



SCHOOL POPULATION

United Parents believe most families do not want to vaccinate their children

|| The group wants to withdraw the screening card, which it considers a «hidden covid passport»

|| Albós points out that the mask loses its meaning as immunized children grow up

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The United Parents Platform estimates that many parents in the Principality are reluctant to vaccinate their children between the ages of 5 and 11. This was stated in EL PERIÒDIC by one of the group's spokespersons, Marcel Albós, who stated that «there are many parents who agree to vaccinate their children if they are older, but in the range of 5 to 11 years, I think most opinions are that they do not want. In this regard, the United Parents notes that «it is good that the government advises to consult with pediatricians, but as Pfizer points out, it should be done under medical prescription,» insisting that «one thing is that you give your opinion and the other is that you receive it, as is done with all vaccines». In any case, Albós insisted that they are in favor of vaccinating children with previous pathologies and that covid may pose a greater risk.

Childhood vaccines arrived in Andorra last Tuesday, and families interested in administering the drug to children must register. Prior to the Principality, other countries have been inoculating these vaccines with minors, such as the United States. For this reason, the platform encourages the Executive to «look at the international context and draw conclusions», and more specifically, «assess the benefit-risk balance of those who have been vaccinated and those who have not», and above all, «the countries that have stopped the administration, for what reasons have they done so».

Regarding the announcement made by the Minister of Health, Joan Martínez Benazet, about a forthcoming relaxation of the restric-

tions in the schools, and in the specific case of the suppression of the screenings, the spokesman for Parents pointed out that they agree that they be carried out as long as they are voluntary. «We think it's good that they aren't mandatory and that they don't just focus on the kids,» said Albós, adding that «hopefully workers from different, more exposed sectors could do it».

He also highlighted the option of a salivary test instead of a nasal test, stressing that it would be a «less invasive» test. In any case, if the screening finally disappears, so will the screening card, which was criticized by the spokesperson. «For me, the screening card is still a covid passport hidden,» said Albós, who warned that «it is a double-edged sword».

NATURAL IMMUNITY // Another element mentioned by Benazet in relation to the lifting of measures in the school population was the elimination of the compulsory use of masks in classrooms. United Parents defended this proposal «as long as the pandemic context allows,» noting that this decision was already implemented but had to be reversed due to the impact of the sixth wave. However, Albós recalled that many students have been infected and are therefore immune.

As an example, he referred to his son's kindergarten classroom, in which «out of 27 students only three have not been infected,» and stressed that «it makes no sense for them to bring the mask in a class where 80% of students are naturally immunized. In this way, he stated that «perhaps what Health is waiting for is that 40% of the students have become infected, even though I think we are already there».

In short, the spokesman for the platform emphasized the de-



TWITTER / SAAS

Immediate arrival of children's vaccines at the hospital.

mand of Catalan pediatricians to lift school restrictions due to the negative effects on children's learning and mental health, and pointed

out that «in the long run and for the good of all, we need to get back to normal, as Denmark has already done».

A 90-year-old person dies with covid, the 147

►► The government reported yesterday the death of a 90-year-old person infected with covid. Thus, although the disease was not the main reason for the transfer, he added it to the count of victims of the pandemic, which stood at 147 people. In the last 24 hours, 155

new positives were confirmed - out of 36,470 - and 396 more highs - out of 33,958 -. Thus, the positive cases were reduced to 2,365, of which 16 were admitted to the Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell: 12 on the ground floor and four in the ICU.

The EC proposes to extend the use of the certificate by one year

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The European Commission (EC) proposed before yesterday to extend the use of the covid certificate in the European framework for one year. The measure is currently in force until June 30th this year, so the institution's bet is to extend it until June 30th, 2023. As stated in a press release, «the coronavirus continues to infest Europe and, at the moment, it is not feasible to determine the impact of a possible increase in infections in the second half of 2022 or the emergence of new variants. The EC therefore calls on the European Parliament and the Council to «deliberate on the proposal and adopt it swiftly». «The EU's digital covid certificate has proven to be an effective tool for facilitating free and safe travel,» said European Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders, but for the time being it will allow us to travel safely around Europe».

At the same time, the EC also proposed some changes to the regulation of the covid certificate: including high-quality laboratory antigen tests among the tests through which a diagnostic certificate can be issued; ensure that the documents include the correct and total number of doses administered in any Member State; and provide that certificates may be issued to persons participating in clinical trials of vaccines. ≡

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TOURISM

Hoteliers and traders are optimistic about the future of the casino

They consider the offer to be positive, but some believe that more action will be needed and others will not benefit

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Hoteliers, tourist accommodation and shopkeepers welcome the arrival of the casino, or rather the new comprehensive leisure center Unnic, which is scheduled to open next autumn on Prat de la Creu Street of Andorra la Vella. In this sense, they welcome any new tourist offer that attracts visitors, but some believe that more initiatives are needed to consolidate over time an attractive offer and others that, by its type of proposal, will not affect them because future customers of this facility are not expected to stay in their establishments. Regarding the hotel sector, the director of the Hotel Union (UHA), Jordi Pujol, stated that «any initiative that brings us more tourists is good, it can be a step forward, although in this case it certainly has pros and cons». However, «it is true that people with a slightly more powerful economic background can bring us, but this is a project that must be accompanied by what we want to do in general as a country».

A similar statement was made by the president of Autèntics Hotels, Esther Santuré, who called for a medium and long-term tourism plan, as «we must consolidate ourselves as a quality tourism destination, and quality does not always go associated with greater purchasing power, which is why we need to offer services to make this tourism more loyal» he said. In this sense, «we need to end the image of a low-cost country, and the casino can influence us to break that image, although there are others». In this regard, Santuré denounced the commitment of mass tourism and the sale of services at lower prices. «This type of tourism is unsustainable, it is a model that will not last over time,» he predicted, and called for a commitment to local tourism that «can spend a few days quietly». Finally, he said that «the casino is perfect, but more is needed».

CUSTOMERS ARE NOT FOR THIS // On the other hand, the president of the Association of Tourist Accommodation Companies (AEAT), Àlex Ruiz, predicted that «I don't think the client who comes to our apartments will do it for the casino, but rather will go to sleep in the central valley, in Andorra la Vella or Escaldes-Engordany; our customers are not for that, but to take advantage of the skiing or walking season, but I like any new tourist attraction, we've seen it in other cases. «Ruiz gave the example of the Pas de la Casa bingo,



► The façade of the future Unnic leisure center, in Prat de la Creu Street in Andorra la Vella.



JORDI PUJOL
DIRECTOR OF THE HOTEL UNION

«Any initiative that brings us more tourists is positive, although it certainly has its pros and cons»

ÀLEX RUIZ
PRESIDENT AS. TOURIST ACCOMMODATIONS

«I don't think customers come to our apartments for the casino; those who do so will rather sleep in the central valley»

where his clients do not usually go. «We've seen it, they're not people who come to play,» he said. In addition, «casinos carry aspects that are not exactly ideal, such as drugs».

From the trade sector, said the

president of the association of traders of Riberaigua and Travesseres - one of the main axes that could benefit - Rosa Pascuet, who referred to the offer of complementary leisure to the game that will offer the future

installation. «We have to be a destination of shows, now we have just a bit, so I see positive to have this added value». However, «everywhere [casinos] are in deficit; Maybe it's positive here, if they do it is because they

must believe that it will go well, so if they are right, go ahead», he stated. However, Pascuet pointed out that trade «It's not at its best, neither here nor anywhere, even though we're still open here, and nowhere else».

ESTHER SANTURÉ
PRESIDENT OF AUTHENTIC HOTELS

«It may affect breaking the image of a 'low cost' country, but it is not enough, it is necessary to make a tourism plan in the medium and long term»

ROSA PASCUET PRESIDENT OF THE RIBERAYGUA AND TRAVESSERES TRADERS ASSOCIATION

«We have to be a destination of shows, and now we have just a bit, so we have a positive outlook on it, however everywhere are in deficit»

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