

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 11 February 2021

V.5.0

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: Travel Corridors and the British Qualifying Film and HETV Exemption are currently suspended.

Always check before you travel.

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 Bans and Mandatory Hotel Quarantine

Cast and crew who have, in the last 10 days, been in or transited through countries on the Government's [travel bans list](#) will be refused entry to the UK. This does not apply to cast and crew who are UK or Irish nationals and third country nationals with residency rights (e.g. who hold an appropriate visa) - in such cases, from 15 February 2021, entry to England will be permitted on the basis of compliance with mandatory requirements as follows:

- They will need to present a negative pre-travel COVID-19 test result, taken in the three days before arrival
- On arrival they will need to quarantine (self-isolate) in a government-approved quarantine hotel for 10 days

Before they travel, they will need to book their hotel and two COVID-19 tests to take during their quarantine (tests to be taken on days two and eight of quarantine). More information on how to book quarantine hotels and tests can be found [here](#).

Any further entry restrictions to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are to be confirmed - please check the relevant guidance for each nation before travel.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Testing for People Travelling to the UK

Passengers arriving into the UK from all international destinations must present a negative COVID-19 test result, taken in the three days before arrival. This applies to all cast and crew, including UK

citizens. The test, test provider and certificate must meet the required standards for pre-departure testing - details can be found here for [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#).

Those entering England will additionally need to book two COVID-19 tests before they arrive, to take during their quarantine, and will need to quarantine at home for 10 days. Any further testing requirements for entering Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are to be confirmed - please check the relevant guidance for each nation before travel.

Individuals travelling to England from countries not on the travel bans list may still opt into the [Test to Release](#) scheme, as outlined below.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Travel Corridors

[Travel corridors](#) are currently suspended. Always check before you travel.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Test to Release for International Travel - 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 arrival in England. If the result is negative, they can stop self-isolating.

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

If cast and crew opt into Test to Release, they must still take additional tests on days two and eight after their arrival - see '[Testing for People Travelling to the UK](#)' above.

Test to Release is not available to anyone who has been in or through [any country that is subject to a travel ban](#) in the 10 days before their arrival in England.

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

If cast and crew do not want to opt in to test to release, or are travelling to Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales, they will need to self-isolate for 10 full days.

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

As of 4am GMT Monday 18 January 2021, the Film and HETV Travel Self-isolation "Quarantine" Exemption, along with other screen exemptions and Travel Corridors, has been suspended for at least one month. Further detail can be read [here](#).

All international arrivals who departed from, or transited through, any country outside the [Common Travel Area](#)* in the previous 10 days will be required to both take a pre-departure COVID-19 test and self-isolate immediately for 10 days on arrival, as stated above. Those who qualify for the [Test to Release scheme](#) (England only), as stated above, can reduce their self-isolation period from 10 days to five days.

***Northern Ireland only:** for travellers from the Common Travel Area, the travel self-isolation exemptions for film and television still apply in Northern Ireland. This means that, providing the travellers have not left the Common Travel Area in the previous 14 days, they can continue to move between their accommodation and one place of work. Full guidance can be read [here](#).

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.5.0 11 February 2021

11 February 2021 (V.5.0)	
	Updated guidance to reflect mandatory hotel quarantine and testing for permitted arrivals from countries on the travel bans list. Updated guidance on COVID-19 testing requirements. Updated guidance on Test to Release.
05 February 2021 (V.4.1)	
	Updated guidance on travel bans. Updated guidance on COVID-19 testing requirement for anyone arriving in the UK.
19 January 2021 (V.4.0)	
	Updated guidance on suspension of travel corridors. Updated guidance on Test to Release eligibility. Updated guidance on suspension of the British Qualifying Film and HETV Exemption.
15 January 2021 (V.3.1)	
	Updated guidance on travel bans. Updated guidance on COVID-19 testing requirement for anyone arriving in the UK.
14 December 2020 (V.3.0)	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation period. Updated 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 now applicable UK-wide.
10 July 2020 (V.2.0)	
	Updated wording regarding eligibility and immigration requirements. Updated to reflect addition of Devolved Administrations. Updated guidance on required contents of eligibility confirmation letters.