

**British Film Commission -**

# **Travelling to and from the UK for work in Film and High-end TV Drama Production During COVID-19**

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**V.12.8**

This document summarises Government guidance relating to international travel and should be read in conjunction with '[Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production](#)'.

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

## **Travelling to the UK**

### **Changes to international travel rules**

From 4am on Friday 7 January, fully vaccinated individuals and those under the age of 18 wishing to travel to the UK no longer need to show a negative pre-departure test result beforehand and do not need to quarantine on arrival. In addition, from Sunday 9 January, they do not need to self-isolate while awaiting their day 2 test result after arrival, and are only required to take a subsequent PCR test if the result is positive.

If you are travelling within the [Common Travel Area](#), excluding the Republic of Ireland, you do not need to:

- complete a passenger locator form
- take any COVID-19 tests
- quarantine on arrival

**NOTE:** From 3 December 2021, people arriving in the Republic of Ireland must carry proof of a negative COVID-19 test even if they are fully vaccinated. See [Irish government guidance](#) for details.

If you have been outside the Common Travel Area in the previous 10 days, you must follow the guidance below.

### **Travel from non-red list countries if you are fully vaccinated**

To qualify under the fully vaccinated rules for travel to the UK, you must have proof of vaccination with a full course of an approved vaccine. The proof must have been issued by:

- the UK or UK overseas vaccination programme
- the United Nations vaccine programme for staff and volunteers
- one of the [countries or territories listed](#) by UK government

You must have had a complete course of one of the following vaccines at least 14 days before you arrive in the UK:

- Oxford/AstraZeneca
- Pfizer BioNTech
- Moderna
- Janssen
- Sinovac
- Sinopharm Beijing
- Covaxin

The day you have your final dose does not count as one of the 14 days.

Formulations of these vaccines, such as AstraZeneca Covishield, AstraZeneca Vaxzevria and Moderna Takeda, qualify as approved vaccines.

If you were vaccinated with a two-dose vaccine (Moderna, Pfizer BioNTech, Oxford AstraZeneca, or a combination of them), you must have had both doses to be considered fully vaccinated for travel to the UK. This applies in all cases, even if you've recently recovered from COVID-19 and have natural immunity.

Where two doses of a vaccine are required for a full course, you can:

- Mix two different types of vaccine, for example Oxford/AstraZeneca and Moderna
- Have the two vaccinations under two different approved programmes, for example Australia and Japan, UK and USA, EU and Canada

The rules for fully vaccinated people also apply if you are:

- Under 18 and resident in the UK or a country or territory with an approved proof of vaccination
- The child of someone who is fully vaccinated under the UK overseas vaccination programme
- Taking part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial in the UK or USA
- Unable to have a COVID-19 vaccination for a medical reason which has been approved by a clinician under the medical exemptions process, and you are resident in England or Scotland.  
**NOTE:** this does not apply if you are resident in Northern Ireland or Wales.

If you qualify as fully vaccinated, you have to:

- Book and pay for a [day 2 COVID-19 test](#) – to be taken after arrival in the UK
- Complete your [Passenger Locator Form](#) any time in the 48 hours before you arrive in the UK
- Take a COVID-19 test on or before day 2 after you arrive in the UK.

If your test result is **positive**, you must self-isolate for the mandated period\* and take a subsequent free NHS PCR test to confirm the result.

If your test result is **unclear**, you must self-isolate for 10 full days. You can choose to take another private test. If the result is negative, you can stop self-isolating. If your test result is delayed, you must quarantine until you receive a negative test result or until day 14 after arrival, whichever is sooner.

*\*From 6 January, confirmed cases in all UK nations may be able to end self-isolation early, on day seven, providing they meet the relevant criteria where they are.*

*Additionally, in Northern Ireland from 5 January, in Scotland and Wales from 6 January, and in England from 11 January, people with no COVID-19 symptoms who get a positive lateral flow test result may no longer have to take a PCR test to confirm the result. Anyone with symptoms must still self-isolate and take a PCR test.*

*Always check the latest guidance in [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) as rules differ between nations.*

If you are in the UK for less than 2 days, you must quarantine until you receive a negative day 2 COVID-19 test, or until you leave the UK, whichever is sooner.

**You cannot use an NHS test. You must use a private test provider.**

**You will need to enter your 'day 2' COVID-19 test booking reference number on your passenger locator form.**

You must be able to prove that you have been fully vaccinated under a vaccination programme with approved proof of certification.

If you are fully vaccinated under the UK vaccination programme, you can prove your vaccination status using one of the following:

- [NHS COVID Pass](#) in England and Wales
- [NHS Scotland COVID Status app](#)
- [COVIDCert NI](#) in Northern Ireland

Paper certificates are also available.

There are different ways to prove your vaccination status if you were vaccinated outside of the UK. [Check what proof is required for the country or territory where you were vaccinated.](#)

The vaccine certificate must be issued by a national or state-level public health authority, be in English, French or Spanish, and include as a minimum:

- your forename and surname(s)
- your date of birth
- vaccine brand and manufacturer
- date of vaccination for every dose
- country or territory of vaccination and/or certificate issuer

If your document from a public health body does not include all of these, you must follow the [non-vaccinated rules](#). If not, you may be denied boarding.

**NOTE:** If you are fully vaccinated in the USA, you will need to show a CDC card showing you have had a full course of an FDA-approved vaccine in the USA. One of the following US state-issued certification solutions may also be used as proof of full vaccination:

- California Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record
- New York State Excelsior Pass Plus
- Washington State WA Verify

If you are fully vaccinated, but do not qualify under these fully vaccinated rules, you must follow the [non-vaccinated rules](#).

Cast and crew must check the latest government guidance for [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) or [Wales](#) as appropriate before travelling.

### **Travel from non-red list countries if you are not fully vaccinated**

You must follow these rules if you:

- Do not qualify under the fully vaccinated rules
- Are partially vaccinated
- Are not vaccinated

Before you travel to the UK you must:

- Take a [pre-departure COVID-19 test](#) in the two days before you travel to the UK (travellers aged 12 and above only)
- Book and pay for [day 2 and day 8 COVID-19 PCR tests](#) – to be taken after arrival in the UK
- Complete your [Passenger Locator Form](#) any time in the 48 hours before you arrive in the UK

After you arrive in the UK you must:

- Quarantine at home or in the place you are staying for 10 days
- Take a COVID-19 PCR test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8

In England, you may be able to end quarantine early if you pay for a private COVID-19 test through the [Test to Release scheme](#).

Cast and crew must check the latest government guidance for [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) or [Wales](#) as appropriate before travelling.

### **Travel from red list countries**

You must follow these rules if you are:

- Fully vaccinated

- Partially vaccinated
- Not vaccinated

If you have been in a country or territory on the [red list](#) in the last 10 days, you will only be allowed to enter the UK if you are a British or Irish national or you have residence rights in the UK.

Before you travel to the UK, you must:

- Take a [pre-departure COVID-19 test](#) within the two days before you travel to the UK (travellers aged 12 and above only)
- Book a [quarantine hotel package, including two COVID-19 PCR tests](#)
- Complete your [Passenger Locator Form](#) any time in the 48 hours before you arrive in the UK

When you arrive in the UK, you must [quarantine in a managed hotel, including two COVID-19 PCR tests](#).

### **Quarantine Exemption for British Qualifying Film and HETV - ENGLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND**

**NOTE:** If you are fully vaccinated under an approved vaccination programme, as set out [above](#), you **do not** need to use the [British Qualifying Film and HETV exemption](#). This exemption **does not** apply to cast and crew who have been in a red list country in the previous 10 days, and currently applies to England, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Cast and crew who are not fully vaccinated under [an approved vaccination programme](#) and have not been in a red list country in the past 10 days may still qualify for the Quarantine Exemption for Film and HETV. 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, along with the production's risk assessment and COVID-19 safety protocols.

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

*Due to the rapidly changing and evolving health picture the guidance around the use of work-related quarantine exemptions is currently being updated and is therefore subject to revision.*

*All unvaccinated travellers will need to take a [pre-departure test](#) and receive a negative result as close as possible to their scheduled departure, no earlier than 48 hours before.*

*All those using an exemption (whether travelling to England, Northern Ireland or Scotland) should self-isolate until a negative Day 2 PCR test result is received. Individuals should plan their travel itinerary to accommodate the PCR test and the short self-isolation period (until a negative result is received) at the start of their time in the UK. The Day 2 PCR test can be taken at any point from arrival (e.g. on day 0 or 1) until the end of Day 2, and there are various express services readily available (including at airport and arrival terminals).*

*In England, an individual using a work-related exemption should only leave self-isolation before receiving their negative Day 2 PCR test result in exceptional or critical circumstances, for example, to undertake exempt work activity where no alternative arrangements could be made for this activity to be delivered.*

*In Scotland, an individual using a work-related exemption may not leave self-isolation before receiving their negative Day 2 PCR test result unless to undertake exempt work activity.*

*On this point, guidance is pending for Northern Ireland.*

*The Quarantine Exemption for British Qualifying Film and HETV does **not** apply in Wales.*

### Who qualifies?

This exemption applies to individuals who are not fully vaccinated under [an approved vaccination programme](#), have not been in a red list country in the past 10 days and who meet one of the following criteria:

- 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 enter or re-enter England, Northern Ireland or Scotland during the course of production.

To be considered eligible, qualifying individuals must:

- Be travelling to England, Northern Ireland or Scotland 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 must also:

- Take [a pre-departure test](#) before arrival, alongside a PCR test on or before day 2 after arrival, and a further test on day 8, if they are still in the country.
- Hold a letter issued by the relevant production confirming identification and eligibility (as set out in '**Information for employers**' 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.
- Remain for 10 days (or 5+ days with Test to Release) within a 'bubble' that includes only their place of accommodation and production locations, i.e. the place or places where the production is, or activities related to the production are, taking place – including but not limited to filming, meetings, location scouting, costume fitting and carrying out VFX or post-production activities – with necessary travel between them.

**NOTE:** Any such activities should be carried out in accordance with the British Film Commission's ['Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production'](#) guidance, or UK Screen Alliance's ['Guidance for Safe Working in Post-Production and VFX during the COVID-19 Pandemic'](#) as applicable, and the production's own COVID-19 protocols and risk assessment. Productions should also take into account the COVID-19 protocols of the venue, location or facility at which an activity is taking place.

An appropriate testing regime should be in place for cast and crew, and for those with whom they will work in close contact.

Any family members or other dependents who are travelling with cast and crew should follow guidance for ['Travel from non-red list countries if you are fully vaccinated'](#) or ['Travel from non-red list countries if you are not fully vaccinated'](#) as applicable.

#### **Quarantine Exemption for British Qualifying Film and HETV: Information for employers**

If a relevant production is bringing eligible cast and crew members to England, Northern Ireland or Scotland from a non-red list country, 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 5+ days with Test to Release) from arrival to restrict the movement of those individuals to designated accommodation, production locations and travel between them only during this period.
- Eligible cast and crew take a COVID-19 PCR test on day 2 and day 8 after arrival in England, Northern Ireland or Scotland if they are still in the country.
- Clear instructions are provided regarding the applicable 10-day 'bubble' (or 5+ days with Test to Release), living arrangements, production locations and travel between them, plus the production's risk assessment and COVID-19 safety protocols before travelling to England. 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 close contact working, see Section 4 of '[Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production](#)'.

### **Quarantine Exemption for British Qualifying Film and HETV: Information for employees**

If you are a cast or crew member travelling or returning to the UK from a non-red list country to work on a relevant production, before you travel it is your responsibility to ensure that:

- You fill in a [Passenger Locator Form](#) within the 48 hours before you arrive. 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 '**Information for employers**' above). Make sure you receive the letter before you travel to England, Northern Ireland or Scotland.
- While in the UK:
  - You remain within the 'bubble' environment agreed by your production for 10 days (or 5+ days with Test to Release), i.e. designated accommodation, production locations and travel between them only.
  - During this period, you only leave your designated 'bubble' in exceptional circumstances, e.g. a medical emergency.
  - You take a COVID-19 PCR test on day 2 and day 8 after arrival in England, Northern Ireland or Scotland if you are still in the country.
  - 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 any relevant Government COVID-19 guidance.

You must not travel if you have [coronavirus symptoms](#). If you develop coronavirus symptoms when travelling to the UK, tell the crew or pilot/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. Be aware that wearing a face covering on public transport is required by law, 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 production locations for the remaining duration of your 10-day bubble period days (or 5+ days with Test to Release). Further details are outlined in the '[Safer travel guidance for passengers](#)'.

For further information on travelling within the UK after your 10-day 'bubble' period (or 5+ days with Test to Release), 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 important symptoms during your stay in the UK:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature



- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above, even if your symptoms are mild, stay at home or at your designated accommodation and [arrange to have a test](#). 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, however mild. 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](#) or equivalent COVID-19 tracking 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 the mandated period\* starting from the day the test was taken.

*\*From 6 January, confirmed cases in all UK nations may be able to end self-isolation early, on day seven, providing they meet the relevant criteria where they are.*

*Additionally, in Northern Ireland from 5 January, in Scotland and Wales from 6 January, and in England from 11 January, people with no COVID-19 symptoms who get a positive lateral flow test result may no longer have to take a PCR test to confirm the result. Anyone with symptoms must still self-isolate and take a PCR test.*

*Please check the latest guidance in [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) as rules differ between the nations.*

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

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

Contacts who need to self-isolate will usually be notified and advised to do so by NHS Test and Trace or equivalent COVID-19 tracking service, including by the NHS COVID-19 app. If you believe that you are a contact of someone with COVID-19 but have not yet been notified, you should carefully follow the guidance on how to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

From 6 January, people in all nations of the UK who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 do not need to self-isolate but should undergo daily testing and follow the relevant [guidance](#) in [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) or [Wales](#), as appropriate. To qualify as fully vaccinated, they must have received their second dose of an MHRA-approved COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days prior to contact with a positive case.

In England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, there is no requirement for the vaccine to have been administered in the UK. In Wales, check for local [guidance](#) as this may differ.

If you were vaccinated outside the UK, you must be able to show an approved proof of vaccination if asked by NHS Test and Trace, a public health official or an enforcement officer.

Unvaccinated adults are **not eligible** for this daily testing policy. They must self-isolate for 10 days if they are a contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

## International Travel Guidance Update Log

- up to and including V.12.8, 07 January 2022

<b>07 January 2022 (V.12.8)</b>	
	Updated guidance to reflect the removal of the requirement for pre-departure testing, and changes to post-arrival self-isolation and testing requirements, in Northern Ireland and Scotland.
<b>06 January 2022 (V.12.7)</b>	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation and testing requirements for confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
	Updated guidance to reflect the removal of the requirement for pre-departure testing, and changes to post-arrival self-isolation and testing requirements, in England and Wales.
<b>23 December 2021 (V.12.6)</b>	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation requirements for confirmed cases of Covid-19 in England.
<b>17 December 2021 (V.12.5)</b>	
	Updated guidance to reflect recognition in England of approved vaccines administered outside the UK under the NHS Test and Trace programme.
<b>14 December 2021 (V.12.4)</b>	
	Updated guidance on close contact self-isolation requirements in England and Scotland.
<b>08 December 2021 (V.12.3)</b>	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation requirements relating to the Quarantine Exemption for British Qualifying Film and HETV.
<b>08 December 2021 (V.12.2)</b>	
	Updated guidance on new pre-departure testing requirements for all arrivals aged 12 and above.
<b>02 December 2021 (V.12.1)</b>	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation requirements relating to the Omicron variant.
	Updated guidance to reflect new testing requirements within the Common Travel Area.
<b>30 November 2021 (V.12.0)</b>	
	Updated guidance to reflect changes to self-isolation requirements for the Omicron variant.
	Updated guidance to reflect changes to testing and self-isolation requirements for international arrivals to the UK.
	Updated guidance to reflect changes to mandatory wearing of face coverings.
<b>23 November 2021 (V.11.3)</b>	
	Updated guidance on approved vaccines for fully vaccinated passengers.
	Updated guidance on entry requirements for passengers fully vaccinated in the USA.
<b>01 November 2021 (V.11.2)</b>	
	Updated guidance on testing requirements for fully vaccinated passengers arriving in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales from non-red list countries.
<b>25 October 2021 (V.11.1)</b>	

	Updated guidance on testing requirements for fully vaccinated passengers arriving in England from non-red list countries. Updated guidance on testing requirements for the Quarantine Exemption for British Qualifying Film and HETV.
<b>04 October 2021 (V.11.0)</b>	
	Updated guidance on changes to international travel rules, including removal of traffic light system.
<b>21 September 2021 (V.10.0)</b>	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation requirements for those taking part in vaccine trials.
	Reinstatement of quarantine exemption for British qualifying film and HETV.
<b>16 August 2021 (V.9.2)</b>	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation requirements across the UK.
<b>06 August 2021 (V.9.2)</b>	
	Updated guidance on quarantine waiver.
<b>30 July 2021 (V.9.1)</b>	
	Clarified scope of new quarantine waiver.
<b>30 July 2021 (V.9.0)</b>	
	Guidance added covering new quarantine waiver.
<b>22 July 2021 (V.8.0)</b>	
	Updated guidance for cast and crew returning to the UK from amber list countries.
<b>02 July 2021 (V.7.2)</b>	
	Updated guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.
<b>02 June 2021 (V.7.1)</b>	
	Updated guidance on introduction of traffic light system for international travel.
<b>17 May 2021 (V.7.0)</b>	
	New guidance on introduction of traffic light system for international travel. Updated guidance on removal of Travel Declaration Forms.
<b>01 April 2021 (V.6.1)</b>	
	Updated guidance on Declaration Form for International Travel to reflect roadmap out of lockdown for England.
<b>19 March 2021 (V.6.0)</b>	
	Document title updated to reflect new content. Link added to test-booking information for travellers who will quarantine at home upon entering England from international destinations. Travel Bans and Mandatory Hotel Quarantine - updated guidance regarding travel to Northern Ireland. Updated guidance on introduction of travel declaration form for those travelling from England.
<b>17 February 2021 (V.5.1)</b>	
	Updated guidance on mandatory hotel quarantine and testing for permitted arrivals, including addition of information for Scotland and Wales.

<b>11 February 2021 (V.5.0)</b>	
	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.
<b>05 February 2021 (V.4.1)</b>	
	Updated guidance on travel bans. Updated guidance on COVID-19 testing requirement for anyone arriving in the UK.
<b>19 January 2021 (V.4.0)</b>	
	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.
<b>15 January 2021 (V.3.1)</b>	
	Updated guidance on travel bans. Updated guidance on COVID-19 testing requirement for anyone arriving in the UK.
<b>14 December 2020 (V.3.0)</b>	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation period. Updated to reflect new 'Test to Release' scheme.
<b>09 December 2020 (V.2.4)</b>	
	Updated to reflect removal of additional travel restrictions from Denmark.
<b>11 November 2020 (V.2.3)</b>	
	Updated guidance on travel from Denmark.
<b>29 September 2020 (V.2.2)</b>	
	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.
<b>31 July 2020 (V.2.1)</b>	
	Updated guidance on self-isolation for those with COVID-19 symptoms or who have tested positive.
<b>17 July 2020 (V.2.0)</b>	
	Updated to reflect legislation now applicable UK-wide.
<b>10 July 2020 (V.2.0)</b>	
	Updated wording regarding eligibility and immigration requirements. Updated to reflect addition of Devolved Administrations. Updated guidance on required contents of eligibility confirmation letters.