



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps

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Huw Merriman MP
Chair of the Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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29 July 2021

Dear Huw,

International Travel Update

I am writing to update the Transport Select Committee on the UK Government's plans to further progress the safe, sustainable and robust restart of international travel.

The COVID-19 roadmap out of lockdown included a commitment to relaunch the Global Travel Taskforce to consider a safe return of international travel. The Global Travel Taskforce report published in April committed to three checkpoint reviews – at the end of June, July and October.

The first was completed on 24 June and focused on easing border health measures for those fully vaccinated in the UK.

I can announce that following the second checkpoint review, we will be extending the policy on fully vaccinated passengers arriving from amber list countries to include those who have been vaccinated in the United States and in Europe (EU Member States, EFTA countries and a number of European microstate countries). Separate rules will continue to apply for those arriving from France, following the persistent presence of cases in France of the Beta variant, which was first identified in South Africa. This marks a critical next step in efforts to restart economic links with key partners and recognises the value of transatlantic and European routes for both individual travellers and the economic recovery of the sector.

The changes will come into force on Monday 2 August at 04:00 and will mean that those vaccinated in the US and in Europe will not have to take a day 8 test or quarantine. They will however still be required to take a pre departure test before arrival into England as well as a PCR test on or before day 2 after arrival. Any positive results will be genomically sequenced to continue to

manage the risk from importing variants. The rules will also apply to British nationals vaccinated in these countries and returning to England.

Children under 18 who are ordinarily resident in the US and Europe will also be exempt from quarantine and the day 8 test. Children aged 11 and over will still need to complete a pre departure and day 2 test. Children between the ages of 5 and 10 will only need to complete a day 2 test, and children aged 4 and under do not need to take any tests.

Passengers vaccinated in Europe by a vaccine approved by the European Medicines Agency (and those vaccinated as part of the vaccine rollout in Switzerland) will be required to provide proof via an EU Digital COVID Certificate, and those vaccinated in the US will be required to provide proof via the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Card. The policy does not currently cover those who have proof of recovery from COVID-19.

This is just the first step in recognising vaccines given in other countries. We recognise that there are UK nationals resident in countries not included in today's announcement who have been fully vaccinated, which is why we are working with international partners to ensure that our certification regimes are robust and we will extend this policy further in due course.

Finally, I can confirm that following engagement with the sector and taking account of the evidence from the restart of domestic cruise earlier this year, international cruises will also now fully restart in line with the traffic light system. FCDO advice on international cruise travel advice will be amended to encourage travellers to understand the risks associated with cruise travel and take personal responsibility for their own safety abroad.

As health matters are devolved, the Devolved Administrations will confirm their respective positions in due course.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Shapps', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT