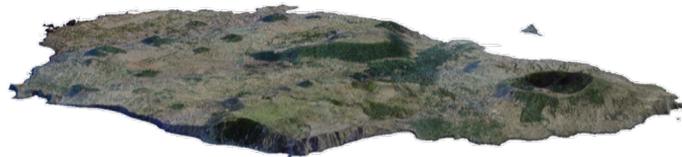
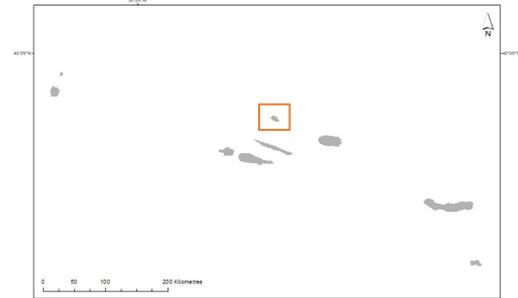
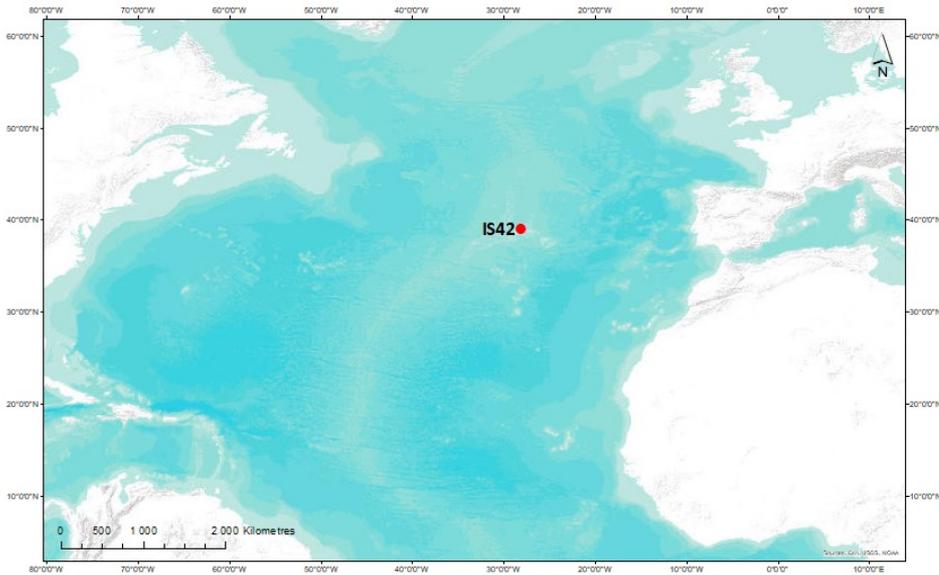


IS42: COVID-19 breakdown Operation and Maintenance constrains in the Azores Islands

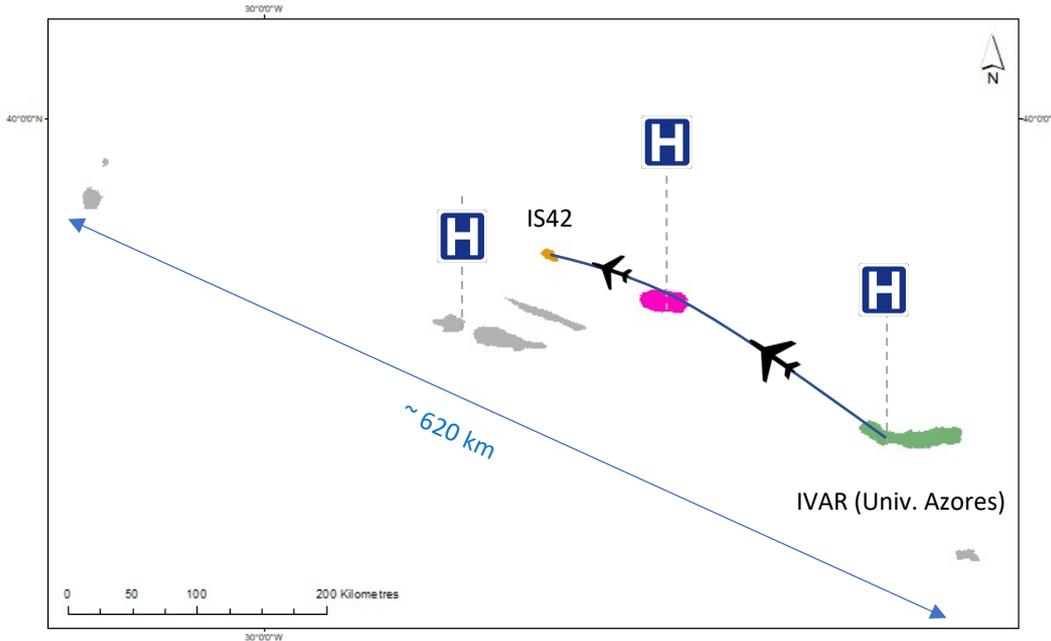
Nicolau Wallenstein, Sandro Matos, Maria do Céu Jesus, Flávio Soares, Arturo Montalvo

P4.5-587





1 km



The Azores Islands, as an outermost region of the EU, with a great territorial discontinuity and with important constraints in terms of accessibility and health resources.

Inhabitants (est. 2019)

Azores – 242,796

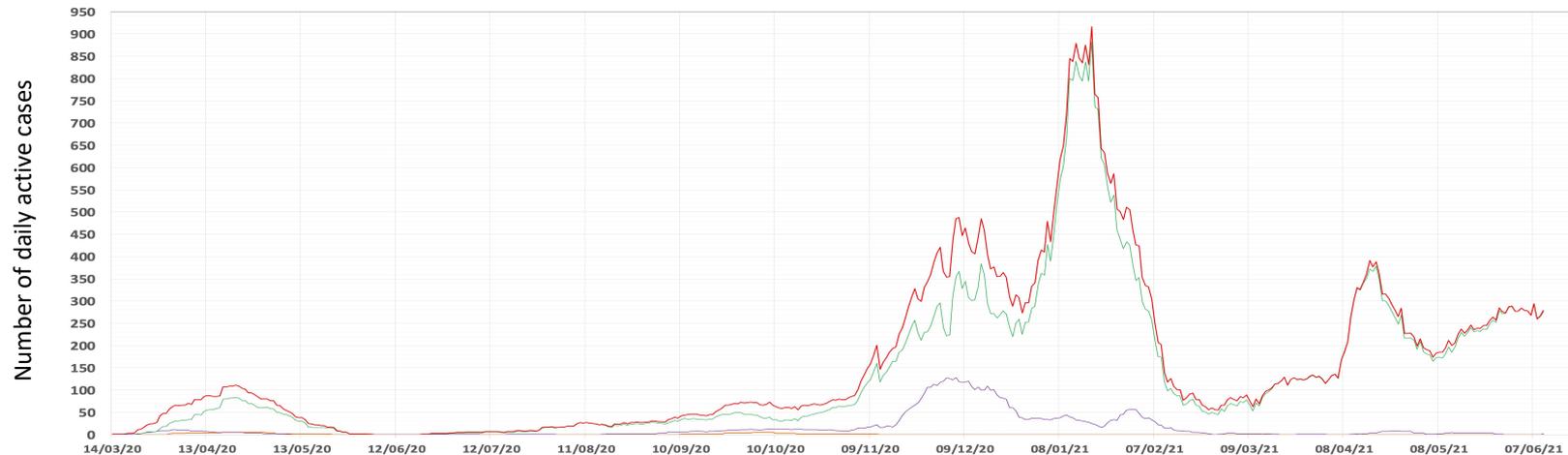
São Miguel - 137,307

Terceira – 55,124

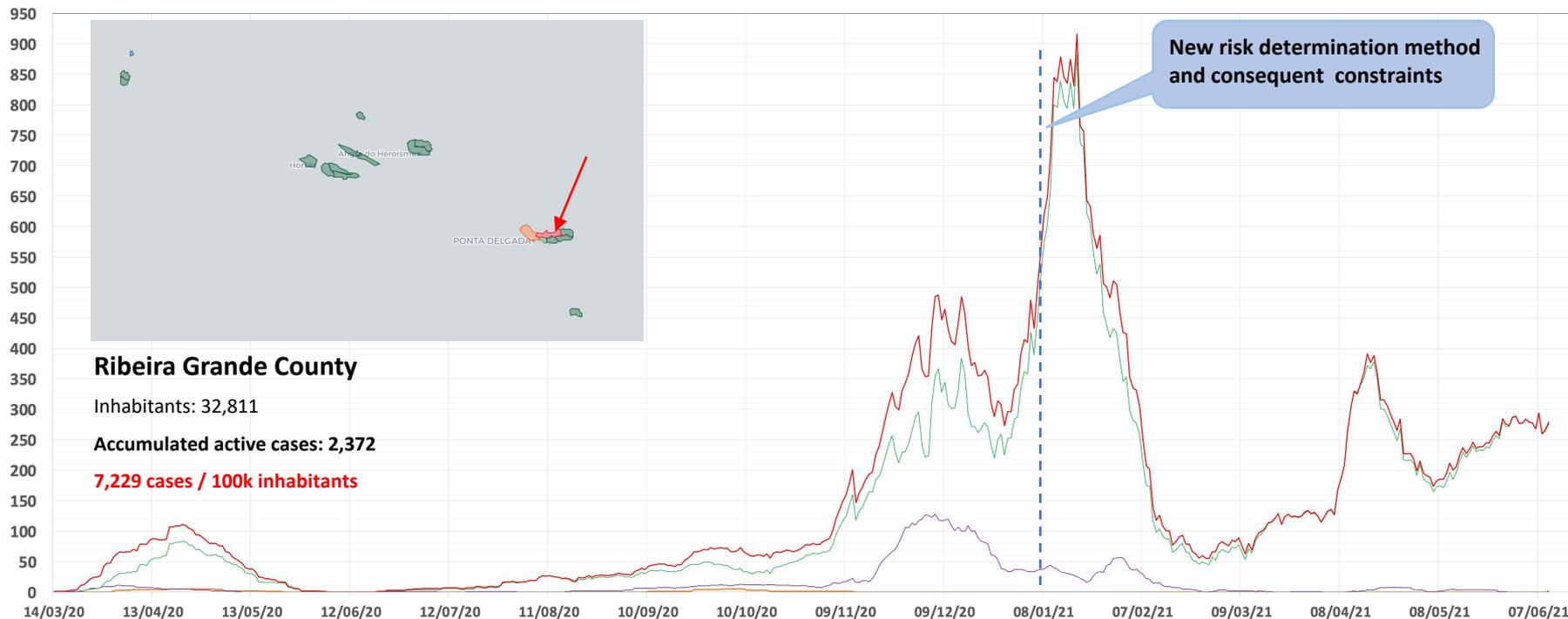
Graciosa – 4,208

Portugal - 10,295,909

	Max. daily active cases (N/Day)			Nº of notified Deaths	Lethality (%)	Accumulated active cases (N)		
	N/Day	% (Population)	N/100k Inhabitants			N	% (Population)	N/100k Inhabitants
Azores	916	0.38	377	33	0.57	5,808	2.39	2,392
São Miguel	882	0.64	642	28	0.55	5,128	3.73	3,738
Terceira	128	0.23	232	5	1.03	487	0.88	883
Graciosa	5	0.12	119	0	0.00	11	0.26	261
Portugal	16,432	0.16	160	17,043	1.99	855,432	8.31	8,308

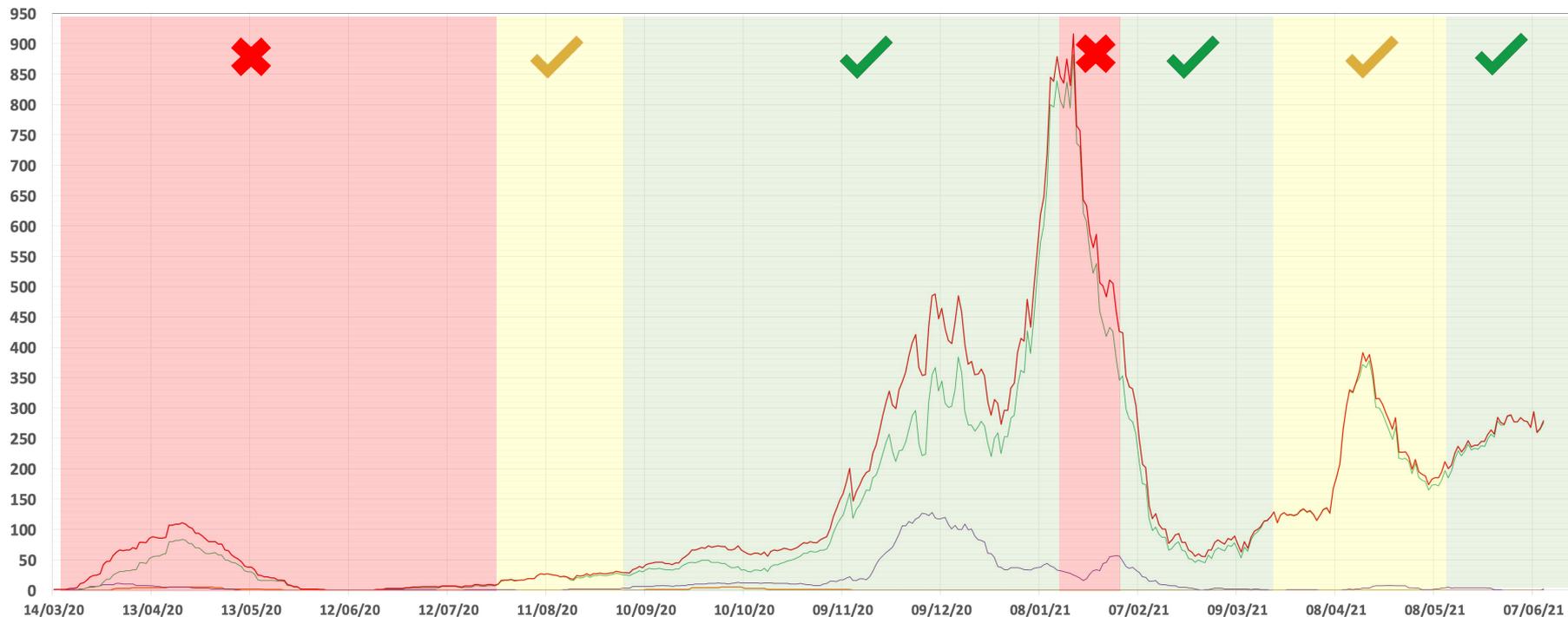


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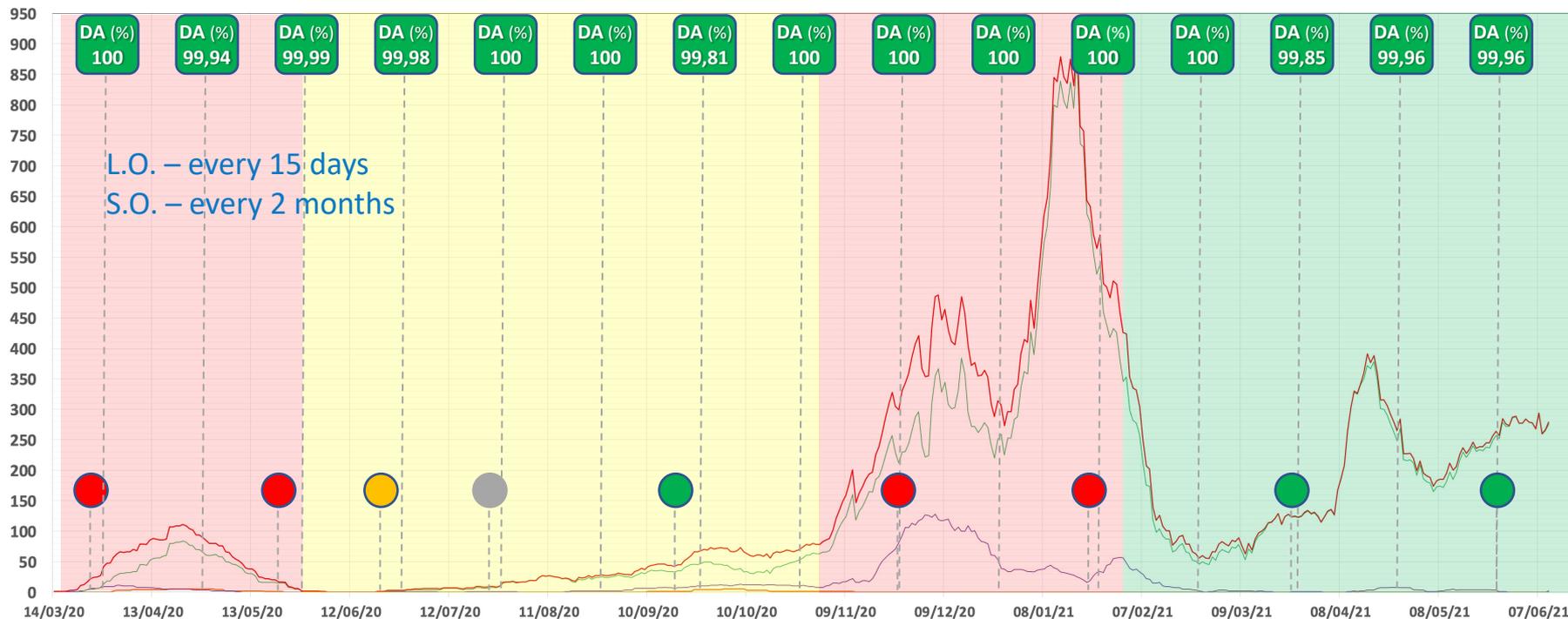
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Access to the Lab



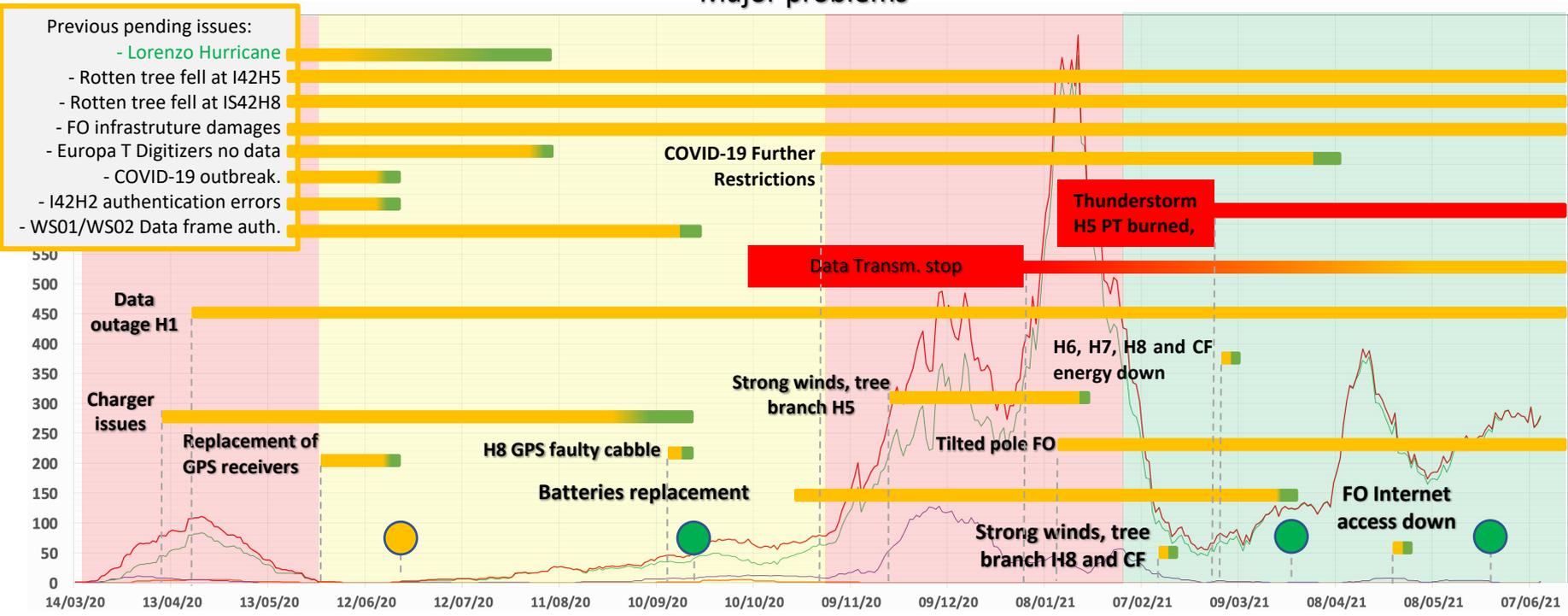
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Visits to IS42



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Major problems



Final considerations

- IS42 is located in the Azores Islands, an outermost region of the EU, with a great territorial discontinuity and with important constraints in terms of accessibility and health resources;
- These limitations have been particularly experienced during the pandemic of COVID-19, forcing the authorities to take severe decisions of confinement and restriction of mobility, to face the risk of losing rapid control of the situation;
- The approaches made by the authorities allowed the occurrence of new cases to be concentrated in time and space. With the emergence of the alpha variant (from UK), the situation became dominated by communitarian transmission;
- The restrictions imposed by the response to COVID-19 on the O&M activities of the IS42 station can be divided into 2 levels: The limitation of access to the laboratory, working from home; and the limitation to travel to visit the station;

Final considerations – Elements for discussion

- Operators had to spend several intermittent months working from home and several bimonthly visits to the station were canceled or postponed. The canceled visits were substituted by partial tasks performed by the LO. Nevertheless, DA never went below 99.81% (from March 2020 to May 2021);
- We had to deal with several pending issues and new problems that occurred during this period. Some of them had a quick solution, but most of them are still pending. In 2021 occurred two serious (still pending) problems that may lead to a station Non-Mission capability state;
- Some delays and extra work team efforts were needed to overcome the problems due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. All the processes were slower. From the PTS and as expected, we noted a slower response during this period, in particular from MFS in 2021.



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