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Supermarkets say products in short supply in Britain

London.— British supermarkets said yesterday that some products were in short supply and petrol stations had been forced to close after the official health app told hundreds of thousands of workers to isolate following contact with someone with COVID-19.

British newspapers carried front-page pictures of empty shelves in supermarkets, declaring a "pingdemic".

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng told Sky News the government was "very concerned" about the situation but that he did not recognise the network's characterisation of "bare" supermarket shelves.

With cases rising to nearly 50,000 day in the United Kingdom, hundreds of thousands of people have been advised - or "pinged" - by the National Health Service's contact-tracing app to isolate for 10 days.

The drastic reduction in staffing that has resulted has sown chaos through sectors as diverse as food supplies, haulage, supermarkets, hospitality, manufacturing and media. To avoid disruption, many people have deleted the app from their phones.

Sainsbury's, Britain's second largest grocer, said customers may not be able to find the exact product they want.

Germany set to list Spain as COVID high incidence area

Berlin.—Germany plans to declare Spain and the Netherlands COVID-19 high risk areas, meaning that incoming travellers who are not fully vaccinated must quar-

antine, the Funke group of newspapers reported yesterday. The plans would be announced today, Funke said, citing government sources.

The foreign ministry was not immediately available for comment. The move would be a major blow for the Majorcan tourist industry.



Bars and restaurants had to close earlier from last night in new restrictions.

Record number of new cases of COVID in Balearics: See PAGE FOUR INSIDE



Palma.—The Balearics are braced for some record temperatures this weekend.

The Met Office said yesterday that temperatures on Saturday and Sunday could reach the 40 degrees Centigrade mark.

The night-time temperatures will continue to remain high, according to the Met Office.

See Weather Inside.

Get set for a hot weekend

MONDAY