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JOHNSON SHREDDDED MINISTERIAL CODE WITH LOCKDOWN BREACHES, EXPERT SAYS

FAREWELL

- Face masks will no longer be compulsory inside buildings from today, although this is being treated as a general rule and there will be some exceptions.
- The decision to lift the mask rule is being welcomed by some but treated with caution by others, who believe it is still too soon.
- Masks will not be obligatory for teachers or pupils, unless they are vulnerable.



London.—Prime Minister Boris Johnson has thrust Britain into a constitutional crisis by breaking the law he set for pandemic restrictions, effectively “shredding the ministerial code”, the country’s leading constitutional expert said yesterday. Peter Hennessy, a historian and member of the upper house of parliament, said Johnson had become “the great debaser in modern times of decency in public and political life” after he was fined by police for attending a social gathering in Downing Street while lockdown restrictions were in place. The ministerial code sets out the standards of conduct expected of ministers and how they discharge their duties, according to the government website. Johnson has been accused of misleading parliament over the matter by opposition lawmakers after he told parliament last year that all rules were followed in Downing Street during the pandemic. He will appear in the House of Commons on Tuesday to explain why he was fined by police. He has also apologised after he became the first British leader found to have broken the law while in office.

Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez heads to Ukraine for talks

Madrid.—Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will travel to the Ukrainian capital Kyiv to meet President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in the coming days, a government source said yesterday.

Sanchez follows the footsteps of several other European leaders, including European Commission

President Ursula Von der Leyen, and British and Czech premiers, who have travelled to Ukraine since Russia’s invasion of the country in a show of support for its president and people.

Sanchez said on Monday Spain would reopen its embassy in Kyiv, which has been closed since Feb. 24.