

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

UK releases COVID-19 travel updates, allowing some to avoid quarantine

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The U.K. is announcing new travel updates regarding COVID-19. Image credit: Yes Milano

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The United Kingdom is updating its COVID-19 travel policy, going so far as to waive mandated quarantine for fully vaccinated arrivals from the United States and Europe.

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Starting Aug. 4, passengers who are fully vaccinated in the U.S. and European Union will be able to travel to England without having to quarantine or take a day 8 test on arrival. The U.K. government has also confirmed its plans to allow international cruise sailings to restart from England in accordance with Public Health England guidance.

"We've taken great strides on our journey to reopen international travel and today is another important step forward," said Grant Shapps, secretary of state for transport of the United Kingdom, in a statement. "Whether you are a family reuniting for the first time since the start of the pandemic or a business benefiting from increased trade this is progress we can all enjoy."

Hoping to pivot towards progress

The **new measures** reflect the U.K.'s attempt to foster continued effort in the reopening of international travel.

Those who have been vaccinated in the EU and U.S. who are eligible to avoid quarantining must have received vaccines authorized by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), respectively, or be in the Swiss vaccination program.



London's Heathrow airport was amongst the busiest worldwide until the initial COVID-19 lockdown. Image credit: Walpole

Those vaccinated in the U.S. will also need to provide proof of U.S. residency.

Travelers arriving from countries on the [amber list](#) and who have been vaccinated in the U.S. or European countries will still be required to complete a pre-departure test before arrival into England, alongside a PCR test on or before day 2 after arrival.

The amber list consists of countries that may require travelers to isolate after returning. The red list consists of countries the U.K. believes people should not travel to, and the green list consists of countries the U.K. believes are safe enough to not require quarantining upon a traveler's return.

The U.K. updates the disparate lists as global COVID-19 conditions update.

Separate rules will continue to apply for people arriving from France. If someone has been in France in the 10 days before they arrive in England, they must quarantine for 10 days after they arrive and take a COVID-19 test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8, even if they are fully vaccinated.

Passengers from all countries cannot travel to the UK unless they have completed a passenger locator form.

Following continued guidance from medical leaders, the U.K. government has also confirmed it is allowing international cruise sailings to restart from England.

Government officials are hoping continued vaccination rollout will help curb the spread of the virus and ultimately lead to the road of recovery, economically and globally.

"We will of course continue to be guided by the latest scientific data but thanks to our world-leading domestic vaccination program, we're able to look to the future and start to rebuild key transatlantic routes with the US while further cementing ties with our European neighbors," Secretary Shapps said in a statement.

Traveling policies for COVID-19 seem to continue to update constantly across the globe.

With global concerns over the COVID-19 delta variant growing, international travel restrictions and recommendations continue to change easing in some cases, tightening in others.

On July 19, the U.S. State Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention both issued warnings against travel to the United Kingdom due to rising COVID-19 cases. Meanwhile, Canada is easing into reopening its borders by welcoming U.S. travelers as soon as next month ([see story](#)).