

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Belgium adds the Balearics to quarantine recommendation list

● The Belgian foreign ministry has updated its travel advice and included the Balearics on an “orange” list, meaning that travellers from the Balearics are now recommended to take a test and to quarantine on return. The Madrid region has also been included on the orange list, which already included several other provinces or regions of Spain, e.g. the Basque Country, Murcia and Valencia. The Belgian authorities have a three-colour system. Green is without re-

strictions. Red means that travel to certain places is banned and that anyone who travels back to Belgium from them must quarantine. These include the Catalonia provinces of Barcelona and Lleida. As well as the updated advice for the Balearics and Madrid, the Belgian foreign ministry added areas of France and the Croatian province of Vukomar-Syrmia to the orange list. The colour-code system is being reviewed on a daily basis. **SEE PAGE 3**

GERMANY FIGHTS VIRUS UPTICK WITH MANDATORY TESTING FOR TRAVELLERS

Berlin.—Germany announced mandatory tests for travellers returning from high-risk regions after new coronavirus cases breached the 1,000-a-day threshold for the first time since May, fuelling fears of a return to an economically disruptive lockdown.

Health Minister Jens Spahn said yesterday free compulsory testing would be in force from Saturday after the Robert Koch Institute, Germany’s public health agency, reported 1,045 new cases in a single day.

Part of the increase was due to more tests taking place, he said, but the impact of holidaymakers returning to Germany and of flagging social distancing discipline was also significant.

Germany classifies almost all the world outside the European Union as high risk, as well as some regions within the bloc, including Aragon, Catalonia and Navarre in Spain, and Belgium’s Antwerp province.

The compulsory tests mean travellers will not have to quarantine for two weeks. Anyone who refuses to take the test could face a fine of up to 25,000 euros.

“If anybody thinks they can be stubborn at the airport and deal with the fine when it comes later, no. They’re going into quarantine for two weeks,” Spahn added.

Germany’s approach is similar to that in neighbouring France, which requires travellers from

some countries to take COVID-19 tests at airports and ports. Some other European countries require travellers to take a test in the days before their trip.

With Europe’s largest economy only starting to recover from the near-total lockdown that was imposed in March, any sign of renewed restrictions will dismay investors.

Spahn said he thought a renewed closure of shops could probably still be avoided.

The head of the German doctors’ union said earlier this week that Germany was already contending with a second wave of the coronavirus and risked squandering its early success by flouting social distancing rules.

Officials believe it will be harder to control the spread of new infections from autumn, making it all the more important to keep numbers down as the summer draws to a close.

The lockdown pushed the number of daily new cases down to as low as 159 in mid-July, but numbers have been rising since, fuelled by local outbreaks, including one centred on a slaughterhouse that had the entire city of Guetersloh placed under restrictions.

A poll for *Der Spiegel* magazine showed four fifths of Germans expect further lockdowns to be imposed to control the pandemic, with half expecting future measures to be stricter than in the last one.



SAVING THE MED: SEE PAGE 15

Temperatures in central Majorca could peak at 40°C this weekend.

BLAZING BALEARICS

Palma.—After a brief reprieve in early August, Mother Nature is set to roast the Balearics with another brutal heat wave this weekend. “High pressure settled in Germany will bring another

surge of heat across much of western Europe, from Spain and Portugal to England and Germany,” said AccuWeather Meteorologist Tyler Roys yesterday.

Temperatures in the Balearics

will begin to creep up today and over the weekend could hit highs of 40°C in more central areas of the islands, in particular Majorca.

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