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PENNON LAUNCHED DR UARANTINE **FEUK** IRAVE FOR EXPATS

An online petition of the British parliamentary website has been launched calling for the lifting of quarantine for fully vaccinated British expatriates flying back to the United Kingdom. By yesterday, over 40,000 people had signed the petition: SEE PAGE 3

Spain's coronavirus infections keep rising, regions impose restrictions



Restrictions are being introduced again.

SPAIN. Spain's two-week COVID-19 contagion rate kept rising on Monday, reaching 368 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, officials said, more than tripling in two weeks as infections have soared especially among young people.

Health emergency chief Fernando Simon said the pace of increase had reduced in recent days as officials believe the latest wave is nearing its peak. He praised new restrictions announced in the hard-hit Mediterranean regions of Catalonia and Valencia.

"We are still in a situation where we have to reduce risks," he told a media briefing, deeming "really dramatic" the situation in Catalonia, which last week COVID-19 infection rate. nad Spain's nignest incidence with 725 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

Simon said the infection hike in Catalonia could be attributed to the increasing arrival of domestic and foreign tourists amid the

spread of the more contagious Delta variant. The lower vaccination rate among youngsters and the impact of outbreaks related to school graduation trips are also playing a role across Spain, he added.

The Catalan regional government announced on Monday that all activities, including bars, would have to shut at 12:30 a.m., social gatherings would be capped at ten people, while eating or drinking in public areas would be banned.

The measures are pending court approval.

Separately, a court authorised more than 30 towns in the neighbouring Valencia region to impose night curfews to counter a soaring

Regional authorities responsible for the COVID-19 response need court authorisation or a government decree for strict measures including lockdowns, travel bans and curfews.

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