

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## SPAIN MAY EXTEND CONFINEMENT

**S**PAIN'S death toll from coronavirus rose at a slower pace yesterday but surpassed 20,000 fatalities as the government mulled whether to ask parliament for a third extension of the confinement imposed in one of the world's hardest hit countries.

The number of deaths increased by 565, down from a rise of 585 on Friday, the Health Ministry said. The number of coronavirus cases rose to 191,726 from 188,068.

"The data of hospitalised, deceased and ICU admissions have maintained a downward trend the past few days," said health emergency chief Fernando Simon at a press briefing, adding that he hoped to see a steeper decrease soon.

Simon said he expected a significant rise in registered coronavirus cases as the number of quick tests conducted has doubled in the past three weeks, but stressed that the tests have shown a lower infection rate among citizens.

Spain has begun to ease a strict lockdown imposed on March 14 and this week opened up some sectors of the economy, including manufacturing. But most people are still confined to their houses except for essential outings like shopping for food and not even

children are allowed out for exercise.

Parliament approved on April 9 a 15-day extension of a state of emergency that brought in the lockdown measures. Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said then he was certain he would have to ask again for another extension, which would go into May.

That request appears likely, Spanish public TVE channel reported yesterday, saying that lawmakers could vote on it next Wednesday.

The technical panel that advises Sanchez is in favour of extending the confinement measures, Simon said. But he added they could be progressively eased if it was assessed that the health system could handle a potential second wave of infection.

"We are very close to the de-escalation," he said, without elaborating.

Madrid's mayor Jose Luis Martinez-Almeida said that it was possible that large events and gatherings would be banned in Spain until the autumn. Spain's labour minister Yolanda Diaz said on Friday her department was planning a two-phased economic resumption, the first for productive sectors up to the summer and a second for tourism and leisure which would last until the end of the year.

## 148 people have now died in the Balearics

Palma.—The Ministry of Health confirmed 14 coronavirus deaths yesterday, some of which actually happened between April 12 and 16, taking the death toll in the Balearic Islands to 148 since the beginning of the pandemic.

The data for the fatalities has been verified by epidemiologists from the General Directorate of Public Health.

47 new positive cases of Covid-19 which Home Care Services had not been reporting previously because of

verification delays have now been added, taking the total to 1,748.

The 80 positive cases of coronavirus that were reported in the Balearic Islands yesterday, includes the 47 from previous days.

**See Inside**



# "My dream is to open a boutique hotel on Majorca..."

● British *MasterChef* sensation Claire Fyfe has a project involving her favourite holiday island. See Sunday Interview: Pages 6 and 7