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SON ESPASES EMERGENCIAS IS “OVERWHELMED”

Palma.—The SATSE nurses union claims that the emergencies wing at Son Espases Hospital is overwhelmed with some 120 patients waiting and 46 pending admission or without a designated bed. The union says that this has been the situation since the weekend and notes that 56 beds are not being used because of the hospital’s summer plan.

SATSE complains that nursing staff can’t cope and is warning that the closure of beds

is a “reckless” measure, given the current circumstances with coronavirus. The union had previously highlighted the difficulties which could occur because of beds not being used.

There are patients who have been waiting for admission for 62 hours. Most of them are internal medicine patients for wards that are not operational. The union stresses that these are not Covid-19 patients and is calling for the immediate hiring of additional nurses.



● Juan Carlos’s decision to leave Spain will not affect the royal family’s agenda. The Royal Household says that no official engagements had in any event been scheduled for this week. At the weekend, King Felipe, Queen Letizia and the princesses, Leonor and Sofia, will arrive in Majorca for their ten-day summer vacation. On Monday, when the announcement was made, there was also no official engagement, although there has been speculation that the Royal Household may have altered the agenda.

The royal family will arrive in Palma either on Friday and Saturday. They will, as always, be staying at the Marivent Palace, where Sofia, the Queen Mother, and Princess Elena, one of the King’s sisters, are already in residence.

The stay in Majorca will last until August 17, and the royal family will be visiting the other islands in order to find out how the virus has affected the rest of the Balearics. There will be no reception at the Almudaina Palace this year, but the King will as usual be meeting leading Majorcan politicians. There will also be the weekly meeting with Prime Minister Sánchez, who will travel to Palma from Madrid.

The Queen mother will not be joining King Juan Carlos in his new home overseas, she will spend the summer in Majorca and then return home to Zarzuela Palace and continue with her institutional activities as before.

Doña Sofía arrived at Marivent Palace a few days ago with her eldest daughter, Infanta Elena, and her sister, Princess Irene.

Doña Sofía has only had a handful of engagements this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, including the veneration of the Christ of Medinaceli and a concert for the victims of the Holocaust.

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Royal holiday in Majorca to go ahead as usual