

The Formentera Retirees' and Pensioners' Club (*Club de Jubilats i Pensionistes de Formentera*) in Sant Francesc and the Seniors' Social Centre (*Centre Social i de Majors*) in Sant Ferran will reopen this weekend with complete safety protocol in place. For now, both clubs will open Saturdays and Sundays 4.00pm to 8.00pm.

Seniors' clubs were among the first facilities to close even before emergency orders were first invoked last year as the pandemic gained force, and Consell de Formentera deputy premiere and chief of office of the eldery Ana Juan welcomed the fact the island's elders would at last be enjoying their favourite club activities again. "It's been an extremely difficult, complicated year for everyone, but above all for our seniors. Good news like this was overdue", said Juan, who pointed out that most old people on the island are either already fully vaccinated or are waiting for their second dose.

Under tier 1 rules in place on Formentera today, senior centres can operate if they keep capacity at 50 per cent. Masks are mandatory at all times, except during the precise moment of eating or drinking, and group activities, restricted to 10 people indoors and 15 people out, respecting an extended safe distance of two metres. Clubs will additionally be equipped with CO2 measuring devices.

Upkeep and upgrades during pandemic

Island services and the department of elderly affairs took advantage of clubs' months-long closure to commission painting, maintenance and repairs. The Sant Ferran centre got a fresh coat of paint inside, along with an upgraded electrical installation and a new awning and upholstery. Interior areas were painted and the kitchen expanded at the Sant Francesc club, with additional minor work in the toilets and new wooden wall hangers. La Mola's Casa del Poble has been open for the elderly for a few weeks now. For the time being, the Es Cap centre remains closed.

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Communications Department

Consell de Formentera