

Spain sees sharp drop in daily virus death toll

April 19 2020



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Spain registered a sharp drop in its daily death toll from the new coronavirus on Sunday, with the number falling to 410 from 565.

The total number of fatalities in Spain, the third hardest-hit country in the world after the US and Italy, has reached 20,453, the health ministry

said.

"It's a number that gives us hope," said [health ministry](#) emergencies coordinator Fernando Simon of the daily [death](#) toll, at its lowest in four weeks.

"It's the first time we are under 500 dead since the daily tolls began to climb."

Infections rose to 195,344, with 4,218 new cases in the past 24 hours.

But Simon admitted the fall in the [number](#) of deaths from Saturday to Sunday can be explained by the lower registration of fatalities over the weekend. Such a drop is often followed by a rise at the start of the week.

Spanish authorities believe the country reached the peak of the pandemic on April 2 when they had counted 950 deaths in 24 hours. But they are not ready to recommend a lifting of the nationwide lockdown, one of the tightest in Europe.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Saturday announced he would ask parliament to extend the lockdown by two weeks to May 9.

The restrictions currently in place would however be loosened slightly to allow children time outside from April 27, Sanchez said.

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