

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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# “Substantial” part of Spanish population to be vaccinated in first half of 2021, PM says

A substantial part of the Spanish population will be vaccinated against COVID-19 in the first half of 2021, Prime Minister

Pedro Sanchez told a news conference yesterday. Sanchez said the government will unveil a coronavirus vaccination

plan next Tuesday. He did not give any details.

The government has created a special

committee to establish who would be vaccinated first, when a vaccine is available



## Spain lowers price cap on COVID-19 masks to 62 cents

**S**pain's health ministry yesterday lowered a price cap on health masks used to curb COVID-19 contagion to 0.62 euros (\$0.73) per mask to take into account a cut in value-added tax announced this week.

The use of masks covering the nose and the mouth to prevent coronavirus contagion has been mandatory for months in Spain for people from the age of six.

The country has the second-highest number of cumulative infections in western Europe. Yesterday, the Health Ministry reported an increase of 16,233 cases versus Wednesday to hit a cumulative total of 1,541,574, while the death toll rose by 252 to 42,291 compared to figures from the previous day.

The cut in the price cap takes into account the government's decision on Tuesday to cut value-added tax on single-use masks to 4% from 21%, which came into effect on Thursday.

It was the second cut in the maximum retail price for single-use masks in a week as the cap had already been lowered late last week from a previous 96 cents.

On the streets of Madrid, some residents wished the government had slashed the VAT earlier.

“I think that it's very good and I think they should have done it before. It's something we are obliged to wear and some people have very little economic resources,” massage therapist Elisabeth Carroscosa said.

## Vardy scores first in UK's “WAGatha Christie” soccer wives' libel trial

● Rebekah Vardy, the wife of an England soccer striker, won the first exchange in her libel case against the wife of his former international teammate Wayne Rooney over accusations she passed on stories to a newspaper about her former friend.

Vardy is suing Coleen Rooney at London's High Court for accusing her on Twitter and Instagram of leaking stories from her private life to the *Sun* tabloid. Vardy denies the leaks.

Both women belong to a glamorous group of footballers' wives and girlfriends, known in Britain as the WAGs, who have become celebrities in their own right.