

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## Scientists warn of potential wave of COVID-linked brain damage

London.—Scientists warned yesterday of a potential wave of coronavirus-related brain damage as new evidence suggested COVID-19 can lead to severe neurological complications, including inflammation, psychosis and delirium. A study by researchers at University College London (UCL) described 43 cases of patients with COVID-19 who suffered either temporary brain dysfunction, strokes, nerve damage or other serious brain effects. The research adds to recent studies which also found the disease can damage the brain. “Whether we will see an epidemic on a large scale of brain damage linked to the pandemic – perhaps similar to the encephalitis lethargica outbreak in the 1920s and 1930s after the 1918 influenza pandemic – remains to be

seen,” said Michael Zandi, from UCL’s Institute of Neurology, who co-led the study. COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, is largely a respiratory illness that affects the lungs, but neuroscientists and specialist brain doctors say emerging evidence of its impact on the brain is concerning. “My worry is that we have millions of people with COVID-19 now. And if in a year’s time we have 10 million recovered people, and those people have cognitive deficits ... then that’s going to affect their ability to work and their ability to go about activities of daily living,” Adrian Owen, a neuroscientist at Western University in Canada, told Reuters in an interview.



# POOR DATA OBSCURES DEATH TOLL AT SPAIN’S NURSING HOMES

● The Spanish government is still not able to say how many nursing home residents have died because of the coronavirus, according to a Health Ministry document seen by Reuters, which puts the blame on a lack of good enough data from regional authorities. See Report Inside.



## Sperm whales spotted in Balearic waters

London.—Twelve sperm whale pups were spotted frolicking in the sea north of Minorca on Tuesday by a team of scientists onboard the sailboat *Irifi*. The scientists are on an expedition led by Tursiops and WWF within the framework of the ‘Connected Seas’ project which aims to improve the information and knowledge of cetacean populations. Between June 20 and 30 they sighted 44 sperm whales, including 12 pups and WWF says the high number of baby sperm whales underlines what was observed during last

year’s campaign and confirms the International Union for Conservation of Nature, or IUCN’s statement that “these waters are the ideal habitat for the sperm whales to feed and breed. The high presence of social groups with young sperm calves found north of Minorca has urged us to assess whether this situation is constant, both spatially and temporarily and to undertake management actions to protect the area from various aggressors that the species is sensitive to,” said Txema Brotons, Tursiops Scientific Director.

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