Tunisia reimposes curfew in virus hotspot

21 August 2020

Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Tunisian authorities on Friday reinstated a curfew in El Hamma after a spike in novel coronavirus cases there, the mayor said, as rail links servicing the town were suspended.

El Hamma, home to some 100,000 people, has recorded 441 cases of infection and five deaths from the COVID-19 illness, mayor Nacef Ennajeh told AFP.

He said a curfew had been imposed from 5 pm to 5 am for one week in the town, located some 325 kilometres (200 miles) south of the capital Tunis.

The North African country has registered a total of 2,543 cases and 63 fatalities since the start of the outbreak.

Trains from Tunis to the city of Gabes, which services El Hamma, have also been cancelled, the national rail company said.

Ennajeh said the town's hospital was struggling to cope. The army set up a field clinic last week to help.

Almost all [coronavirus](#) restrictions were lifted in

Tunisia at the start of the summer.

But with the numbers of cases growing since it opened its borders on June 27, the authorities announced this week that international travellers must present a negative coronavirus test on arrival.

© 2020 AFP

APA citation: Tunisia reimposes curfew in virus hotspot (2020, August 21) retrieved 11 May 2021 from https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-08-tunisia-reimposes-curfew-virus-hotspot.html