



HOUSE OF SPAIN
in San Diego
CASA DE ESPAÑA

NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Dear HOS Members,

I hope that all of you continue to be well and healthy, as we continue to navigate the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Estrella Diaz Sanchez, member of the HOS and member of the Board of Directors, is visiting her family in Spain and has sent us the report below on the covid-19 situation in Spain.

I will keep you posted regarding the re-opening of House of Spain.

I encourage you to contact us if you'd like to volunteer to help others during this difficult time.

Please feel free to reach out to us at contact@houseofspain.org any time.

I sincerely thank you for your support and membership,

Stay healthy, Salud!

Jesus Benayas





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CURRENT SITUATION OF COVID-19 IN SPAIN

Dear members of House of Spain,

My name is Estrella Díaz and I have been a member of the House of Spain for only a few months. I've been living in San Diego for a year now and I'm going to spend another year developing a European research project at San Diego State University. A few weeks ago, I arrived in Spain from San Diego. It was not just a simple vacation in my country, but a way to meet my family and recover from the great impact we have all experienced as a result of the lockdown and measures taken to stop the spreading of COVID-19. The main aim of this article is to reflect the current situation of COVID-19 in Spain.















Although the COVID-19 was much more controlled, the opening of Spain to tourism, family and social gatherings, as well as summer travel, have led to an increase in positive cases within Spanish territory. At the time of writing, Spain has recorded a total of 322,890 cumulative cases and 28,576 deaths, making it the eleventh country most affected by the coronavirus. By Autonomous Communities, Catalonia is the community with the most cases, followed by Madrid and Castilla y León (see Table 1). Most of the new cases have been caused by asymptomatic people or by young people.

Table 1. Total confirmed cases of COVID-19, diagnosed the day before and diagnosed or with onset of symptoms in the last 14 and 7 days at 10.08.2020

Autonomous Communities	Total cases*	Cases diagnosed the day before	Cases diagnosed the last 14 days		Cases diagnosed the last 7 days	
			Number	AI**	Number	AI**
 Andalusia	17,473	133	2,805	33.34	1,682	19.99
 Aragon***	18,388	348	7,139	541.12	3,166	239.98
 Asturias	2,701	16	236	23.07	148	14.47
 Balearic Islands	3,143	1	691	60.12	366	31.84
 Canary Islands	2,955	50	347	16.11	268	12.45
 Cantabria	2,746	29	310	53.35	214	36.83



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	Castile-La Mancha	19,267	13	676	33.25	390	19.18
	Castile and Leon	21,394	5	1,295	53.97	765	31.88
	Catalonia	88,572	76	12,106	157.73	5,459	71.13
	Ceuta	167	0	3	3.54	1	1.18
	C. Valenciana	15,411	29	2,435	48.66	1,257	25.12
	Extremadura	3,613	7	299	28.00	167	15.64
	Galicia	10,245	46	614	22.74	436	16.15
	Madrid	83,120	224	8,342	125.19	5,325	79.91
	Melilla	162	5	33	38.16	23	26.59
	Murcia	2,964	5	805	53.89	414	27.71
	Navarre	7,524	146	1,042	159.28	649	99.20
	Basque Country	18,866	342	3,323	150.51	2,161	97.88
	La Rioja	4,269	11	88	27.78	64	20.20
	Spain	322,980	1,486	42,589	90.56	22,955	48.81

* Total cases confirmed by PCR until 10 May, and by PCR and IgM (only if symptoms are compatible) according to the new surveillance strategy since 11 May. ** AI: Cumulative incidence (diagnosed cases/100,000 inhabitants)

***Aragon has not loaded data due to technical problems.

Source: Own elaboration from the Ministry of Health, Government of Spain (2020)

Mandatory use of the mask in Spain

The Presidency of the Government (2020) has stipulated when the use of the mask is obligatory. As a preventive and hygienic measure, people aged six and over are obliged to wear masks in the following cases: 1) public roads or open air spaces, provided that the interpersonal distance cannot be maintained below 1.5 meters ; 2) closed spaces for public use or which are open to the public when the interpersonal safety distance cannot be maintained; 3) means of air, sea, bus or rail transport, as well as in complementary public and private passenger transport in vehicles of up to nine seats, including the driver, if the occupants of the passenger vehicles do not live in the same home.

The Autonomous Communities have approved decrees for the population over six years of age (12 in the case of Navarre) to use them, even if there is a safety distance. RTVE, Spanish Radio Television (2020) provides specific data on how the use of masks is managed in Spain for certain specific activities:

Drinks and food in bars and restaurants

In Aragon, Extremadura and Ceuta the rule does not specify anything in this matter, although both appeal to the exceptions published in previous rules and add as exceptions those activities in which, by their nature, the use of the mask is incompatible. The rest of the Communities (e.g., Balearic Islands, Murcia or La Rioja) do explicitly



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mention them, alluding to the fact that their use is not mandatory in situations of consumption of food and beverages.

Sport and physical activities

In La Rioja, Galicia and Catalonia these activities are exempt from the use of the mask. In other communities, such as Aragon, Extremadura, Andalusia, Asturias and Ceuta, they are only exempt from employment when practicing sports outdoors individually; in the case of Cantabria, moreover, people over 65 years of age who go in groups of no more than three persons are also exempt. In the Balearic Islands, minors under 16 years of age who participate in leisure activities for children and young people, and those who go to natural or open-air spaces outside population centers will not have to make use of it either. In Navarre they also include alternatives in activities such as hiking, climbing, mountaineering, cycling and similar, as long as the safety distance can be respected.

Beaches and swimming pools

In the case of Cantabria, they include water activities as an exception, but they require that the entrance to the beaches must be done with a mask. In Murcia, on the other hand, their use is recommended, although not obligatory. In the Balearic Islands, people are exempt from wearing masks on beaches and promenades, and in swimming pools as long as the influx of people into these spaces allows for the maintenance of interpersonal distance. Along the same lines, they act in La Rioja, Galicia, Catalonia and Navarre, specifying the exception when bathing in swimming pools and other places set up for bathing. In Andalusia, the Basque Country and Castile-La Mancha, it is compulsory to use them when travelling to beaches or swimming pools. In the Basque Country, if you go in a group, only ten people may go, respecting interpersonal distance. In the Valencian Community, the mask will not be necessary on beaches and swimming pools once inside, except for common places such as bathrooms or terraces when not in use.

New technologies for COVID-19 tracking

The Ministry of Health has launched the app called RadarCOVID, a contagion alert application for mobile phones, which is in a trial period on the island of La Gomera, but with more than 60,000 downloads throughout Spain. Once it has received the approval of the health authorities, the next step has been to make this application available to the autonomous communities. The autonomous communities that wish to do so will be able to connect the tool to their health warning management systems. Given the current situation, of the appearance of some outbreaks of infections located in regions once mobility has been recovered, a first functional version of the tool could be available for a specific launch in mid-August. Deployment in the rest of the national territory, if the autonomous authorities so decide in the exercise of their powers, would arrive in mid-September.

RadarCOVID maintains user privacy in compliance with the recommendations of the European Commission. In this way, no user can be identified or located because there is no data recorded and because the entire process is carried out on their phone without going out to any server. The application uses the terminal's Bluetooth connection and both the use of the app and the communication of a possible contagion will always be voluntary. If a user is diagnosed positive for COVID-19 after a PCR test, he or she will decide whether to give their consent so that an anonymous notification can be sent through the health system. In this way, mobile phones that have been in contact with the patient would be alerted to the risk of possible infection and instructions would be given on how to proceed.



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Personal reflection

By and large, I have seen a great deal of self-discipline in Spanish citizens, complying with the various health measures to contain the virus. Despite a minimal proportion of people (mostly young people) who are not aware of the importance of the virus and the repercussions on the economy and society, the vast majority of Spaniards are making a spectacular effort to overcome this health and economic crisis. This pandemic has ended many lives, dreams, illusions and jobs throughout Spain. However, COVID-19 has helped us to value personal relationships. Throughout history, Spain and the Spanish people have known how to get out of very complicated situations, so this crisis will help us to come out stronger, increase our love for our country and be in solidarity with those around us.

References

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