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Head of Port Authority arrested in corruption probe: See Page Three Inside Today

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Spain scrambles to contain spiralling infections, salvage tourism season

Regional authorities across Spain introduced fresh coronavirus restrictions yesterday aimed at stamping out a surge in infections that continues to defy efforts at containment and is damaging tourism. New cases had slowed to a trickle in June, before a nationwide lockdown was lifted, but since then more than 280 clusters have been detected: See Inside.



Wear a mask even at home, says Madrid

ace masks should be worn even at home if you are with people you do not live with, an official from the Madrid region said yesterday, even though he conceded there was no way to enforce such a recommendation.

Spain already has Europe's strictest rules on masks. In Madrid they are mandatory everywhere in public unless people are outdoors and can keep a 1.5 metre distance. In most of the country, they must be worn in public regardless of safe distances, but with no rules on wearing them at home.

"We recommend, as a precaution, the wearing

of masks in private spaces when there are meetings or gatherings of people who don't live together," Enrique Ruiz Escudero, the health chief of the Madrid region, told a news conference.

"We feel it is important since the majority of outbreaks happen in family or friends meetings or celebrations gathering people who don't live together."

The official said it was up to each citizen to wear a mask in private gatherings, adding that most people in Madrid were already wearing one outdoors even without it being mandatory.

Madrid was one of the hardest-hit regions at the peak of the pandemic.



