

The Guardia Civil began controlling new arrivals to Formentera today, with two agents posted near the exit ramp checking that people coming to the island were doing so in compliance with the restrictions included in the State of Alarm. The proclamation prohibits entry to all but those with a job or home on the island and expressly bans leisure travel, such as by tourists.

The island's president applauded the latest precautionary and containment-oriented measure in response to Covid-19, pointing out that the step had been taken the request of local government. "This is something our inhabitants and business owners have been pleading for", said Alejandra Ferrer. "Based on the State of Alarm proclamation, we can begin protecting our people by filtering access to the island given the current health crisis".

Ferry operators have been providing minimum services between Formentera and Eivissa since Saturday to assure the arrival of goods, though all but essential travel remains prohibited. Under the current scaled back service, ten daily journeys happen in each direction and controls are performed, but the Consell de Formentera and Govern balear are in talks to reduce the frequency further still.

Logging data

Last Friday the Consell de Formentera began keeping a register of the individuals who have arrived on the island in recent days. It also issued an appeal to new arrivals to contact the island's government by calling 971321087 to provide personal information. The Consell furnished the coronavirus safety protocol and stated it would monitor individuals as well as offer any necessary help. To date 138 recently arrivals from at-risk areas have arrived on the island and contacted the Consell.

Yesterday ferry operators began distributing a questionnaire put together by the Consell to all travellers, ensuring their details could be recorded and preventive measures, protocol and imperatives included in the State of Alarm could be explained before they disembarked. The information collected will also be shared with the relevant health authorities so each case can be monitored.

On behalf of the entire team of cabinet councillors, President Ferrer thanked the people of Formentera for their responsibility and commitment. “To the businesses that closed, and to those still open and providing basic necessities; to the security forces who are enforcing the imperatives of these unusual circumstances; to the workers who are so understandingly adapting their timetables and tasks; to those working from home; of course, to the health workers on the front lines; to all the youth, young children, families and elderly who are staying home. Thanks to the individual commitment of islanders and the collective effort that Formentera has always been so good at, we look forward to getting back to normal soon. *Thank you all.*
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Department of Communications
Consell de Formentera