

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

This is an updated version of a document last published on 11th June 2021.

Since 7th May 2021, international travel in England has been regulated by a traffic light system with the introduction of red, amber and green lists of countries and territories.

While travellers entering England from red and amber list countries and territories have had to self-isolate for a 10-day period, travellers from green list countries have been exempt from quarantine.

On 8th July 2021, the UK Government announced that from 19th July 2021 travellers entering England from amber list countries and territories who have been fully vaccinated with an NHS administered vaccine in the UK will no longer need to self-isolate upon arrival.¹

However, despite France being on the English amber list of countries and territories, the UK Government announced a few days before the entry into force of the new rules that fully vaccinated adults returning to the UK from France will still have to quarantine.

Restrictions governing international travel have been imposed pursuant to [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, International Travel and Operator Liability\) \(England\) Regulations 2021 \(SI 2021/582\)](#) (the “**Travel Regulations**”) which came into force on 17th May 2021. The Secretary of State used his powers under the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984 to enact the Travel Regulations. The instrument revokes and replaces [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, International Travel\) \(England\) Regulations 2020 \(SI 2020/568\)](#).

Red List countries and territories

People arriving from red list countries need to quarantine for 10 days (11 nights) in a Managed Quarantine Hotel at their own expense.² The cost for one room for one adult is £1,750. This cost increases by £650 for an additional person sharing the room and by £325 for a child aged five to 12 years old.

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 England.

Red List and non-vaccinated travellers from Amber List countries and territories

All travellers arriving in England from a red list country or territory and non-fully vaccinated travellers arriving from an amber list country or territory will need to self-isolate for 10 days on arrival and provide the following documentation at the border checkpoint.³

¹ Travellers will be considered fully vaccinated if they have received two doses of the Pfizer, Moderna, or AstraZeneca vaccine **at least two weeks before departure**; travellers who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at **least two weeks** before departure.

² See Regulation 10(3) of the Travel Regulations.

³ See Regulations 9 and 10 and Schedule 11 of the Travel Regulations for additional restrictions applicable to travellers arriving from amber list and red list countries and territories.

- a [Passenger Locator Form](#);⁴
- proof of a negative COVID-test taken in the three days before the service on which you will arrive in England departs;⁵ and
- proof of a pre-booked day 2 and day 8 COVID-test package.⁶

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

COVID-test packages are delivered to the address where you will be quarantined in England. Instructions on how to take the tests, send them by post and receive results will be provided with the home testing kit.

If either test is positive, you will need to quarantine for an extra 10 days from the day after you took the test. If you are staying in a Managed Quarantine Hotel you will need to extend your stay for a further 10 days but you will not be charged for it.

The UK Government has published a list of providers who will be able to conduct such tests on its [website](#). The aforementioned rules apply to travellers, regardless of their vaccination status, entering England from France or travellers who stayed or transited through France in the 10 days preceding travel to England.

Test to Release scheme

For travellers arriving from amber list countries, it is possible to shorten the 10-day quarantine period by participating in the Test to Release scheme.⁷

Under the scheme, travellers are allowed to stop self-isolating from the 5th day of their quarantine.

To opt into the scheme travellers will need to:

- book a test with a private test provider ([list of providers](#)); and
- choose to opt into the scheme on the Passenger Locator form.

The test to be taken as part of this scheme is in addition to the day 2 and day 8 COVID-test package and will come at an extra cost.

Furthermore, the test cannot be taken earlier than the 5th day after arrival in England and participants can only stop quarantining once they have received a negative result.

⁴ See Regulation 3 and Schedule 6 of the Travel Regulations.

⁵ See Regulation 4 of the Travel Regulations. Children under the age of 11 are not required to take a COVID-test.

⁶ See Regulation 6 of the Travel Regulations.

⁷ See Schedule 10 of the Travel Regulations.

Amber List (vaccinated) countries and territories⁸

From 19th July 2021, travellers entering England from amber list countries and territories who have been **fully vaccinated with an NHS administered vaccine in the UK will be exempt from quarantine.**

Children under the age of 18 will also be exempt from quarantine on returning to England from amber list countries and territories.⁹

This is provided that you have not been in or through a red list country or territory in the 10 days before you arrive in England and that the COVID-test you must take on or before day 2 after you arrive in England is negative.

Travellers need to provide the following documentation at the border checkpoint:

- a Passenger Locator Form;
- proof of full vaccination status either via the NHS app or via an NHS COVID Pass letter which can be obtained by calling 119 (which could take 5 days to arrive by post);
- proof of a negative COVID-test taken in the three days before the service on which you will arrive in England departs;¹⁰ and
- proof of a pre-booked COVID-test, to be taken on or before the 2nd day after arrival in England.¹¹

The UK Government will also lift the recommendation not to travel to amber list countries and territories.

Green List countries and territories

If you are travelling to England from a green list country or territory, you will **not** need to quarantine.

This is provided that you have not been in or through a red or amber list country in the 10 days before you arrive in England and that the COVID-test you must take on or before day 2 after you arrive in England is negative.

Travellers from green list countries will still need to provide the following documentation at the border checkpoint:

- a Passenger Locator Form;
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⁸ Please note that this does not apply to France; fully vaccinated travellers returning to the UK from France will still have to quarantine.

⁹ Children aged 5 to 10 will only need to do a day 2 PCR and 11 to 18 year olds will need to take both a pre-departure test and a day 2 PCR. The same rule applies for arrival from green list countries and territories.

¹⁰ See Regulation 4 of the Travel Regulations. Children under the age of 11 are not required to take a COVID-test.

¹¹ See Regulation 6(12)(c) of the Travel Regulations.

- proof of a negative COVID-test taken in the three days before the service on which you will arrive in England departs;¹² and
- proof of a pre-booked COVID-test, to be taken on or before the 2nd day after arrival in England.¹³

It should be noted, however, that green and amber list countries and territories may not have taken reciprocal actions. Before travelling specific rules in the country of destination should be checked.

Travelling to the UK from France

France has also introduced a traffic light system. England is currently on the French amber list of countries.

Travelling to the UK for **non-fully-vaccinated passengers** is contingent on evidence of a health, family or professional compelling reason. UK nationals and residents are also permitted to travel. Fully-vaccinated travellers are not required to provide a compelling reason.

The "Certificate to leave metropolitan France and overseas territories to a country outside the European area" sets out an indicative [list of valid compelling reasons](#).

This certificate together with supporting documentation will need to be presented at the French border checkpoint.

Furthermore, travellers will need to comply with English travel restrictions rules. France has been excluded from the general relaxation of travel restrictions starting on 19th July 2021. Travellers returning to the UK from France, regardless of vaccination status, will need to quarantine for 10 days or a shorter period if they are taking part in the test to release scheme.

Travelling to France from the UK

Travellers who are not fully vaccinated¹⁴ are only permitted to travel to France from the UK if they are:

- an EU national;
- French resident; or
- travelling for one of the essential reasons set out in the "Certificate for travel to metropolitan France from the United Kingdom" which can be found on the French Government website.

¹² See Regulation 4 of the Travel Regulations. Children under the age of 11 are not required to take a COVID-test.

¹³ See Regulation 6(12)(c) of the Travel Regulations.

¹⁴The definition of fully-vaccinated differs in France and England. In France, you will be considered fully vaccinated if you have received the two doses of the Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca vaccine at least seven days before departure; travellers who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least 28 days before departure; travellers who have received one dose of the vaccine and who have been contaminated by COVID-19 more than seven days before departure but no more than six months before departure.

Travellers who cannot prove full vaccination status will need to present the following documentation at the border checkpoint:

- a “Certificate for travel to metropolitan France from the United Kingdom”, together with supporting documentation eg. proof of address;
- a negative result from a PCR or an antigen test, taken no later than 24h before departure;¹⁵
- a sworn statement certifying the absence of COVID-19 symptoms and absence of any contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19a sworn undertaking to take an antigen test or possibly undergo screening upon arrival;¹⁶
- a sworn undertaking to isolate oneself for seven days, and another sworn statement to take a PCR test at the end of the isolation period.¹⁷

Travellers to France who can demonstrate that they have been fully vaccinated do not need to self-isolate for seven days and are not required to take a test before departure.

Travellers must nevertheless provide:

- a sworn statement certifying the absence of COVID-19 symptoms and of any contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19; and
- proof of their vaccination status.

Local COVID-tests in France can be booked on [Doctolib](#). While the tests are free for French nationals, including French nationals living abroad, tourists will now need to pay €49 for a PCR test or €29 for an antigen test. EU residents will, however, be eligible for refunds.

Sanctions

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

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 England 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 England attracts a fine of £10,000.¹⁸

COVID-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

¹⁵ This measure only applies to travellers aged over 12.

¹⁶ This measure only applies to travellers aged over 11.

¹⁷ The requirement to take a PCR test at the end of the seven-day period only applies to adults and children aged over 11.

¹⁸ See Regulation 19(6) and Schedule 14 paragraph 3 of the Travel Regulations.

enter England, 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 £2,000.¹⁹

Quarantine Rules: The sanctions resulting from a failure to self-isolate for 10 days upon arrival in England 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:²⁰

- 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.²¹

- 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.

¹⁹ See Regulation 19(1)(c) and Schedule 14 paragraph 5 of the Travel Regulations.

²⁰ See Regulation 19(1)(i) and (j) and Schedule 14 paragraph 11 of the Travel Regulations.

²¹ See Regulation 19(1)(f) and Schedule 14 paragraph 7 of the Travel Regulations.

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