

Attempt to view in perspective the health hazard posed by the COVID-19 pandemic:  
Mortality between February and the end of May 2020 in Spain  
and January and the end of April in Germany  
compared to the general death rate in both countries



## 5. Open Questions

**5.1** What has been the impact of the measures taken in terms of

- reduction in the incidence of death: interruption of infection chains, treatment in hospital;
- an increase in the incidence of death: panic, stress; reservation of capacity that would otherwise have been available for strokes, heart attacks, cancer and other operations; all economic, social, physical and psychological consequences. (2)

**5.2** Is the decline of mortality in Spain after 31/03/2020 causally related to the Estado de Alarma's declaration of contact restrictions from 14/03?

This question could be answered by clarifying the average time between infection and death among those who died with COVID-19.

The period between the onset of contact restrictions and the peak of the death curve was 17 days.

According to the data published so far by the Robert Koch Institute (25), the time from infection to death is between 14 days and one month.

Christian Drosten also spoke of one month in a *Spiegel* interview, reproduced in the *Tagesspiegel Berlin* on 29/05/2020. (26)

The final answer to this question is therefore left to future research.

**5.3** Were the measures taken in Germany sensible, although even before the introduction of contact restrictions on 22 March 2020 ("lockdown"), according to the Robert Koch Institute, the transmission rate had fallen to below 1? (27)

**5.4** Will the virus have its own season in the future in addition to the existing flu season?