

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Galicia's traditional fisherwomen pass the torch to a new generation: See Inside Today

COURT GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO VACCINE PASSPORT

● The Balearic High Court gave their support to the Balearic government's plan to demand the vaccine passport for entry into bars and restaurants with a capacity of more than 50 people. The new regulation comes into force tomorrow.



Omicron in sewage samples in Spain

Madrid.—Health authorities in the Spanish region of Catalonia said yesterday they had detected potential traces of the Omicron coronavirus variant in sewage samples from late November. If confirmed, it would mean the variant was present in Catalonia before or at the same time it was first reported in southern Africa a week ago.

Scientists fear the heavily mutated variant could resist vaccines and prolong the nearly two-year-old COVID-19 pandemic.

Spain has detected a number of cases of the variant and expects to confirm another two by the end of the week, but all are in people who had visited countries where Omicron has been

found. "At the moment what we have are signs. In some areas of Catalonia there are some samples with specific mutations linked to this variant," regional public health chief Carmen Cabezas told a news conference. She added that they could be also compatible with the Alpha variant. PCR genetic sequencing tests will de-

termine if Omicron, whose presence in southern Africa was announced on Nov. 25, was already circulating in Catalonia at that time. Dutch health officials said on Tuesday the variant had been detected in the Netherlands on Nov. 19, before two flights arrived from South Africa carrying the virus.