

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Sweden tops Europe COVID-19 deaths per capita over last 7 days

London.—Sweden, which has opted for a more open strategy in combating the virus than other European countries, has the highest number of deaths in Europe per capita from the COVID-19 disease over the last seven days, data showed.

Sweden has kept most schools, restaurant and businesses open during the pandemic. While deaths are on the decline Sweden had 6.25 deaths per million inhabitants per day in a rolling seven day average between May 12 and May 19, according to Ourworldinsata.org. That was the highest in Europe and just above the United Kingdom, which had 5.75 deaths per million. Over the course of the pandemic

Sweden still has fewer deaths per capita than the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Belgium and France, which have all opted for lockdowns, but much higher than Nordic neighbours Denmark, Norway and Finland.

Sweden's strategy, mostly based on voluntary measures regarding social distancing and basic hygiene, has been criticised by some as a dangerous experiment with peoples lives but also been put forward as a future model by the WHO.

Sweden's open strategy seems to have softened the blow on the economy, with growth shrinking much less than in Denmark and Norway in the first quarter.

GOVERNMENT IN U-TURN OVER ONE MONTH STATE OF ALARM IN SPAIN

Palma.—The Spanish government, needing support in Congress for a further extension to the state of alarm after 24 May, has reached agreement with Ciudadanos for a fifteen-day extension.

Prime Minister Sánchez indicated on Saturday that Congress would be asked for one final extension of “around a

month”. The government had in fact been considering an extension until 27 June, but securing agreement for a month or more was always likely to have been difficult.

The Cs opposed a month's extension and so threatened to vote against an extension. The agreement with the Cs

doesn't guarantee the government a majority, but with the normal support it can expect from small parties, the ten votes from Ciudadanos will give a majority.

It may in fact be that the voting becomes less difficult for Sánchez, as the government will undertake to analyse

measures and, where appropriate, legislative reform that will allow there to be an orderly exit from the state of alarm and at the same time the management of the pandemic.

This would not entail the use of the constitutional tool of the state of alarm declaration.



Spain lifts ban on flights from Italy, but tourism still off cards

● Spain has lifted a ban on direct flights and ships from Italy but retained a block on cruise ships and a quarantine for inbound travellers as a survey showed the coronavirus outbreak had also put locals off travelling. Full Report Inside.