



## CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH

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**JOAN MICÓ**  
CRES COORDINATOR (ARI)

«The results are not representative of the whole, but they provide valuable data»

**HELENA MAS**  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH

«The survey is only useful in helping a person detect what they are suffering from»

**ROSER BELLMUNT**  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMA

«Making the omicron less serious suggests that there will be fewer cases of persistent covid»

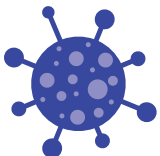
Micó, Mas and Bellmunt, at one point in their appearance.

# The government has detected 35 cases of persistent covid in Andorra

The survey found that only 35% of people with symptoms had medical follow-up

A second wave will be launched, targeting infected people until last October

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In Andorra there are 35 people who suffer from persistent covid. This has been calculated through the survey promoted by the Government and carried out in collaboration with the Center for Sociological Research (CRES) of Andorra Recerca + Innovació (ARI) and the Official Medical College Association of Andorra (COMA), which was aimed at people who had suffered from coronavirus until June 2021. Specifically, the doctor and representative of the COMA, Roser Bellmunt, stated that «it is a low figure «Because, as she shared, the World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that 10% of the infected population suffers from persistent covid. In other words, given that 15,000 people were infected at the time, there should have been about

1,500 cases.

According to the coordinator of the CRES, Joan Micó, of the total of 10,000 people cited to carry out the survey - over 18 years old - 1,555 took part, 17% of the total, highlighting the greater participation of women and a low response of those over 65 and under 30. But the most significant element had been the «underrepresentation by asymptomatic patients», as Mico acknowledged, there was a poor wording of the survey that led to that many people would not feel called. This fact is also demonstrated by the 59% of respondents who indicated that they had symptoms compatible with persistent covid, which, as Bellmunt indicated, corresponded to the condition of having symptoms beyond three months of diagnosis. In addition, among the answers, 9% indicated that they had a serious casuistry.

However, Micó pointed out that «only 35% of people with severe symptoms have a follow-up

from their referring doctor», which showed that although many people have symptoms, very few are encouraged to consult with a health professional. It should be noted that, as Bellmunt clarified, the questions were divided into functional and physical symptoms, and around the latter, they asked about the persistence of conditions such as fever, difficulty breathing or chest pain. A series of symptoms that the COMA doctor warned that if they suffer, it is necessary to contact the referring doctor.

In any case, the CRES coordinator acknowledged that «the results are not representative of all those infected», despite the fact that «they provide valuable data on the behavior of covid», in addition to having generated «awareness» to the population affected to attend the doctor. In a similar vein, the Secretary of State for Health, Helena Mas, claimed that «the survey is worthwhile only if it has helped a person to detect what he is suffering», in addition, emphasizing

**Positive cases are down 140 and new positives are down 94**

►► **New day of incidence of coronavirus decline in the Principality. According to the government, the number of new infected registered in the last 24 hours was 94, out of a total of 36,902. In terms of discharges, 234 more were granted up to 35,435. As a result, positive cases fell again to 1,320, or 140 less. Of these, 16 were admitted to the Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell: 12 on the ground floor and four in the ICU, three of which were under mechanical ventilation. And, fortunately no casualties were reported and the deaths were reduced to 147. Finally, there were 50 classrooms under surveillance and a total of 154,470 doses administered.**

that the information is valuable for research purposes.

The survey will now have a second wave, where the infected will be sought between July and October 2021, with the aim of expanding it to all infected people as the three months of margin of the infection go by. On the other hand, in order to reach more people and thus obtain more data, the survey will also be facilitated through the Andorra Salut application and by telephone, and not only by SMS as before.

According to the WHO, the most common case of persistent covid is that of middle-aged women, and the most common symptoms are fatigue, memory problems and difficulty breathing. Looking ahead to the future, Bellmunt remarked that, although it is still too early to draw conclusions, «the fact that the omicron is less severe and comes at a time of greater immunity suggests that there will be fewer cases of persistent covid». ≡

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## MEETING OF CONSULS

# The municipalities bring the government to the mayor's office for transfers

The corporations let to the Justice the 7.5 million that they believe that the Executive owes them

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The municipalities will take the Executive to the Mayor for the transfers of 2017. In the meeting of consuls held last Wednesday, and exhausted the administrative appeal that the municipalities presented and that the Government resolved against the corporations, the consuls of the seven parishes decided to go ahead and defend the 7.5 million euros they believe the government owes them, although so far, the appeal has not yet been filed with the Mayor. «There is a maximum period of one month from the Government's resolution», said the Consul General of Sant Julià de Lòria, Josep Majoral, as a representative of the

## Minister Calvó agrees on joint work to develop the National Waste Plan

municipalities, assuring that in the next 15 days they will present it. «The decision is to continue defending what the municipalities believe is up to us and for the Mayor's Office to resolve it», he said.

In the same vein, the Consul General of Escaldes-Engordany, Rosa Gili, explained that there are two different criteria according to the interpretation made by the municipalities and the Government. Therefore, they argue that the 2017 transfers should be made as before and not with the new way of doing things, implemented by the Executive. «We take up what previous corporations had said», said the consul from Escaldes-Engordany.

**TRANSFER CUTS** // On the other hand, and with regard to the possible cut in corporate tax powers, the municipalities consider it a deep debate and would call into question the country's legal framework, as there is a constitution, a law of communal powers and a law of transfers in between. «If it is to be done, it means that this debate should be opened, which includes great reflections», said Gili, who argued that there is a deficit of joint work between the Government, the General Council and the municipalities, despite that «there is a need to speak on three sides».

In this regard, at last Friday's meeting, «in no case were we asked to cut anything», Gili said, adding



►A moment from the meeting of consuls held the day before yesterday in Sant Julià de Lòria.

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### Josep Majoral

CONSUL OF SANT JULIÀ DE LÒRIA

«The decision is to continue defending what the municipalities believe belong to us and for the Mayor to resolve it»

that it remains to be seen what they will be asked to do at future meetings. Thus, Majoral also confirmed that the meeting was a first contact in many respects and it is not yet known «where this fiscal model will go». Returning to yesterday's meeting of consuls, there was also the appearance of the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Sílvia Calvó, who set out Andorra's objectives with the National Waste Plan. For this reason, a joint work was agreed with the municipalities to develop the plan, which will be worked on in a first stage with the technicians of each municipality and then be able to make a plan to achieve the objectives. On the other hand, the minister asked for more time to finish the study and improve the study on the energy use of biomass that the corporations did.

One of the other issues raised was the services of the human corpse incineration plant. Gili pointed out that the concessionaire compa-

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### Rosa Gili

CONSUL OF ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

«If you want to do [the cutting of tax powers], you have to open a debate that includes great reflections»

nies have moved the possibility of expanding the services to the Escaldes-Engordany municipality. «The fact of expanding the capacity of the infrastructure is being studied», he said, as despite being a municipal competence, the land is located in Escaldes-Engordany. So, bottom line is that we're really looking forward to the next meeting. During the meeting, the municipalities also addressed a request from the President of the Chamber of Local and Regional Presidents of the Council of Europe asking them to assign a person to work there or to make monetary contributions to the body. As a result, the government has decided to gather more information.

Finally, the meeting was also attended by the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Landry Riba, to report that within the framework of negotiations is working with La Poste, in order to know what each community was doing, reports the ANA. ≡

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