

Travelling to the UK for work in Film or High-end Television Drama Production During COVID-19: Self-isolation Exemptions Guidance

First published 06 July 2020

Last updated 14 December 2020

V.3.0

This Guidance should be read in conjunction with [‘Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production’](#).

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Travel Corridors

Cast and crew do not have to self-isolate when they arrive in the UK if they are travelling or returning from one of the travel corridor countries. Check the relevant government guidance for [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) as qualifying countries may differ.

FROM 15 DECEMBER - Coronavirus (COVID-19): Test to Release for International Travel - CURRENTLY APPLIES TO ENGLAND ONLY

The Test to Release for International Travel scheme is for cast and crew who need to self-isolate on arrival in England. Under the scheme, cast and crew can take a private COVID-19 test with a provider that meets UK government [minimum standards](#). The earliest they can take a test is five full days after leaving a country not on the travel corridor list. If the result is negative, they can stop self-isolating.

The scheme is voluntary and applies to those self-isolating in England only.

Full details on ‘Test to Release for international travel’ can be found [here](#).

If you are travelling from a destination not on the travel corridors list, do not have a job that qualifies you for a travel exemption and do not want to opt in to test to release, you will need to self-isolate for 10 full days after you were last in a destination not on the travel corridors list.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): British Qualifying Film and HETV Exemption

NOTE: This exemption now applies to the whole of the UK.

Rules on self-isolation (or ‘quarantine’) for certain cast and crew from non-travel corridor countries differ from those for other international travellers to the UK, as they are able to work immediately upon arrival whilst isolating in a ‘bubble’ for 10 days (or at least five days if they additionally meet Test to Release criteria). Anyone who qualifies, or is employing someone who does, should follow this guidance in addition to the ‘Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production’ guidance.

Exempt individuals must still complete a [Public Health Passenger Locator Form](#) within the 48 hours before arriving in the UK.

NOTE: All usual [immigration requirements](#) for entering and working in the UK still apply.

Who qualifies?

This exemption applies to:

- Cast and crew coming to work on film and high-end television productions
- Senior executives who oversee the studio/production company's operations and are involved in the making of the production
- Cast and crew who are residing in the UK needing to re-enter the UK during the course of production.

To be considered eligible, qualifying individuals must:

- Be travelling to the UK to work on a 'relevant production', defined as:
 - a film which is a British film for the purposes of Schedule 1 to the Films Act 1985
 - a [television] programme which is a British programme [i.e. high-end television programme] for the purposes of Part 15A of the Corporation Tax Act 2009.

The individual should also:

- Hold a letter issued by the relevant production confirming identification and eligibility (as set out in '**Employing international cast and crew**' below). This is particularly important should COVID-19 test and trace protocols need to be engaged. Confirmation of such accreditation may be requested at various points of their journey.

Any such individuals will be required to remain for 10 days, (or at least five days if they additionally meet Test to Release criteria), within a 'bubble' that includes only their place of accommodation and COVID-secure filming locations, with necessary travel between them.

Any family members or other dependents travelling with cast and crew will need to self-isolate for 10 days, (or at least five days if they additionally meet Test to Release criteria), after they arrive in the UK.

Employing international cast and crew

If a relevant production is bringing eligible international cast and crew members to the UK, it is that production's responsibility to ensure that:

- The studio/production company responsible for the production issues a letter to each individual cast and crew member concerned which must include the following information:
 - Name
 - Date of birth
 - Passport number
 - UK accommodation address

- Production name, dates and locations
 - Contact phone number for the relevant studio/production company
 - Reference number from the [certificate](#) issued by the BFI on behalf of DCMS to prove the production has qualified as British and therefore meets the terms of the exemption.
- Eligible cast and crew receive this confirmation letter before they travel.
 - A clear 'bubble' environment can be created for the first 10 days, (or at least five days if they additionally meet Test to Release criteria), from arrival to restrict the movement of those individuals to designated accommodation, COVID-secure filming locations and travel between them only during this period.
 - Clear instructions are provided regarding the applicable 'bubble', living arrangements, COVID-secure filming locations and travel between them, plus the production's COVID-19 risk assessment and safety protocols (including COVID-19 symptom checking and testing regime, social distancing, good hygiene, fixed teams and, if applicable, close contact working) before travelling to the UK. Productions should ask qualifying cast and crew to give written confirmation that they have received, understood and agree to adhere to this information.
 - An appropriate testing regime is in place for those cast and crew, and for those with whom they will work in close contact.

For further information on social distancing and personal hygiene including fixed teams and close contact working, see Section 4 of ['Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production'](#).

Travelling to the UK as an international cast or crew member

If you are an international cast or crew member travelling to the UK to work on a relevant production, before you travel it is your responsibility to ensure that:

- You fill in a [Public Health Passenger Locator Form](#) with your journey, contact details and the address of your accommodation in the UK within the 48 hours before you arrive in the UK. You must also provide these details when you arrive at the UK border.
- You are carrying a letter from the studio/production company responsible for your production, to confirm your eligibility (as set out in **'Employing international cast and crew'** above). Make sure you receive the letter before you travel to the UK.
- While in the UK:
 - You remain within the 'bubble' environment agreed by your production for 10 days, (or at least five days if you additionally meet Test to Release criteria), i.e. designated accommodation, COVID-secure filming locations and travel between them only.
 - During this period, you only leave your designated 'bubble' in exceptional circumstances, e.g. a medical emergency.
 - You adhere to the COVID-19 safety protocols set out by your production (including the production's COVID-19 testing and symptom checking regime) while at work and follow the same COVID-19 awareness rules as people who live in the UK at all times.

Check the rules for the part of the UK you're staying in (during and beyond your self-isolation period) as they may differ:

- [England](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)

You must not travel if you have [coronavirus symptoms](#). If you develop coronavirus symptoms when travelling to the UK, tell the crew or driver on your plane, boat, train or bus. They'll let staff in the airport, port or station know, so they can tell you what you should do next when you arrive.

On arrival in the UK, only use public transport if you have no other option. If using public transport is necessary, wearing a face covering is mandatory, unless you are [exempt for health, disability or other reasons](#). Your production should arrange private transport where possible to take you directly from the airport, port or station to your designated accommodation, and between your accommodation and filming location for the remaining duration of your bubble period. Further details are outlined in the ['Safer travel guidance for passengers'](#).

For further information on travelling within the UK after your 'bubble' period, see Section 6 of ['Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production'](#).

If you get coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while in the UK

You should look for any of the following symptoms during your 'bubble' period and throughout your stay in the UK:

- new continuous cough
- high temperature
- anosmia (loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)

If you develop symptoms you must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started until you are better and no longer have a high temperature.

If you have a high temperature you must continue to self-isolate even if:

- you have had and recovered from other coronavirus symptoms in this time
- you get a negative test result for coronavirus

Alert your production immediately on noticing symptoms. They will advise you of their symptom response plan, including when and how to seek medical assistance, and help to arrange an appropriate coronavirus (COVID-19) test for you.

If your test is positive you will be asked to share your contacts with the [NHS test and trace service](#). Your contact detail declaration may be used to alert people who travelled to the UK alongside you.

Anyone who is not experiencing symptoms but tests positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for at least 10 days starting from the day the test was taken.



Anyone who tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms, but develops symptoms during the isolation period, must restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they first develop symptoms.

Please consult the [‘What to do if you get Coronavirus symptoms’](#) guidance for more information.

For a medical emergency while working in the UK, dial 999.

If a co-worker or close contact gets coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms

If you come into close contact with an unconfirmed case while working in the UK, you will not need to self-isolate until the case is confirmed. However, you should take extra care in practising social distancing and good hand and respiratory hygiene, and be more alert to any symptoms you might develop, until the test result is known.

Self-isolation Exemptions Guidance Update Log

- up to and including V.3.0, 14 December 2020

14 December 2020 (V.3.0)	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation period. Updated guidance to reflect new 'Test to Release' scheme.
09 December 2020 (V.2.4)	
	Updated to reflect removal of additional travel restrictions from Denmark.
11 November 2020 (V.2.3)	
	Updated guidance on travel from Denmark.
29 September 2020 (V.2.2)	
	Updated guidance on the 14-day 'bubble' for those exempt from self-isolation Clarity on the required certificate number as proof of qualification for exemption.
31 July 2020 (V.2.1)	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation for those with COVID-19 symptoms or who have tested positive.
17 July 2020 (V.2.0)	
	Updated to reflect legislation is now applicable UK-wide.
10 July 2020 (V.1.1)	
	Updated wording regarding eligibility and immigration requirements. Updated to reflect addition of Devolved Administrations. Updated guidance on required contents of eligibility confirmation letters.