



Department for Transport

Huw Merriman MP
Chair of the Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps

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Dear Huw,

International Travel Update

I am writing to update the Transport Select Committee on updates to the traffic light system in England, following the most recent review.

From 04:00 BST Sunday 8 August, the following countries will be added to the Government's green list:

- Austria
- Germany
- Latvia
- Norway
- Romania
- Slovenia
- Slovakia

Passengers arriving from green list destinations need to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result prior to travel and take a further test on day 2 of their arrival in the UK.

The following countries will be removed from the red list and added to the amber list, as the situation in these countries has improved:

- Bahrain
- India
- Qatar
- United Arab Emirates

The latest evidence suggests that the Beta variant in France is less prevalent. On this basis, I can also confirm that the temporary measures excluding France from the fully vaccinated travel policy will be lifted. This means that arrivals from France who have been fully vaccinated with an authorised vaccine in the UK, USA or Europe will not be required to quarantine or take a day 8 test if they can provide proof of their vaccination status to carriers in advance of travel. France remains on the amber list.

Spain and all its islands remain on the amber list. However, arrivals from Spain and all its islands are advised to use a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test as their pre-departure test wherever possible, as a precaution against the increased prevalence of the virus and variants in the country. UK clinicians and scientists will remain in close contact with their counterparts in Spain to keep abreast of the latest data and picture of cases in Spain.

The following countries and territories will be added to the red list as they present a high public health risk to the UK from known variants of concern, known high-risk variants under investigation or as a result of very high in-country or territory prevalence of COVID-19:

- Georgia
- Réunion
- Mayotte
- Mexico

Only British and Irish citizens, and those with residence rights (including long-term visa holders) will be allowed to enter from these destinations, irrespective of vaccination status, and will be required to self-isolate in a managed quarantine hotel for 10 days, provide a valid notification of a negative test result prior to travel and take a test on day 2 and 8 after their arrival.

I appreciate the decision to move Mexico to the red list in particular may be concerning for UK travellers. However, the Government has always said we will take decisive action where necessary to protect public health and we have seen increasing incidence of COVID-19 in Mexico, growing positive cases of those travelling to the UK and the presence of the B.1.621 variant. We are providing consular assistance through our embassy to UK travellers currently in country. We strongly recommend travellers check the FCDO travel advice before travelling, which has advised against all but essential travel to Mexico since March 2020.

From Thursday 12 August, the cost for staying in a Managed Quarantine Facility when arriving from a red list country will increase to £2,285 for a single adult and £1,430 for a second adult to better reflect the total costs involved with providing their quarantine, including transport to the hotel, security, provision of welfare services and the two PCR tests which must be taken on day two and day eight of the stay. The price remains unchanged at £325 for children aged 5-12 and free for children under 5. Government advice is still for people to not travel to red list countries.

All arrivals into the UK must continue to complete a Passenger Locator Form.

Finally, I recognise the cost of testing remains a concern, and we are continuing to work with the travel industry and private testing providers to further reduce the cost of testing. We will also consider the scale of the costs as we prepare for the final Global Travel Taskforce checkpoint in October.

The changes agreed at this review simplify the system to three categories, as well as the green watchlist to give travellers notice where green status is at risk. The data for all countries will be kept under review and the Government will not hesitate to take action where a country's epidemiological picture changes.

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

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