

Government to introduce tougher measures and enforcement rules for quarantined passengers

- Heavy financial penalties and potential jail time for non-compliance
- All passengers travelling to England to take mandated COVID-19 tests on day 2 and day 8 of quarantine
- Those who have been to a 'red list' country required to purchase 'quarantine package' covering hotel and testing
- 16 hotels contracted so far for an initial 4,600 rooms

Tough new enforcement measures – from fixed penalty notices to imprisonment – have been introduced, as [the Health and Social Care Secretary set out details of the government's new quarantine measures](#).

Under the changes announced, from 15 February all arrivals at English ports will be required to undertake 2 mandatory COVID-19 tests – on day 2 and day 8 of their 10-day quarantine.

The new measures build on those already in place, which include refusing entry to non-UK residents from 'red list' countries. All passengers, no matter which country they have travelled from, are already required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 3 days before departure and must self-isolate on arrival. A passenger locator form must also be completed with fines for those who fail to comply.

From Monday, anyone arriving who has been in a country on the [UK's travel ban list](#) in the previous 10 days will be required to purchase a quarantine package. Bookings will be made through a dedicated online portal and will include:

- assigned government transportation
- food and drinks
- accommodation in a government-approved facility
- security
- welfare
- testing

The charge for a single adult will be £1,750.

To ensure compliance, fines will be issued and will range from £5,000 rising to £10,000 for arrivals who fail to quarantine in a designated hotel. A £1,000 penalty will also be given to any international arrival who fails to take a mandatory test, followed by a £2,000 penalty to any international arrival who fails to take the second mandatory test. This will be accompanied by an automatic extension of the quarantine period to 14 days.

Passenger locator forms will now not only detail their travel journey but also their quarantine and testing package. Anyone attempting to conceal that

they have travelled in a 'red list' country on their form could face a £10,000 fine or prosecution and up to 10 years in prison.

The Health and Social Care Secretary said:

Our fight against this virus has many fronts and, just as we're attacking this virus through our vaccination programme, which is protecting more people every day, we're strengthening our defences through these vital measures so we can protect the progress that we've worked so hard to accomplish.

The compliance and enforcement regime is end-to-end, and all passengers should expect to be checked at various points throughout their journey, such as:

- by carriers at the time of departure
- by airport staff throughout their journey
- by Border Force officers on arrival
- spot checks by police, where appropriate, for those quarantining at home

Government has been working closely with the aviation industry and the country's major airports including Heathrow, Gatwick and Birmingham to designate arrival ports. These airports account for the vast majority of international arrivals into England and will allow for close monitoring. Anyone arriving at a non-designated port who has visited a 'red list' country will receive a fixed penalty notice and still be required to quarantine in a managed quarantine facility. Government has so far contracted 16 hotels with 4,600 rooms and more will be secured as needed.

There will be a security presence throughout, with personnel directing travellers on arrival, in transit and on arrival at the managed quarantine facilities. Security will also be present to ensure passengers remain at their facility and, where necessary, police will be called upon to provide additional support.

Any passengers travelling back to England from countries not on the travel ban list will be required to quarantine at home for the same period (10 days) and abide by the same stringent testing regime. In both cases, tests must be booked from a list of government-approved test providers. Test to Release will continue to be in operation – however, arrivals will still be required to purchase the 2-testing package.

Guidelines for travellers will be published on GOV.UK and the booking portal will go live on Thursday.

Summary of how the current rules for passengers are enforced:

- firstly, passengers must show proof of a negative test in the 3 days before departure
- they must also complete a passenger locator form in the 2 days before arriving in the UK

- carriers must check both of these for every passenger before they board the plane
 - passengers are then checked again by frontline airport staff and Border Force upon arrival – passengers arriving without a completed form and negative test face a £500 fine and the airline faces a £2,000 fine
 - if they have been in a red-listed country in the past 10 days, they will be denied entry to the UK unless they have a residency right
 - all passengers must then self-isolate at the place they are staying for 10 days after they arrive – we have enhanced these spot checks to make sure people are self-isolating and they may be referred for police action including a fine of up to £10,000
 - we have also increased checks for those self-isolating and by police at ports and airports
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Norfolk potato company makes amends for polluting river

The discharge of sludge into a stream during factory cleaning has led to a Norfolk potato producer handing £14,000 to charity.

Albert Bartlett and Sons (Airdrie) Ltd allowed sludge resulting from routine weekend cleaning of its Worstead-based factory, to enter the channel and flow into the Smallburgh Stream in September 2019. Lack of monitoring meant the sludge was not detected and was pumped away, making its way through a network of tanks, to discharge into the river.

As a result, the company paid £14,000 to the Norfolk Rivers Trust, in what is known as an enforcement undertaking. The company also had to pay costs, including those of the Environment Agency.

The money will go to support the charity's work in the creation of aquatic habitats, conservation and restoration, education, and providing advice on land management and farming.

The Environment Agency accepted the offer from Albert Bartlett and Sons Ltd in recognition of a number of factors. These included the fact that the pollution was limited and had no lasting impact on the stream, that the discharge was the result of negligence rather than dangerous or foolhardy behaviour, and that the company had since spent a lot of money on infrastructure and systems improvement to prevent a recurrence.

Environment Agency Environment Officer Stephen Grice, who was involved in the investigation, said:

It is important that all companies take action to avoid polluting

the environment through careful consideration of their processes and procedures, and the monitoring of their operations.

In this case, Albert Bartlett and Sons fully cooperated with the investigation and gave frank and helpful information to the investigators.

Enforcement undertakings allow companies and individuals to make amends for breaching environmental regulations, including through a financial contribution to an environmental project.

To agree this type of civil sanction, the Environment Agency must be satisfied the offender will make changes to its operations, to prevent future breaches of permitting legislation.

The Environment Agency continues to prosecute organisations and individuals where evidence shows high levels of culpability and serious environmental harm.

Notes for editors

Albert Bartlett and Sons Ltd was sanctioned under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 (as amended).

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News story

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- Embedded Electronics Design and Development Engineer (Degree Level 6)
- Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives (Degree Level 6)

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[Free PPE for unpaid carers](#)

- Protective equipment to be provided to keep unpaid carers and those they care for safe

- Minister for Care encourages councils to take part as two-thirds of local authorities already signed up to assist with supply
- New distribution routes being set up to support delivery to those who need it

Following a successful pilot scheme to establish the distribution method and logistics, free PPE is now being made available to 'extra-resident' unpaid carers who need it, so they can continue to keep themselves and those they care for safe from COVID-19 if they have to move between households.

Local authorities and local resilience forums (LRFs) were informed of the extended PPE offer by letter sent on 25 January, and already almost two-thirds have signed up to support this. The Minister for Care Helen Whately is now calling for more to take part and help unpaid carers in their areas to access free PPE.

Minister for Care Helen Whately said:

Unpaid carers are the unsung heroes of this pandemic. All too often their kindness and devotion go unseen and unacknowledged by society.

I know the enormous strain this pandemic has placed on those caring for family and those they love. I'm determined to do everything possible to support them.

Working with local authorities and voluntary organisations, we have already improved access for carers to testing and supported day services to stay open safely during this second wave. I'm pleased we can now roll out free PPE for those unpaid carers who are advised to use it.

Throughout the pandemic action has been taken to support unpaid carers during this challenging year, including through tailored guidance, supported access to respite as well as £500,000 to Carers Trust to help combat loneliness.

As key workers, unpaid carers are also able to access priority testing when they have symptoms through the government's testing portal.

Professor Deborah Sturdy OBE, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, said:

It is important everything is done to protect those who are vulnerable and the people who care for them.

Unpaid carers provide a fundamental pillar supporting our social care system and have the gratitude of a nation for their work before, during and after this pandemic.

The scientific advice is to wear PPE while caring and we are ensuring extra-resident unpaid carers can now access this for free.

The provision of free PPE to unpaid carers builds on the government's commitment to provide free PPE until at the least the end of June 2021 to the adult social care sector.

Over 8.1 billion items of PPE have been distributed to protect our health and social care staff.

The government's infection prevention control guidance has been continually reviewed and has evolved over time in response to the changing epidemiology of COVID-19 and the emergence of new evidence and science.

As part of this, the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) social care working group has recommended that unpaid, extra-resident carers should follow the same PPE procedures recommended for domiciliary care workers.

Work with local authorities has begun to set up distribution systems nationwide following a successful pilot scheme.

Financial support is also available for local authorities and LRFs to support the roll-out, and following information sessions the majority of local authorities have signed up and more are expected.

A number of unpaid carers have been prioritised for the vaccine as part of cohort 6, in line with the independent advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. These include those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.

Plans will be set out to further vaccinate other groups in due course.