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Mask free this summer?

Palma.—Dr. Javier Arranz, spokesperson for the regional infectious diseases committee, said yesterday that it was “quite reasonable” that the obligation to wear masks outdoors could be lifted this summer, “if everything continues as it is now”.

Speaking at a press conference, Arranz reiterated that the wearing of masks is a national measure determined by the Inter-Territorial Council for the National Health System. As the vaccination programme progresses, he added, the public will be “more protected” and be able to begin to “free themselves” from certain restrictions.

However, he argued that, as well as tourism, it will be necessary to see what impact greater mobility at night will have, especially among the younger population. The effect of vaccination of the youngest age groups will also need to be assessed.

For now, there is a very stable situation. The seven-day cumulative incidence in the Balearics is currently 17 cases per 100,000, the lowest of all the regions but higher than that of Ceuta.

The 14-day incidence rates are 40.2 in Majorca, 28.2 in Minorca, 39.5 in Ibiza and 50.4 in Formentera. Cases in Minorca, Arranz noted, are “clearly” on the decrease.



Stealth jet from Royal Navy flagship lands in Ibiza



The F35 at Ibiza airport and above the *Queen Elizabeth*.

Palma/Ibiza.—A U.S. Marine Corps F35 stealth fighter from the Royal Navy flagship *HMS Queen Elizabeth* made an emergency landing in Ibiza yesterday.

The F35 is part of a mixed U.S. and Royal Air Force/Fleet Air Arm air group aboard the aircraft carrier which is on its first deployment to the Far East.

The 7 month tour in the Mediterranean Sea, Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific will include interactions with 40 nations and more than 70 exercises and operations.

The *Queen Elizabeth*, with her escort group including Royal Navy destroyers, frigates and support ships, was sailing close to Balearic waters yesterday. The

F35 will be repaired and is expected to return to the *Queen Elizabeth* shortly.

The F35 is one of the most sophisticated aircraft in the world and the one which made an emergency landing in Ibiza yesterday is similar to the Harrier which means that it can take off and land vertically.

A total of 10 F35s from the U.S. Marine Corps are embarked on the *Queen Elizabeth* along with eight from the famous 617 Squadron “The Dambusters” from the Royal Air Force.

The Royal Navy aircraft carrier is leading the biggest British navy deployment in decades.

Number of foreign tourists visiting Spain slowly recovers as restrictions ease: INSIDE