

## NEW RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC - UK QUARANTINE RULES

The UK Government has recently announced new quarantine rules. Since 15 February 2021, all travellers arriving in the UK have had to quarantine for 10 days and take COVID-tests on the 2nd and on, or after, the 8th day of quarantine<sup>1</sup>. Travellers from a newly-introduced 'red list' of countries face additional restrictions.

These requirements were imposed pursuant to the [Health Protection \(Coronavirus International Travel\) \(England\) Regulations 2020 \(SI 2020/578\) \(the "Travel Regulations"\)](#) which came into force on 8th June 2020. The Secretary of State used his powers under the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984 to enact the Travel Regulations.

The powers and offences derived from the Travel Regulations are complementary to the powers created under the Coronavirus Act 2020.

### Red List Countries

Travel from the [red list of countries](#) to the UK is banned<sup>2</sup> unless you are a British national, an Irish national, or anyone else with residence rights in the UK.

A person will be considered as having travelled from a red list country if they have transited through a red list country in the 10 days prior to their departure to the UK.

People arriving from red list countries will need to quarantine for 10 days (11 nights) in a Managed Quarantine Hotel at their own expense. The cost for one room for one adult is £1,750. This cost will increase by £650 for an additional person sharing the room and by £325 for a child aged five to 12 years old.

### Red List Countries and Non-Red List Countries

Whether you arrive in England from a red list or non-red list country, you will need to self-isolate for 10 days on arrival<sup>3</sup> and provide the following documentation at border checkpoint:

- a Passenger Locator Form specifying:<sup>4</sup>
  - your passport details;
  - your travel details including times and dates;
  - the address where you will stay in the UK;

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<sup>1</sup> If you are travelling for professional reasons and that your job qualifies for travel exemptions, you may be exempt from one or more of the COVID-related travel restrictions; see Schedule 2 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) (England) Regulations 2020.

<sup>2</sup> See Schedule B1 of the Travel Regulations.

<sup>3</sup> See Regulation 4 of the Travel Regulations. There are still some limited exceptions: people travelling to England to maintain essential supply chains, people working on critical national infrastructure and to contribute to the crisis response or other essential government work.

<sup>4</sup> See Regulation 3 of the Travel Regulations.

- a booking reference for the two coronavirus tests you must take after arriving in the UK;
- a booking reference number confirming your quarantine hotel booking if you need one;
- proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken in the three days before the service on which you will arrive in England departs,<sup>5</sup> and
- proof of pre-booked COVID-tests on the 2nd and on or after the 8th day of quarantine.<sup>6</sup>

The requirement to take and provide proof of a negative test in the three days before departure to the UK came into effect on 15th January 2021 and the requirement to book COVID-tests packages subsequently came into effect on 15th February 2021.

The COVID-tests packages are provided by [Corporate Travel Management \(“CTM”\)](#) at a cost of £210 for both tests.

## Travelling from France to the UK

If you are travelling from France to the UK you will also need to provide a *Certificate of Travel from Metropolitan France to a Country outside the European Area* ([EN version](#) and [FR version](#)), as well as supporting documentation.

You cannot travel to the UK from France unless your travel is justified under one of the following grounds:

- compelling health reason;
- compelling family reason;
- compelling professional reason that cannot be postponed; or
- return to the country of residence or origin (with no guarantee of a return to France without a compelling reason).

The form provides a non-exhaustive list of the type of documentation which will need to be provided for any of these grounds to be successfully established.

## Sanctions

There are strict penalties for providing false information on the Passenger Locator Form, for failing to complete COVID-tests prior and during the quarantine period, and for failing to abide by quarantine rules:

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<sup>5</sup> See Regulation 3A of the Travel Regulations. There are some limited exceptions including where your journey is from exempted countries (Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales...), children under 11 do not need to take a test, this is also the case if you are travelling for medical reasons or your job is exempted.

<sup>6</sup> Regulation 3B of the Travel Regulations.

**False Information:** A person providing false or deliberately misleading information on the Passenger Locator Form commits a criminal offence. Failing to provide accurate details about the countries you have visited in the 10 days prior to your departure to the UK is punishable by a fine or imprisonment for up to 10 years or both. Failure to declare on your Passenger Locator Form that you have transited through a red list country in the 10 days preceding your departure for the UK attracts a fine of £10,000.

**COVID-19 Tests:** Similarly, a person failing to provide proof of a negative test in the three days preceding the date of travel commits a criminal offence and may not be allowed to travel and/or enter the UK, and may be fined. Failure to book and undertake COVID-tests while in quarantine, can result in a £1,000 fine. A subsequent offence will carry a penalty of £2,000.<sup>7</sup>

**Quarantine Rules:** The sanctions resulting from a failure to self-isolate for a period of 10 days upon arrival in the UK depend on whether you are arriving from a red list or a non-red list country

If you fail to self-isolate upon arrival from a [red list country](#), the following fines will be imposed:<sup>8</sup>

- first offence £5,000
- second offence £8,000
- third offence £10,000

If you fail to self-isolate upon arrival from a non-red list country, the following fines will be imposed:<sup>9</sup>

- first offence £1,000
- second offence £2,000
- third offence £4,000
- £10,000 each subsequent offence

We will endeavour to keep you informed of any developments related to this situation as they may arise.

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<sup>7</sup> Regulation 7(6ZB) of the Travel Regulations.

<sup>8</sup> Regulation 7(5AA) of the Travel Regulations.

<sup>9</sup> Regulation 7(5A) of the Travel Regulations.

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