



## Department of Health & Social Care

To: LA Chief Executives and Local  
Directors of Public Health

cc. LRF Chairs

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Dear Colleague,

### **New measures in the fight against coronavirus**

Yesterday, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, gave an oral statement to the House of Commons on Managed Quarantine Facilities and testing for international arrivals. In his statement he set out that from Monday 15 February:

- **Hotel Quarantine:** All international arrivals into England who have been in a country subject to a travel ban in the 10 days before arrival will be required to quarantine in a government-approved Managed Quarantine Facility (MQF) for 10-days.
- **Rigorous Testing:** It will be mandatory for all international arrivals regardless of whether they are quarantining at home or in a MQF to take a test on day 2 and 8 of their 10-day quarantine period.
- **Strong Enforcement:** The Government will back this new system with strong enforcement of both home and hotel quarantine.

To support these arrangements arrivals from countries subject to a travel ban will only be permitted to enter the UK through a small number of ports that currently account for the vast majority of passenger arrivals. None of these ports are in your area but we know that many local authorities will still have an interest in exactly how the scheme will work.

A full transcript of the oral statement can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/strengthening-our-health-protection-at-the-border>



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Further information about how these measures will operate are set out in Annex A. Further information will be published on GOV.UK on Thursday 11 February including a link to the new online portal for all international arrivals to book their hotel quarantine and/or testing package.

Your Sincerely,

Shona Dunn

Senior Responsible Officer  
Managed Quarantine Programme

**Enc. Annex A**



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### **Annex A: New measures in the fight against coronavirus**

Hotel quarantine: Most travel from the 33 'red list' countries is already banned. British or Irish Nationals (or others with residence rights) who have been in a red-list country in the 10-days before arrivals in England will need to book and pay for a hotel quarantine package. They will be met and escorted through the airport and onto dedicated transport, then taken to a designated hotel where they must quarantine in their room for ten days, or for longer, if they test positive for COVID-19 while quarantining.

More rigorous testing programme: All arrivals will also be subject to a more rigorous testing programme. Everyone entering England have to have a negative Covid test within 3 days of departure. They will now also have to book and pay for further tests which must be taken within the first few days of their arrival in England. The first test will need to be done on Day 2 following arrival, with genomic sequencing of any positive results to check for any variant of concern; and the second test on Day 8, to make sure travellers are not infectious when they leave quarantine. People who are quarantining at home, can opt into buy an additional test through the existing Test and Release scheme, but this would need to be in addition to two mandatory two tests.

If any test comes back positive, travellers will have to quarantine for a further 10 days from the date of the test.

People arriving in England will book their hotel quarantine (or their testing package if they're quarantining at home) via an online portal. A single-cost charge will apply for hotel quarantine which will be £1750 for a single adult. We've benchmarked the cost against international comparators – for example Australia and New Zealand require travellers to quarantine at a cost of approximately £1,600 (which does not include Covid tests). For those in quarantining at home the testing package (2 Covid tests) will be £210

Strong enforcement: All international arrivals are required to quarantine – if not in a hotel then at home – and to take two additional Covid tests. Compliance with these rules is essential in order to protect the population as a whole from new variants of Covid, and so there will be tough fines for those who do not follow the rules – including a £1,000 penalty for any international arrival who fails to take a mandatory test, doubled if they refuse the second test; a £5,000 Fixed Penalty Notice, rising to £10,000, for arrivals who fail to quarantine in a designated hotel. And anyone who tries to evade hotel quarantine by seeking to conceal that they've been in a country in our red list will be liable to prosecution and could face a prison sentence of 10 years.