

Spain's army predicts 2 more waves of coronavirus

May 8 2020, by Joseph Wilson



A member of the Spanish army works at the command center during Operation Balmis at the Retamares military base in Pozuelo de Alarcon, outskirts Madrid, Spain, Friday, April 24, 2020. The Operation Balmis coordinates the Spanish army missions during the coronavirus crisis. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangue)

Spain's army expects there to be two more outbreaks of the new

coronavirus, according to an internal report seen by The Associated Press.

The army report predicts "two more waves of the epidemic" and that Spain will take "between a year and a year-and-a-half to return to normality."

The document was published by Spanish newspaper ABC on Friday and later confirmed as authentic by the AP.

"There will be a second wave of COVID-19" in the autumn or winter the army report said, adding that it will be less serious than the initial outbreak due to higher immunity in the population and better preparations.

It said that a "possible third wave would be greatly weakened" next year if there is a vaccine available.

The report was produced by the army as its own forecast of the pandemic, which it can share with civilian authorities. Spain's government has its own experts who make the final decisions on [health policy](#), taking into account the opinion of other institutions and outside experts.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has warned that he considers it highly probable that the virus will make comebacks until a vaccine is developed.

Health officials in Spain are carrying out a epidemiological survey to determine the extent of the contagion, including the several thousand people who have been mildly ill with cough and high fever but never been tested in a hospital. There are also believed to be thousands more who were infected but never showed symptoms. On Friday, the [health](#)

[ministry](#) said that medical workers had taken blood samples from over 46,000 people over the first week of the survey. It plans to test 60,000-90,000 overall.



Members of the UME (Emergency Army Unit) wearing protective suits to protect from coronavirus prepare to disinfect at the 12 Octubre hospital in Madrid, Spain, Spain, Thursday April 30, 2020 as the lockdown to combat the spread of coronavirus continues. (AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)



In this March 30, 2020, file photo, Spanish Army soldiers mount a tent to be used by hospital patients during the coronavirus outbreak in Madrid, Spain. Uncertainty in planning for the pandemic has left the globe dotted with dozens of barely used or unused temporary field hospitals. Spain built at least 16 field hospitals, ranging from a few beds under tents to one with more than 5,000 beds at Madrid's big convention center. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangué, File)

Over 26,000 Spaniards are known to have died from the COVID-19 virus. Spain has gotten control over the outbreak which has infected a confirmed 260,177 people in the country and is now easing restrictions to activate its battered economy.

Spain's army has played a major role in combating the virus under the nation's state of emergency established in mid-March. Thousands of

soldiers and military medics have deployed to set up field hospitals, disinfect nursing homes and transport hubs, and transport patients between hospitals and corpses to morgues.

When considering steps to prepare for the coming months, the [army](#) report said "it would be extremely important" to develop a contact tracing method using mobile phone applications. Spain so far has not done that and is relying on a local network of public health clinics to monitor future cases.

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