

Mandatory COVID-19 testing for inbound flights to England

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic the UK Government has recently announced a new requirement for testing on flights INTO the England. This requirement takes effect at 4am UK time on Monday 18th January 2021.

British Airways is awaiting further clarification on the specific test required by the Government.

While we await this clarification, we recognise the need to provide our customers with clarity ahead of flights that are taking place in the next few days.

British Airways will therefore require all customers on flights to the England arriving from 4am on Monday 18th January, 2021 to provide evidence of a negative LAMP, PCR or Antigen Covid-19 test taken within 72-hours of their departure alongside a completed Passenger Locator Form.

Customers who are unable to travel on their intended departure date will be able to move their flights to a later date using the British Airways Book with Confidence policy.

More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england>

FAQs

Who will need to have a test?

All customers, including those travelling from a travel corridor country, other than those on a very short list of exemptions.

What type of test is suitable?

While we are awaiting guidance from the Government, customers MUST have documented paperwork to prove they have had a negative test within 72 hours of their departure.

Who is exempt?

Travel from some countries

You do not need to take a test if you began your journey to England from:

- Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Jersey or Guernsey
- Ascension, Falkland Islands, St Helena
- For a limited time period, you also do not need to take a test if you began your journey to England from:
 - Antigua and Barbuda, St Lucia or Barbados (until 4am Thursday 21 January 2021 – you will need a test to travel on or after this date)
- Children and medical reasons
- Children aged under 11 do not need to take a test.

You do not need to take a test if you are travelling to the UK:

- for urgent medical treatment or are accompanying someone who is travelling for urgent medical treatment, and it is not reasonably practicable for you to obtain a negative COVID-19 test in the 3 days before departure

- if you have a medical condition which means you cannot take a test – you must present a note from a medical practitioner at check in and to Border Force staff on arrival in England

Exempt jobs

People doing the following jobs do not need to take a test:

- border and customs officials
- channel tunnel system workers
- defence personnel, visiting forces and government contractors
- hauliers
- air, maritime and rail crew
- civil aviation inspectors
- people transporting human cells and blood products
- seamen and masters and inspectors and surveyors of ships
- specialist technical workers doing emergency works
- Also, in limited circumstances:
 - foreign government officials
 - UK government officials conducting essential state business, essential government work or essential policing

Will customers in transit be required to have a test?

Yes. All customers will be required to have a test.

What if I test positive?

We will move your departure date in accordance with our Book with Confidence policy.