



**Fédération Européenne  
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## Report for FEMS (April 2022)

**Madrid, April 26, 2022:** in recent months Spain has moved towards the elimination of numerous measures imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to the improvement in the data, mainly, of accumulated incidence, care overload and deaths.

In this sense, the Ministry of Health decided to **change on March 28 its way of presenting the figures**, so that it is no longer daily but once a week -on Wednesdays- and with some data that are no longer so disaggregated. All this after having experienced in the months of December and January with a new wave of infections that put the health system against the ropes again, especially in **Primary Care**. This was because of **the bureaucratic overload** involved in the management of high and low work since the severity of the cases of contagion was not comparable to that of previous peaks and the periods of isolation were changed.

In the last update of figures, on April 22, the **pandemic situation of COVID 19** in Spain means that there are a total of **11,786,036 confirmed cases reported**, 2,132,729 over 60 years, and the number of **deaths is 103,908 since the beginning** of the pandemic. The cumulative incidence at 14 days is 391 per 100,000 inhabitants, still far from the 140.43 that we reflected in September. The occupancy rate of ICU beds due to COVID is, with regional differences, at 3.7%, and since the beginning of the pandemic, 520,115 hospitalizations and 49,352 ICU admissions have been notified to RENAVE (National network of surveillance in public health). The autonomous communities of Spain they are at an alert level between 1 and 2, except Asturias which reaches the level 3.

On the other hand, the **vaccination strategy** indicates that so far there are 39,210,144 people (92.9% of the population over 12 years old) with the first dose of the vaccine, 39,033,917 (92.5% of the population over 12 years old) with the complete regimen and 24,689,379 (52.1% of the INE population) with a third booster dose. Regarding paediatric vaccination (children between 5 and 12 years old), 54% have one dose and 41.3% have a

complete schedule. In total, 94,295,766 of doses have been administered of the 97,292,429 doses delivered.

All these data have allowed the Ministry of Health to set **April 20 as the day on which the mandatory nature of masks was eliminated**, which however will be maintained in transport, health centers and residential centers. In addition, companies will decide whether or not to keep them for their employees.

This decision occurred just after Holy Week, the first of the "new normal" in which the situation of tourism and pre-pandemic displacements has recovered, so at the end of April a **slight increase in cases** is being noticed and some community like Asturias has even asked that masks be put back on and most are asking for prudence.

In this period, the care overload and the **collapse suffered by the Primary Care centers** have also been relaxed, although the problems of years ago regarding the reduced workforce and the agendas without limit of patients continue to exist. The Government has wanted to elaborate the umpteenth Action Plan, another one, but it is still a budget-underfunded design and without real measures applicable urgently. The situation is so serious that the **Forum of Primary Care Doctors** itself has pointed out in the recent celebration of its day that **if measures are not taken** now and it is financed as it should to, the Primary Care it **will disappear**.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Health appointed a new General Director of Professional Planning and from the union we continue to fight for the **conflict with the choice of place** for future specialists of the National Health System. Despite the problem created and the professional mobilizations of the previous call, **nothing has been solved for young doctors who this week (end of April) begin to choose their specialty and destination**. They will do it again telematically with a tool that will be limited to making an assignment of a list of preferences and not a choice in real time. CESM called on March 23 a large demonstration in the center of the capital to reverse this situation, but from the Ministry of Health they don't listen our proposal and claim in this regard, that is aimed at reducing the shifts of election - something already achieved with the struggle of 2021- . And, above all, to be chosen specialty and destination in real time, something to which the



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previous General Director of Professional Planning committed. On the contrary, the system imposed by the ministry is leading to an increase in the number of places that are deserted after the award.

In these months, from CESM we have continued working to defend the articulation of a procedure that allows a **voluntary and flexible early retirement for doctors without economic loss**, we demand that the practice of Medicine be declared **as a risk profession** and that the contagion by **COVID-19 in health professionals is considered as an occupational disease**. None of the demands have been heard in recent months, so that on May 4 the CESM union has called a new rally to demand solutions to the critical situation of doctors now that the Government seems to be conveying the message that the pandemic is being left behind.