

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Nautical sector in storm over new restrictions: See Page 4

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Spain's Canary Islands impose negative COVID-19 test rule for tourists

Spain's Canary Islands have passed a law obliging tourists visiting the archipelago's hotels to present a negative COVID-19 test result as part of efforts to prevent imported infections.

Located around 60 miles off Morocco's Atlantic coast, the chain of seven islands is popular among sun-seeking northern Europeans, especially during the winter, when half its tourism revenues are generated.

Under the new decree, hotels will require guests over the age of 12 to provide a negative test result taken within the 72 hours prior to arrival.

"It is the feasible solution, for the time being..., for the protection of the islands, our tourists and our residents," regional tourism chief Yaiza Castilla said.

While the Spanish mainland has long been one of Europe's worst coronavirus hotspots, with an infection rate of 468 cases per 100,000 people, the Canaries have a rate of just 79 cases per 100,000.

Germany and Britain last week lifted restrictions on visiting the islands, providing a glimmer of hope that the winter season could be salvaged after a dismal summer. In anticipation of rising demand for flights, budget airline Ryanair announced yesterday it would add an extra service per week between London Stansted and Tenerife.

BALEARICS ONE OF FOUR REGIONS NOT TO CLOSE BORDERS

Palma.—At present, there are four regions of Spain which have not introduced restrictions on mobility between regions - Extremadura, Galicia, the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands.

Borders of the other thirteen regions have in effect been closed to all but essential travel. In most cases these orders apply up to November 9, which is when the initial phase of the state of alarm ends. Next Wednesday,

the Inter-Territorial Council for the National Health System will convene and is expected to establish criteria for measures being adopted by regional governments, such as the period of time for closing borders.

