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Guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19): jobs that qualify for travel exemptions

Jobs that qualify for exemptions from quarantine, passenger locator form or COVID testing requirements.

From:
Department for Transport (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport>), UK Visas and Immigration (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>), and Border Force (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/border-force>)

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5 March 2021,

Documents

Coronavirus (COVID-19): jobs that qualify for travel exemptions
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules>)

HTML

Details

Entering the UK

To help protect the country from coronavirus (COVID-19), people traveling to the UK must do the following:

Before travel to the UK

- take a coronavirus test (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england>)
- complete a passenger locator form (<https://www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk>)

On arrival

- quarantine for 10 days (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-quarantine-when-you-arrive-in-england>)
- take a coronavirus test on day 2 and day 8 of their quarantine

If you have been in a country on the travel ban red list (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transport-measures-to-protect-the-uk-from-variant-strains-of-covid-19>) in the 10 days before you arrive, you have to quarantine in a government approved hotel (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/booking-and-staying-in-a-quarantine-hotel-when-you-arrive-in-england>).

Travel from England

You are only allowed to travel abroad if you have a legally permitted reason (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#international-travel>) to do so.

Anyone travelling abroad from England must complete a form to declare their legally permitted reason for overseas travel (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-declaration-form-for-international-travel>).

Jobs that qualify for travel exemptions

Some people don't have to do some of the above things, because of the jobs they do.

This guidance lists the jobs that qualify for an exemption (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules>) and tells people:

- what they need to do, or not do
- any conditions they will need to meet or evidence they will need to show

Travel corridors

Travel corridors are suspended.

Anyone who is not exempt will need to quarantine for 10 days (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-quarantine-when-you-arrive-in-england>) on arrival in the **UK**.

Restrictions in the **UK**

Once in the **UK** you must follow any local or national restrictions:

- national lockdown in England (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>)
- national restrictions in Northern Ireland (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>)
- local protection levels in Scotland (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels>)
- travel: Coronavirus in Wales (<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>)

Legislation

This guidance provides a high level summary of the international travel regulations (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/568/schedule/2>).

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Last updated 5 March 2021 + show all updates

1. 5 March 2021
Exemptions for completing the declaration form for overseas travel added.
2. 21 February 2021
Further details about testing, self-isolation and quarantine rules.
3. 15 February 2021
Information about new testing, self-isolation and quarantine rules.
4. 11 February 2021
Exemption for new domestic elite sportspersons removed.
5. 18 January 2021
Added information on sector exemptions being removed for travel ban countries.
6. 18 January 2021
Eight categories of jobs removed from exemptions.
7. 15 January 2021
Added information on which jobs will no longer qualify for an exemption.
8. 15 January 2021
All arrivals from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores), Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela must self-isolate.
9. 13 January 2021
Exemptions for COVID tests to enter England added.
10. 8 January 2021
All arrivals from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe must self-isolate.
11. 31 December 2020
Reference to Euratom removed from relevant exemption.
12. 23 December 2020
All arrivals from South Africa must self-isolate.
13. 19 December 2020
Exemption for essential high-speed rail workers added.
14. 14 December 2020
Requirement to self-isolate for 14 days on arrival in UK replaced by 10 day requirement.
15. 4 December 2020
Exemptions added for certain senior executives, journalists, newly signed elite sportspersons, performing arts professionals, television production.
16. 21 November 2020
Specialist technical workers - subsea telecommunications infrastructure added to list.
17. 17 November 2020
Exemption for seasonal poultry workers added.
18. 7 November 2020
Exemptions from the requirement to self-isolate removed for arrivals from Denmark.

19. 25 October 2020

Offshore oil and gas workers added to exempt jobs list.

20. 28 September 2020

Updated exemption for elite sportspersons and added exemptions for National Lottery and advertising productions.

21. 3 September 2020

Update to exemption for seafarers.

22. 31 July 2020

Healthcare workers removed from list.

23. 10 July 2020

Updated to add exemptions for Scotland and information around exemptions for people travelling to the UK from some countries and territories.

24. 7 July 2020

Updated travel details and new Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for travellers exempt from border rules in England.

25. 8 June 2020

Updated to include information on self-isolation in Scotland and Wales.

26. 7 June 2020

Exemptions to border rules that have been introduced due to coronavirus (COVID-19) have been extended to Scotland. Some rules in Scotland are different to those England and Northern Ireland.

27. 6 June 2020

Updated to show that these exemptions now apply in Northern Ireland. Updated link to isolation rules in Northern Ireland.

28. 5 June 2020

Updated to add links to the Public Health passenger locator form

29. 3 June 2020

Updated to add information on what those exempt need to show at the border to enter the UK.

30. 22 May 2020

First published.

Related content

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): Test to Release for international travel (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-test-to-release-for-international-travel>)
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing before you travel to England (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england>)
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer air travel for passengers (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-air-travel-guidance-for-passengers>)
- Fill in your passenger locator form (<https://www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk>)

Collection

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): immigration and borders (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-immigration-and-borders>)

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): transport and travel guidance
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-transport-and-travel-guidance>)

Brexit

-  Check
-  Change
-  Go

Check what you need to do

(<https://www.gov.uk/transition>)

Explore the topic

- International travel, immigration and repatriation during coronavirus (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-taxon/international-travel-immigration-repatriation>)