



Health Update ▶ The Road to descent, according to a Simulation by the Executive

The government estimates that the incidence will drop in about two weeks

Benazet points out that when there are less than 3,000 active cases, various restrictions will be lifted

54.23% of adults have received the third dose, corresponding to 35,420 vaccines



SFGA / CESTEVE



Joan M. Benazet
MINISTER OF HEALTH

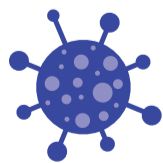
«One of the fears is that infections in schools could be amplified. We need to be careful about decisions»

565 new positives had been confirmed in the last 24 hours and a total of 31,572 infected in the Principality. These included delayed testing in the last few days following the breakdown of one of the TMA testing machines, although it had not yet been cleared. Active cases were down slightly, with a reduction of 127 people and standing at 4,440 wednesday. Of these, 17 were admitted to the Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell: 10 on the ground floor and seven in the ICU, five of them under mechanical ventilation. Also, regarding the latest infections in the residences, Benazet remarked that there were only two sick Cedar residents left, and that «all of them have evolved well», which is «a reflection of how the vaccine has protected the health centers».

Regarding the vaccination campaign, the minister shared that a total of 149,999 vaccines had already been administered, of which 35,420 corresponded to third doses. In fact, wednesday it was estimated that 54.23% of the population over the age of 18 had already been inoculated three times. «Vaccination has helped us keep the activity open,» he said, noting that it had also helped reduce lethality and mortality. In addition, the government is waiting for the vaccines to arrive, with the idea of being able to offer it to children between the ages of five and 11 in February. He encouraged parents to consult with professionals about vaccination and to decide whether to pursue it.

To close the update, Benazet reported that a total of 26,988 discharges had been reported - 296 on the last day - deaths had remained at 144, and that there were 185 classrooms under surveillance. ≡

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The government believes that in about two weeks, the incidence of coronavirus will go down. This was made clear wednesday by the Minister of Health, Joan Martínez Benazet, who stated that this forecast was the result of a simulation made from the evolution of covid, and that they placed the time from one to three weeks to begin to perceive a decline in generalized casuistry. «The model takes into account the current circumstances and the variant,» said Benazet, although he

pointed out that, because it is a simulation, «it may be subject to problems» and therefore to changes. In fact, one of these problems could be caused by schools, as the minister acknowledged, «one of the fears is that infections in schools could act as amplifiers.»

In any case, at a time when the incidence is «clearly falling», a situation that the head of Health saw in a number of active cases below 3,000, the minister believes that «we will be able to lift the restrictions». Some of these measures include restrictions on certain activities such as catering, nightlife closing, or the mandatory use of a mask at streets. However, when asked by the press, he insisted that

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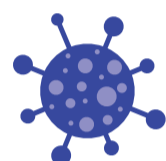
«it is too early to talk about protocols» in relation to the reopening of nightclubs, although he assured that «with a clear drop in the omicron, they will be able to open with few measures». Benazet also shared that the use of the covid certificate to access which services will be lifted «at a time when it does not make sense», although he defended that it currently has a function of protecting the population and limit transmission». In all, the minister said that «we must be cautious with the decisions we can make».

SLIGHT DECLINE IN ACTIVE CASES // As for the epidemiological update, the Government reported that

One year after vaccination started

The first batch was 2,000 doses, such as those now inoculated daily in the Braus square

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On January 20th, 2021, the first doses of the coronavirus vaccine were administered in Andorra. It

had been almost a month since the neighboring countries began their vaccination campaigns, but in the end, the shipment of 2,000 Pfizer vaccines from Spain, transported in two trips «in case of any incident, do not miss the totality», allowed to thread the needle. This is what the Minister of Health, Joan Martínez Benazet, said at the time, as in the first months of the start of the Vaccination Plan, vaccines arrived in droplets and their production and availability throughout Europe was scarce.

The first health worker to be inoculated in the Principality was the head of the Aging and Health Service, Dr. Eva Heras, on the initial day of vaccination and as part of the staff of the El Cedre social and health center. «We had just had a very hard month and we were exhausted, so we see the vaccine as one of the solutions to control the pandemic», said Heras, who added that «I was con-

vinced I was vaccinated and I lived it as an act of social responsibility». «I was very excited, and the desire to improve the health situation overcame the fear I could feel, which was normal in my case, being the first», said the doctor. A conviction that, over the last year and before the next doses, has remained «firm», and even «has gone further, seeing how everything has gone after».

On the first day of the campaign, just over 200 people were vaccinated among residents and professionals of Cedre and Clara Rabassa, as well as some SAAS health workers. A figure far from the nearly 2,000 that are now punctured every day in the Braus square of Andorra la Vella. SAAS Director General Josep Maria Piqué then described the action as a «historic moment», saying that thanks to the administration of anti-covid drugs, «we are starting to cut the chain of infections». A situation that has finally been realized, because as Heras pointed out, «we have been lucky with the vaccines, because thanks to them, hospitalizations, ICU admissions and mortality have been reduced drastically». An opinion similar to that expressed Wednesday by Benazet, who emphasized that «the great luck we have had is that, after a



►► Dr. Eva Heras, at the time of receiving the first dose.

Heras received the vaccine as an «act of social responsibility» and with a firm conviction

year of the pandemic, a very strong element came to fight it», in reference right to the vaccine.

But beyond the improvements in terms of health, this gradual vaccination has allowed residents of health centers to «recover a certain normalcy». «With this context, they have been able to resume their activities, routines, visits ... In short, they can do things that are important to them», said Heras.

Looking to the future, the head of the Aging and Health Service finds it difficult to make predictions about the path the pandemic will take. However, she acknowledged that she was a «positive per-

son» and hoped that in the face of the omicron, «which is very fast and difficult for another variant to move easily», the coronavirus could advance to a stage, endemic.

«I personally would like this change to take place, and for people who become infected to have the disease in an asymptomatic or mild way», said the doctor, adding that «I find it difficult to predict anything after the two years we have lived».

In any case, he remarked that «I encourage people who have not yet been vaccinated to do so, because they will benefit individually as well as collectively».

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