



Department
for Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Kelly Tolhurst MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: kelly.tolhurst@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Saturday 23 May 2020

Dear Colleague,

Earlier this month, the Government published Our Plan to Rebuild: the UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy, setting out our plan to rebuild the UK and safeguard livelihoods. We are writing to update you on our progress; notably the self-isolation / quarantine measures for international arrivals that we announced yesterday (22 May).

Step One of our carefully planned timetable for lifting restrictions was enacted on 13 May in England. As the level of infection in the UK continues to reduce, it is important we manage the risk of importing cases from abroad. To that end, we announced work on a series of measures that would be introduced at the UK border, including a requirement for international arrivals (with some notable exemptions) to self-isolate for fourteen days upon arrival.

I am now in a position to be able to update you with further details and guidance on these measures.

14-day self-isolation/quarantine measure

Following the Home Secretary's announcement yesterday, the requirement for international arrivals to be subject to mandatory 14-day self-isolation/quarantine upon arrival will come into force on 08 June 2020.

Those travellers will be required to show where they plan to self-isolate. If they are unable to demonstrate this, they will be required to quarantine in accommodation. We have established a list of exemptions; including arrivals from the Common Travel Area (Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands), as well as occupational exemptions, such as crew and for drivers transporting goods into the country. A full list of exemptions is available on gov.uk.

Given the high levels of compliance with the social distancing measures to date, the Government expects the majority of arrivals to the UK will do the right thing and abide by these measures. Enforcement will only be used as a last

resort. But to be clear, anyone – British citizens and foreign nationals – who fails to comply with this self-isolation measure could face enforcement action, including a fixed penalty notice or potential prosecution and a fine.

This measure, alongside others we have put in place to help combat the spread of the virus will be reviewed every 3 weeks.

Additional public health measures

In addition, those entering the UK (except for those travelling from the Common Travel Area) will be required to supply their contact and accommodation information through an online form. Individuals will need to show they have completed the form when they arrive at the UK border. If they refuse, they may not be allowed to enter the country. This data will be shared with Public Health England and the devolved administrations where appropriate.

All those entering the UK will be strongly advised to download and use the NHS contact tracing app once it is live. This will support tracking and testing, allowing public health teams to quickly trace and isolate potential new cases.

Operators across all transport modes will be required to increase communications regarding social distancing and public health measures, including on-board announcements to all passengers to help us communicate the new requirements.

Implementation

These measures will be introduced in England under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, using secondary legislation by the Department for Health and Social Care.

We recognise the significant challenge that implementing these measures will bring and are committed to working closely with you through this process to ensure effective roll-out. To assist with this process, we are planning for a Government and Industry Implementation Group which will meet for the first-time next week. Further details of this will be shared shortly, but we see this as a critical part of ensuring we are able to continue to restrict the spread of the virus and guard against a potential second wave of infection whilst supporting industry during this challenging time.

Refinements in the future

As the Secretary of State for Transport said during Transport Orals on 18 May, we will consider refinements as we further develop this system and are in active discussion with stakeholders across all modes.

This is one of the biggest international challenges faced in a generation and these measures are first and foremost designed to protect the health of the British public; something we can all agree is our top priority.

Our Departments continue to work together and with colleagues across Government to support your sector through this difficult time and we have appreciated the sustained engagement undertaken in recent weeks to help us with this.

We look forward to an opportunity to discuss these measures further through the Department for Transport's regular industry calls and through engagement planned through the Home Office. In the meantime, please let us or our officials know if you have any questions on the measures.

Yours sincerely,



**KELLY TOLHURST MP
MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND SECURITY
DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT**



**KEVIN FOSTER MP
MINISTER FOR FUTURE BORDERS AND IMMIGRATION
HOME OFFICE**