

Spain reports no virus deaths for first time since March

June 1 2020



Catholic priest Pedro Luis, left, talks with a church volunteer, wearing face mask protection to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, after a mass at the San Ildefonso church in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, May 31, 2020. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangue)

Spain on Monday reported no official deaths from the new coronavirus

in a 24-hour period for the first time since March.

The development is "very, very encouraging," emergency health response chief Fernando Simón said.

Also, Spain recorded only 71 new COVID-19 infections over the past 24 hours, he told a news conference.

"We are in a very good place in the evolution of the pandemic," Simón said. "The statistics are following a trend. They are going in the right direction."

Spain reported its first two deaths on March 3. Another was reported two days later. Spain's number of infections and [death](#) jumped exponentially. On April 2, it recorded 950 deaths in 24 hours—the peak death toll.

The official death toll now stands at 27,127, with 240,000 confirmed cases.

Spain was the second European country after Italy to be forcefully hit by the pandemic before it also spread death in France and Britain. One of the world's strictest lockdowns was put into place in mid-March and managed to eventually reduce the pressure on hospitals after some were overwhelmed with patients suffering from the virus.

The lockdown is gradually being relaxed as the medical situation improves.



Elder people wearing face masks sit on a bench in a square in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, May 31, 2020. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez says he will ask Spain's Parliament for a final two-week extension of the nation's state of emergency that has allowed the government to take lockdown measures to control its coronavirus outbreak. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)



Family members eat as they sit on a bench in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, May 31, 2020. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez says he will ask Spain's Parliament for a final two-week extension of the nation's state of emergency that has allowed the government to take lockdown measures to control its coronavirus outbreak. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)



Customers sit at a terrace bar in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, May 31, 2020. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez says he will ask Spain's Parliament for a final two-week extension of the nation's state of emergency that has allowed the government to take lockdown measures to control its coronavirus outbreak. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)



Catholic worshippers, wearing face masks protection to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, attend a mass at the San Ildefonso church in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, May 31, 2020. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangue)

The Spanish government has warned, however, that the threat is not over and that the loosening of restrictions could be reversed.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said last weekend he will be asking parliament for an extension of the government's special emergency powers for another two weeks. That enables authorities to order people to stay home.

Simon said recent hot spots caused by people holding unauthorized "fiestas" can potentially bring a major new resurgence.

"We are still at risk. Any of these outbreaks can mean a new wave of infections," he said. "We must remain cautious."

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