



HEALTH UPDATE

Health detects 1,575 cases in three days and the positive cases exceed 5,000

Students will be provided with a screening card proving that they have undergone antigen testing

The hospital will monitor serious patients to find out which variant of covid they are infected with

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The Ministry of Health has detected 1,575 positives over the weekend. This was reported by the Secretary of State

for Health, Helena Mas, who detailed that the confirmed cases corresponded to: 697 on Friday, 459 on Saturday, and 419 on Sunday. Thus, the total number of people infected in Andorra since the beginning of the pandemic was 27,983. This increase in positives also led to a rise in the number of positive cases, up 765 patients, to 5,127 on Monday. However, according to the government, the reproduction rate fell slightly to 1.40 on Monday.

Cedar resident test positive for coronavirus after Christmas, but asymptomatic

Among these active cases, Mas shared that there were 30 admitted to the Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell: 16 were on the ground floor and 14 in the ICU -11 of them with mechanical ventilation-. Precisely around those hospitalized, and more precisely those who have a serious condition, pneumonia, or who need to receive intensive care, they will be monitored with the performance of a special type of PCR that allows to observe the variant of which are infected. «Today, everyone is infected with the delta variant», she said. However, Mas said that according to the latest results of the wastewater analysis, there is a «preponderance of omicron» in those infected.

The executive also confirmed on Monday the positivity of a Cedar resident, who has been isolated. The Secretary of State for Health stated that he was an asymptomatic person, that he was well and that he had been detected «through the strict screenings» carried out by the social and health centers on the return of the residents, and that in this case, he was found after spending Ch-



SFGA / JAVILADOT

► The Secretary of State for Health, Helena Mas, moments before her appearance began on Monday.

ristmas outside. And fortunately, the tests carried out later on the other residents showed that there had been no other infection, which Mas

highlighted, stating that: «The virus has not circulated, so this is another example that the vaccine is effective.

children's details. This card can be used to access the canteen and extracurricular services when necessary, which is why it is recommended that students always have it on hand. In relation to the rest of the epidemiological data, the Government shared that 22,715 discharges had already been granted -810 more since Friday-, that the deaths were reduced to 141, and that 140,706 vaccines had already been administered, of which 1,475 were inoculated during Friday. Specifically, 57,616 first doses, 56,576 second doses and 26,514 third doses have already been vaccinated. On the other hand, when asked by the press, Mas pointed out that in the health system «we do not have evidence of a large number of positive people», although in this case, as teachers, as in other professional sectors, «we expect a high

number of infections», which can put several companies in the Principality in tension. In fact, linked to coronavirus discharges, the Secretary of State stressed that since the launch of the new circuit for the automatic detection and granting of discharges, «it works well because it is very agile». He also explained that a small change had been introduced, counting as the first day of discharge when the person who finally tested positive is given the diagnostic test and not when he receives the result. As a last resort, Mas highlighted that since the last week, the tourist tested in Andorra, will receive an informative SMS with the result in four languages, Catalan, Spanish, English and French in order of their precedence. And if they are positive, they are also informed of how to proceed. ≡

the figures

30 hospitalized: 16 on the ground floor and 14 in the ICU.

1.40 the reproduction rate, with the dominant omicron.

140,706 vaccines administered in Andorra.

CARD TO CLASS // As for the school population, they returned to the classrooms on Monday after the holidays and without any current affectation. In this first week, the first class will hold the two weekly tests with antigen tests, while the older ones will have only one. These tests will now be certified through a screening card that the government introduces in the management of the pandemic in schools and so that students can easily prove that they have undergone the test. They will be given the Andorran Red Cross, which will be in charge of the tests, and in the first instance, the families will have to fill in the document with the

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GENERAL BUDGETS

The PS proposes to allocate 45 million to the creation of social housing

Between 400 and 500 publicly owned flats would be projected across the country over the next four years

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The Social Democratic Party has tabled an amendment to all general budgets, which it says do not fit well with the current needs of its citizens. One of the most notable partial amendments proposes an investment of 45 million euros in the creation of half a thousand publicly owned homes with affordable prices for families who have problems with paying rent. In total, the PS introduced a total of 15 amendments where the main axes revolve around housing, culture and mental health.

In relation to the figure that the Social Democratic Party wants to dedicate to the creation of social housing, almost 34 million of the total would come from various budget items, such as the multi-functional enclosure, while the remaining 11 would be provided by the empty housing tax, the proceeds of which will go entirely to the new homes over the next three years. According to the president of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Group, Pere López, «as the polls show, one of the main concerns of the citizens is housing, so we have decided to propose an amendment that puts a solution to this problem; it is not possible for people to spend up to 60% of their income on rent. It is a measure that would become «a solution for more than 350 family units that reside here indefinitely and, at the same time, would serve to alleviate inflation that could lower market prices by between 5% and 10%».

Stated the chairman of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Group. In addition, López stressed that «we will continue to propose that a state pact be made on this issue, but as long as politicians consider housing as a product of investment and enrichment and not as a basic priority that needs a solution, we find it quite difficult. Finally, López lamented that «this measure will not see the light of day, but the population must know who is in favor of housing policies and who is turning housing



►► The general councilors of the PS, Pere López and Susanna Vela, during the telematic press conference on the amendments to the entire general budget.

The new Mental Health Center would involve an investment of 150,000 euros

into a product of investment and speculation».

Regarding the amendments related to the cultural sector, the general councilor Susanna Vela pointed out that «we do not share the location of the National Archive in the old Rosaleda hotel, because it is a building that is not designed to accommodate material so sensitive. The Minister General emphasized that «the safeguarding of documentation of national interest, according to international standards, cannot be kept in flood-prone areas». In fact, the idea of the PS

revolves around the transfer of all the national archival documentation to the old building of Radio Andorra, since according to Vela «the facilities are underused and in better condition and so we could take advantage of the rehabilitation and asbestos removal carried out on the radio building». In order to be able to carry out the relocation and adaptation of the building, the same investment would be made as in the Rosaleda Hotel.

On the other hand, the general council of the PS also referred to the amendments aimed at men-



Pere López

PRESIDENT OF THE PS

«It would be a solution for more than 350 family units and, at the same time, would serve to alleviate market price inflation»

Susanna Vela

GENERAL COUNSEL

«The documentation of the National Archive cannot be kept in a flood-prone area»

tal health. In this way, the Social Democrats want to promote support for people in need of psychological care, with an investment of 150,000 euros for a new mental health center that meets the needs of patients, who «have been increased by 30% in our country due to the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020», said Vela. «This is an acceptable amendment that was not approved at the appropriate time» and that «taking into account the report of the school of psychologists that was made public last summer alleging lack of attention «We don't understand how the government has not decided to act so far», said Vela. Finally, the PS proposes a feasibility study of the mental health center project to establish which is the best place where it could be installed, what features it should have and a detail of the architectural project to facilitate the work of professionals and comfort of all patients. ≡

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