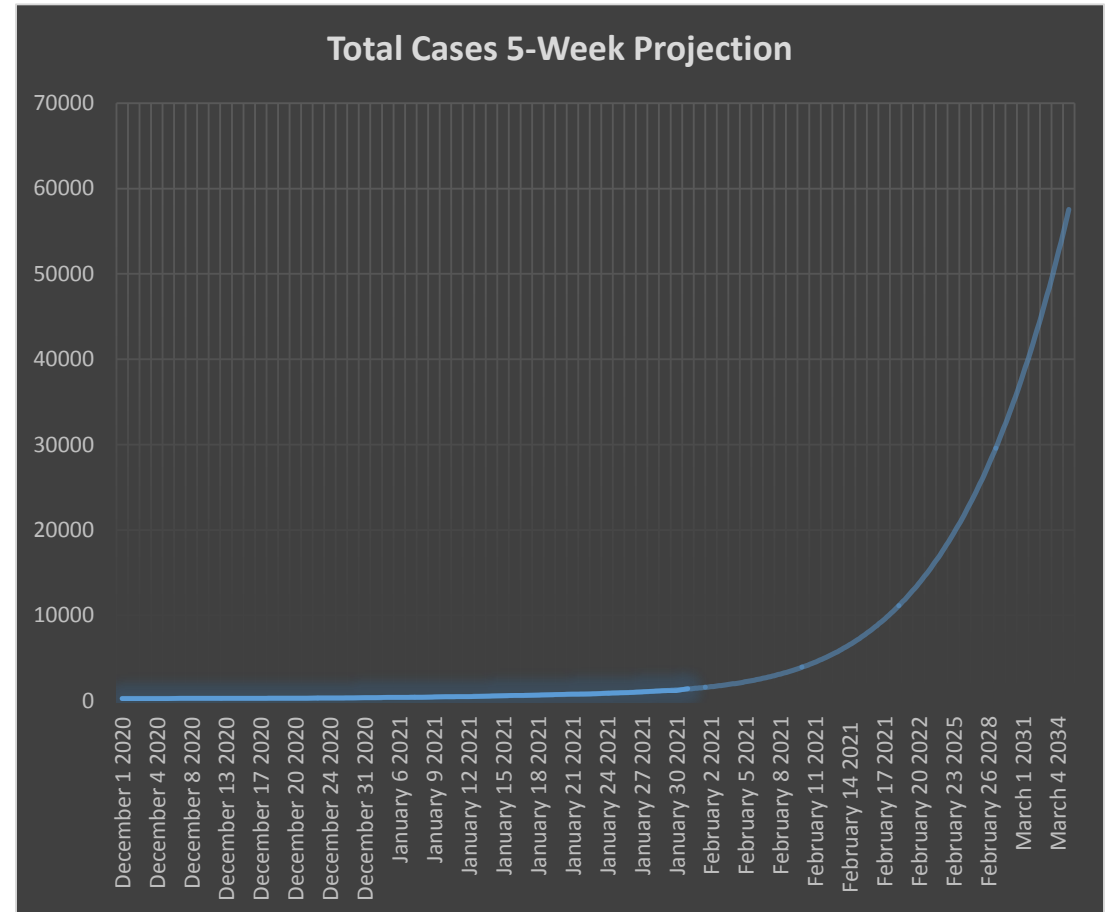


2-Week Total Case Projection: 3,700-5,100 cases by February 11



WORST CASE OUTCOME (WITHOUT NEW MEASURES)...

- Current trajectory **could** mean that:
 - Within 5 weeks, 55,000 or 30% of the total population would be infected.
 - Deaths would continue to rise to potentially 550, lagging behind by approximately 10 days.
 - Testing would never capture this. If we testing at current capacity with all tests returned positive, we still would only be able to capture 18,000 cases (1/3 of total).



WHY ARE CURRENT MEASURES INADEQUATE?

Measures have been inadequate to reduce R0 to less than 1 (R<1)

- Current measures appeared not to target high risk workplace clusters, in fact keeping them open without any change of protocols.
- Partial shutdown still always about ¾ of the workforce on the job. These included tourism, construction, manufacturing, ICT/BPO, finance, professional sectors.
- Sectors impacted were local restaurants/bars, shops, stores and retail outlets.
- Stores and retail would already have had low foot traffic due to seasonal slump in January.
- There have been no changes to testing/quarantine requirements for entry to island.
- Testing has not been able to ramp up and respond to the rise, thereby causing more persons to be uncertain as to their status.
- People are fearful of being isolated due to perceived quality of care at the respiratory facility and may only seek medical attention when it is too late.
- One possible positive aspect of rise might be more voluntary restriction of movement.

Basic Reproductive Rate R0 estimated at 1.5 using time to double method...

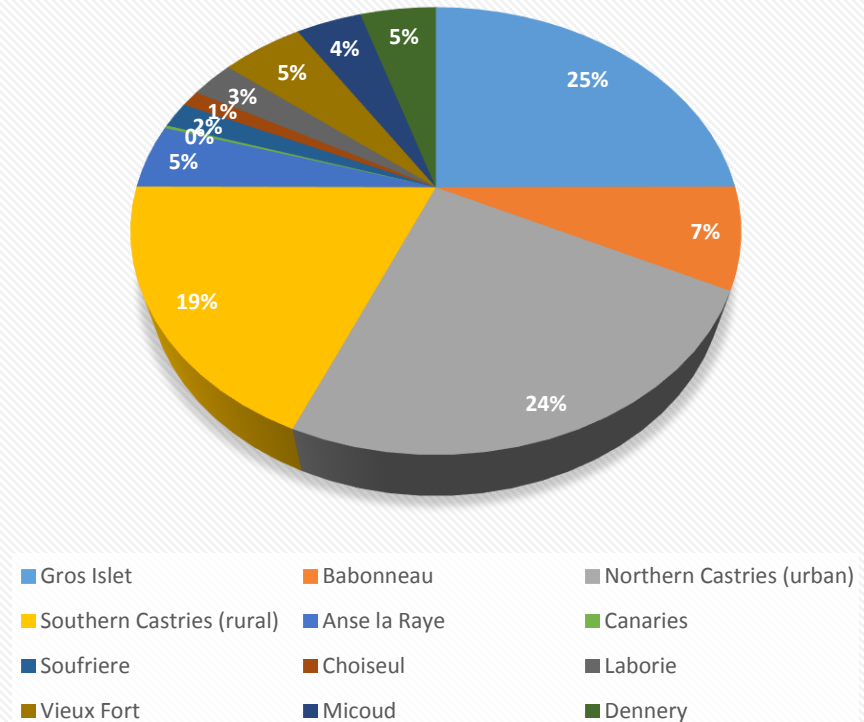
Date	Total Cases	New Cases	No. of Days	K	t	R0
December 18 2020	280					
January 5 2021	380	100	18	0.039	5	1.2
January 15 2021	580	200	10	0.069	5	1.4
January 26 2021	980	400	11	0.063	5	1.4
February 3 2021	1780	800	8	0.087	5	1.5

- New measures are required to reduce R0. These might include:
 - 2 week strict shutdown followed by 4 week partial shutdown.
 - Widespread community testing using rapid antigen tests to pick up symptomatic persons
 - Screening testing for all essential services to reduce spread.
 - Change in quarantine for international travellers (incl. enhanced testing).

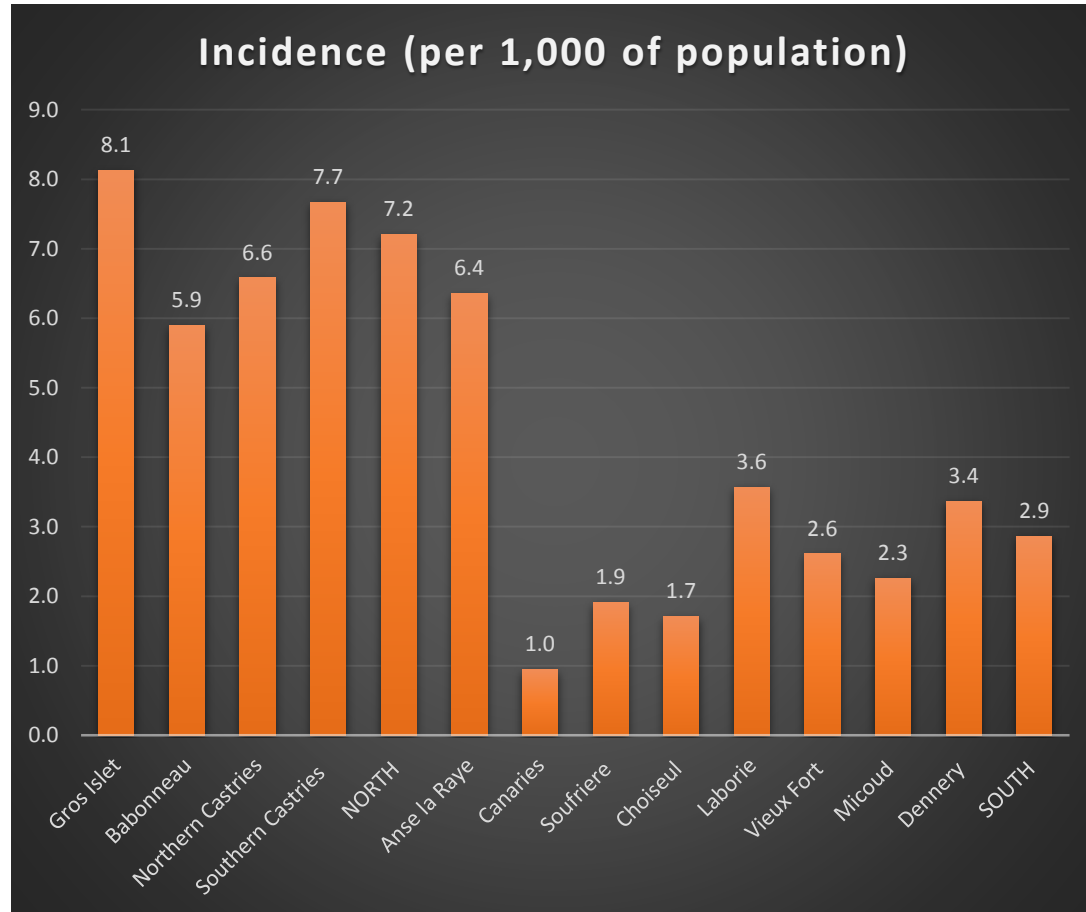
COVID-19 Website Geo-data has not yet been updated for January 31st 2021.

- However, between January 20-28, 80% of all new cases were in the north (Gros Islet, Babonneau & Castries).
- Gros Islet contributed to 30% of all new cases during that period.
- Further data needs to be provided included more granular community-level breakdown of cases.

Chart Showing Percentage of Cases by District, as at January 27 2021



Gros Islet has the highest incidence...



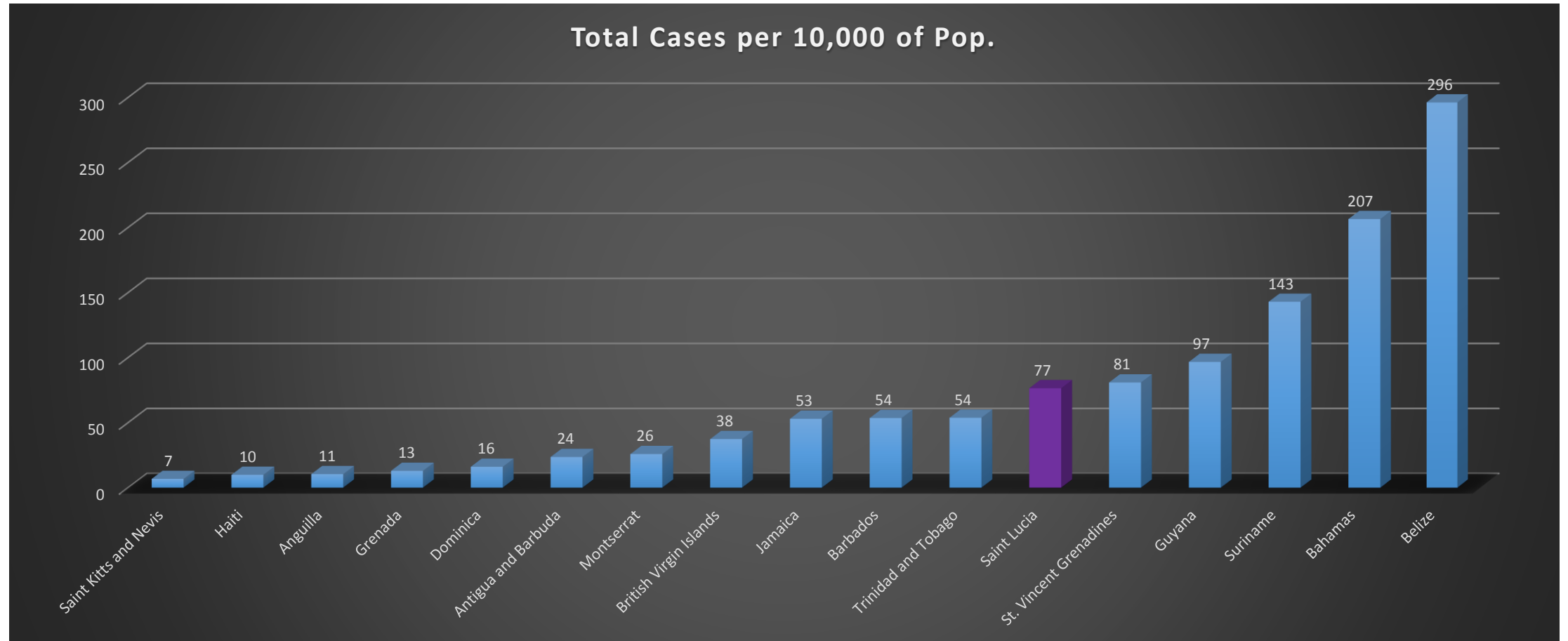
- High incidence in the north could be due to the following:
 - Higher population density (more urbanised areas).
 - Proximity to sources/local epicentres of spread (e.g. hotels)
 - Greater levels of testing in those areas due to easier access to health facilities.

Need for greater information on clusters and points of infection data...

- Authorities need to provide data on where and how spread might be occurring (workplaces, home, transport, public places, etc)
- There has been a refusal to provide such data even though in most countries it is made available.
- Largest known/confirmed spread to date has been the Royalton Hotel, largest hotel property on island, at which there were at least 60 confirmed cases and 1 death, prior to property closing.
- High risk areas are likely to be places with high-risk persons, large staff counts, indoor use:
 - Large hotels
 - Residential institutions
 - Call Centres

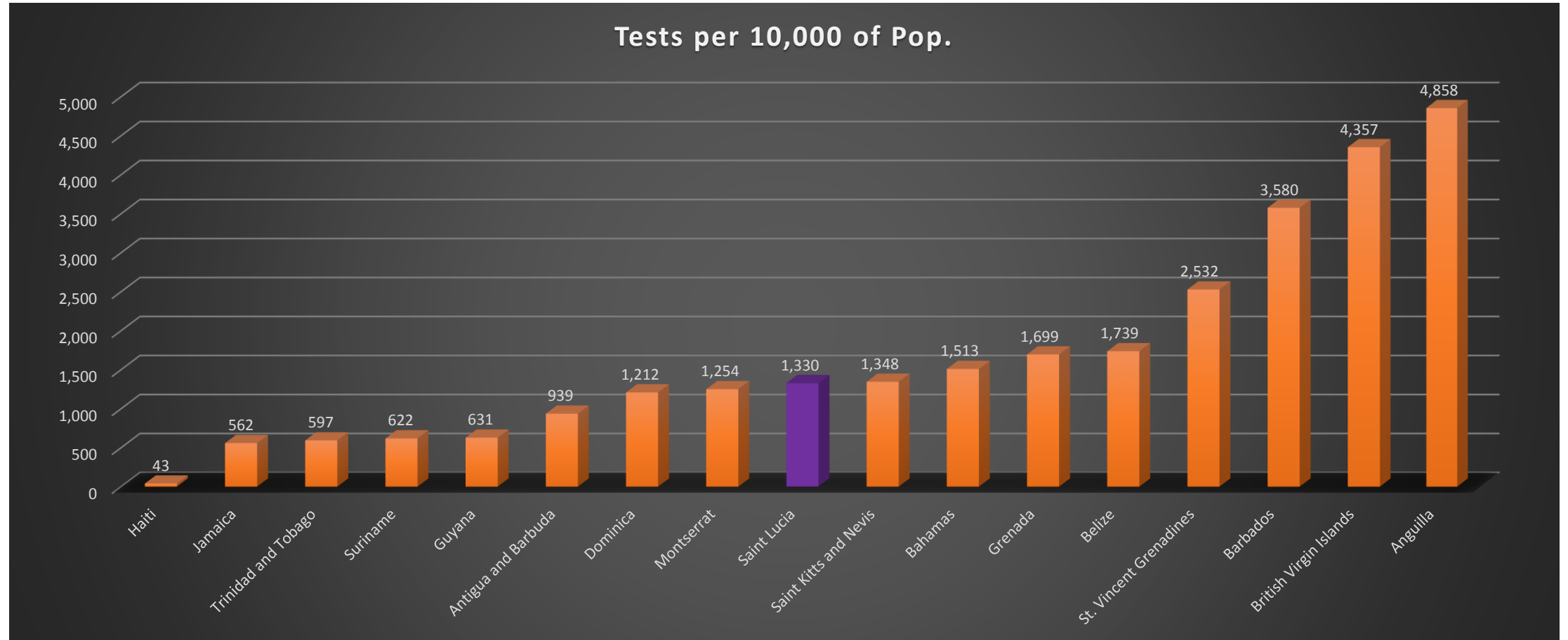
CARIBBEAN COMPARISON...INCIDENCE

(Source: Worldometer as at 31/1/21)



CARIBBEAN COMPARISON...TESTING

(Source: Worldometer as at 31/1/21)



HOW ACTIVE IS THE CURRENT SPREAD?

(Source: Worldometer as at 31/1/21)

