



The UK's travel rules have been relaxed

Holidaymakers have had to adapt to many new travel rules since the summer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since May this year, travellers have had to adhere to the government's travel traffic light system, which regularly changed according to which countries were safe to visit. But a major shake-up announced a few weeks ago has come into force - and the new rules are set to remain in place until the New Year.

Which travel rules have changed?

Traffic light system

The current traffic light system of red, amber, and green countries has been replaced with one red list only. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced the plans last month, saying the aim was to "simplify measures". People who are fully vaccinated "won't need a pre-departure test before arrival into England from a non-red country," said the transport secretary. And from later this month, the day two PCR test will be replaced "with a cheaper lateral flow". Mr Shapps said the single red list and testing changes were about "striking the right balance to manage the public health risk as a number one priority".

Testing

Residents who are fully vaccinated no longer need to take a pre-departure lateral flow test for travelling into England from anywhere not on the red list. They still need a day-two test after their arrival. But at the end of October, they will be able to replace their day-two PCR test - which can be rather expensive for families - with a cheaper lateral flow test. Fully vaccinated travellers already do not need a day-eight, post-arrival PCR test. Those who are unvaccinated still need to take the pre-departure test for travelling into England, and still must purchase a PCR for their day-two test. And they also still must quarantine for 10 days, regardless of where they arrive from.

What happens if you come back from a red list country?

Anyone returning from a red list country is still required to pay £2,285 to quarantine for 11 nights at a government-approved hotel.

What happens if a traveller tests positive when returning to the UK?

Anyone who tests positive needs to isolate and take a free confirmatory PCR test.

Please wash your PPE as often as possible



Will the new rules apply to the whole of the UK?

The travel changes only apply to England. But Scotland has announced it is also scrapping the requirement for vaccinated people to provide negative coronavirus tests before they arrive.

Are the rules the same for leaving the UK and returning from other countries?

The rules only apply to those getting back into the UK. Towards the end of October, passengers who change flights or international trains during their journey will be able to follow the measures associated with the country they originally departed from, rather than the countries they have been through as part of their journey.

However, a date for this has not yet been confirmed.

Passengers should continue to check GOV.UK travel guidance to keep up to date with entry requirements into the UK here.

www.gov.uk/government/news/new-system-for-international-travel

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://fortel.co.uk/covid-19>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

<https://mhfaengland.org/>

<https://www.lighthouseclub.org/>



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