

# Mobility: Immigration alert

September 2021



## United Kingdom

### New entry rules for international travelers

#### Executive summary

On 17 September 2021, the UK Government announced a series of changes to its rules for admitting international travelers that are designed to simplify the admission process and allow a greater number of travelers to enter the UK.

#### Eight countries removed from the red list

Effective 22 September 2021, Bangladesh, Egypt, Kenya, the Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey are no longer on the UK's [red list](#). England-bound travelers departing from these eight countries, or who were present in these countries in the 10 days immediately preceding their travel to England, may now enter England irrespective of their nationality or residence rights in the UK. Previously, travelers departing from, or who were present in, red list countries were temporarily prohibited from entering the UK unless they were UK nationals or residents, or Irish citizens.

#### Updated requirements for travel to England

Effective 4 a.m. (GMT+1) on 4 October 2021, the UK's [red/amber/green traffic light system](#) will be replaced by a new system which categorizes countries into two groups: red list countries, and countries that are not on the red list. The rules for entry into England from countries that are not on the red list will depend on the traveler's vaccination status.

[Fully vaccinated](#) travelers from non-red list countries will be treated the same way as fully vaccinated UK nationals, and required to: (1) complete a [Passenger Locator Form](#) no more than 48 hours prior to travel, (2) book and pay for a COVID-19 test to be taken after arrival, and (3) take the COVID-19

test on or before their second day in England. They will no longer be required to take COVID-19 tests prior to travel or on their eighth day in England. They will also no longer be required to quarantine for 10 days after arrival in England.

England-bound travelers arriving from non-red list countries who are not fully vaccinated, will be subject to new entry [rules](#) as of 4 a.m. (GMT+1) on 4 October 2021, and required to: (1) take a COVID-19 test no more than three days prior to travel, (2) complete a Passenger Locator Form no more than 48 hours prior to travel, (3) book and pay for two COVID-19 tests to be taken after arrival in England, (4) take COVID-19 tests on their second and eighth days in England, and (5) quarantine for 10 days after arrival. These travelers may be allowed to end quarantine early if they qualify to do so under the [Test to Release](#) scheme.

England-bound individuals traveling from red list countries are subject to different [rules](#) than travelers arriving from non-red list countries, irrespective of their vaccination status. These travelers must: (1) take a COVID-19 test no more than three days prior to travel, (2) complete a Passenger Locator Form no more than 48 hours prior to travel, (3) book a [quarantine hotel package](#), (4) take COVID-19 tests on their second and eighth days in England, and (5) quarantine in an approved hotel upon arrival.

All travelers who test positive for COVID-19 after arrival will need to quarantine and take a COVID-19 test, irrespective of their vaccination status and/or country of departure.

### Additional changes planned for late October 2021

In late October 2021, the UK is expected to implement changes that will allow passengers who transit through a third country en route to England, to follow the rules associated with their country of departure rather than those of the transit locations. In addition, fully vaccinated travelers entering England from a select group of non-red list countries will be able to take a lateral flow COVID-19 test on their second day in England in lieu of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test. In general, the cost of lateral flow tests is less expensive than that of PCR tests. For more information, click [here](#).

### Travel rules for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

The changes discussed above apply exclusively to England-bound travel. Different rules are in place for travel to [Wales](#), [Scotland](#) and [Northern Ireland](#).

### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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