



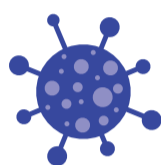
Health Update ▶ The data will be very high in the coming days

## Benazet thinks that with the omicron «almost the whole population will be infected»

The minister predicts that the incidence will decrease in four weeks and that the virus will become endemic | Health sets different guidelines for positive contacts depending on whether they are immunized or not

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ANDORRA LA VELLA

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Given the characteristics of the omicron, the Minister of Health, Joan Martínez Benazet, estimates that with this variant «almost the entire population will be infected». The main features that make Benazet «unbeatable» in the face of other new mutations are that it is highly infectious and has a shorter incubation period. The minister also remarked that «his case is less serious» because «he has no affinity for the lungs.» However, the head of Health emphasized that this situation «does not mean that we should not do anything», and for this reason we will follow the measures so that the brutal rise in cases is slowed down as much as possible. «It's not like a flu, we can't relax. We have to respect him,» said the minister.

Benazet predicts that «there will be many cases» in the coming days, and that these will lead to «stress in primary care, in the health system as a whole, and also in companies due to the loss of workers.» «We will have to get used to talking about very high data», he added, adding that there will also be contagion from people who have already been infected, as according to the minister «75% of people who have passed the disease can be re-infected». As of Wednesday, the government had detected 487 new positives - out of a total of 25,289 - and the number of active cases stood at 3,637. Of these, 28 were admitted to the Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell: 14 on the ground floor and 14 in the ICU, 10 of which were under mechanical ventilation. The discharges totaled 21,511 people on Wednesday and 141 deaths. Also, among the epidemiological data, the 115 infections detected in the last 24 hours in the tests carried out on tourists were also highlighted. Finally, 138,386 vaccines were administered before the vaccination campaign, of which 24,351 were third-dose. In this regard, Bena-



SFGA / JAVILADOT

▶▶ Joan Martínez Benazet and Meritxell Cosan, at one point in their appearance.

zet said that 34-year-olds were already being cited.

In any case, and despite this current growth trend, the minister predicted that in three «or four weeks the incidence will go down. In this regard, the head of Health also shared that the intuition of epidemiologists at this time is that the omicron «becomes an endemic», and that in fact, «this is what we all want.»

**ISOLATION OR SURVEILLANCE** // The president of the Medical Association of Andorra (COMA), Meritxell Cosan, also took part in Wednesday's presentation, explaining the new guidelines to be followed by the population in the event of contact with

**Andorra has 487 cases** and the positive cases amount to 3,637, of which 28 were hospitalized

a positive. «We have tried to simplify as much as possible», said Cosan, who called on the public to be rigorous, especially in meeting times. «Many people panic and go for a test when it is early and doesn't lead to a reliable diagnosis», said the COMA president, insisting that a test performed too early or when it is being incubated gives a negative result and a «false sense of security to lead a normal life and this can lead to the circulation of the virus when the person is finally positive.» On the one hand, Health will distinguish between those who have symptoms and those who do not. If they have symptoms, the person should be isolated and tested for antigens, and if they are negative,



**JOAN M. BENAZET**  
MINISTER OF HEALTH

«We will continue to take steps to slow down the rise in cases. This is not like a flu, we can't relax»

**MERITXELL COSAN**  
PRESIDENT OF THE COMA

«Many people panic and go for a test when it is early and doesn't lead to a reliable diagnosis»

they should go for an immediate TMA to confirm the diagnosis. At this point, if the person is immunized, he or she should be on passive surveillance for 10 days, and if he or she is not, he or she should be isolated for seven days and spend seven more days in passive surveillance.

If the contact is asymptomatic and immunized, you will need to undergo passive monitoring and a TMA within 72 hours. And if this is negative, you will have to do 10 days passive surveillance from the last contact with the infected person. However, if the person is not immunized and has no symptoms, he or she should be isolated for 72 hours and given a TMA. If it is negative, you will have to remain isolated and repeat the test on the sixth day, and if the negativity is confirmed, you will have to keep a passive surveillance for seven days.

Ultimately, the Ministry of Health has also chosen to strengthen the protocols of health centers, limiting to three different people who can make visits and an intensification of the tests on the return of residents to the center. In addition, a certification has been created for people who have a medical contraindication to the vaccine, which will only be valid in the Principality. =

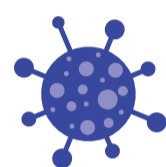
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# The government does not plan to set up a vaccine compensation fund

Only 1.1% of serious notifications were confirm

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The government «does not consider necessary» to set up a special fund to compensate people suffering from serious side effects following the administration of the covid-19 vaccine. Through a parliamentary response to the non-attached general councilor, Carine Montaner, the Executive states that «pharmacovigilance data from Andorra and other countries indicate a good performance of vaccines», so it is not it will allocate «an economic item specifically intended for this purpose». However, the government argues that it also «has mechanisms in place to deal with situations that arise and the Andorran institutions guarantee the exercise of the rights of all citizens.»

In this sense, Montaner also asked to know who will compensate these people in case they suffer serious side effects from the vaccine. The Government emphasi-



CONSELL GENERAL / EDUARD COMELLAS

► The non-attached general counsel, Carine Montaner.

zes in this regard that the vaccines currently available «have an emergency authorization» and «have undergone all the clinical steps required to ensure their safety and efficacy», although they acknowledge that what has been exceptional is that, in order to shorten deadlines, «some of these phases have been allowed to be carried out in parallel and not sequentially». That is why the minister has announced that she will apply for the contracts signed with the neighboring countries and Covax for obtaining the vaccines.

However, to give even more guarantees, «the pharmacovigilance of these vaccines has been carried out worldwide», with «very careful monitoring» and forcing manufacturers to submit their monthly reports instead of each six months as usual.

In this context, the Executive recalls in its response to Montaner that it periodically publishes the report on the pharmacovigilance of covid-19 vaccines and, in relation to the latest report published on November 24, 2021, with 112,797 doses administered s 634 notifications were recorded, of which 1.1% were considered serious but none had a «fatal result».

Finally, they recall that vaccination aims to reduce the severity of the disease and related deaths; do not reduce events or deaths from other causes than covid-19, so that during the vaccination campaign certain events or deaths may occur for different reasons, sometimes in close temporary association with the vaccine, without this it has to do with being vaccinated. ≡

# Emmanuel Macron «wants to fuck» people who don't get vaccinated

The co-prince's statements are stirring up the presidential election

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ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

French President and Co-Prince Emmanuel Macron has caused a great deal of controversy in France through statements made to the newspaper Le Parisien. Asked about

coronavirus management measures, and more specifically, vaccination, the co-prince said, «I'm not here to upset the French, but I don't want to fuck the unvaccinated. And I will do it thoroughly.»

Thus, Macron warns that those who are not immunized will not be able to access bars, restaurants, theaters or museums, among others. This is one of the measures that we want to take forward and that is un-

der parliamentary debate. Specifically, this is a bill by which the covid certificate would become exclusively a vaccination passport, meaning that the results of diagnostic tests would not be valid to obtain this document. Either way, Macron says he doesn't want to make vaccination mandatory.

These claims have shaken French politics just three months before the presidential election. ≡



REUTERS / JOHANNA GERON

► The President and Co-Prince of France, Emmanuel Macron.

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