

Scottish Government adds Portugal and French Polynesia to quarantine list

The Scottish Government has added Portugal and French Polynesia to the countries to which quarantine rules apply.

From Saturday morning at 4am anyone arriving from Portugal or French Polynesia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days at home or at a specified address.

The restriction has been put in place as a result of a significant rise in cases of Covid-19 in both countries. In Portugal the Scottish Government says that the number of positive tests has risen, and it means that the risk of importation into Scotland by those who have visited there is 'too high to ignore'.

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf said: "We are in the midst of a global pandemic and the situation in many countries can change suddenly. Therefore, people should think very hard before committing to non-essential travel abroad.

"With Scotland's relatively low infection rate, importation of new cases is a significant risk to public health. I would also encourage people who have returned to Scotland from Portugal or French Polynesia in the last few days to be particularly careful in their social contacts and to ensure they stick to the FACTS. I am also concerned by the level of infections in Gibraltar and we will be monitoring the situation there very carefully.

“Regular discussions continue with the other three governments in the UK. We continue to closely monitor the situation in all parts of the world and base the decisions we make on the scientific evidence available.

“It is a legal requirement to complete a Passenger Locator Form and provide it to Border Force, whether you have travelled from an exempt or non-exempt country. The requirement for travellers to quarantine for 14 days on arrival from a non-exempt country is vital to help prevent transmission of the virus and to suppress it – not doing so poses a significant risk to wider public health across Scotland.”

Those travelling abroad should check in advance for any local requirements to quarantine on arrival at their destination. Further information about the foreign travel public health rules, including quarantine requirements can be read on the [Scottish Government website](#). This includes the existing list of [overseas destinations](#) where those arriving in Scotland are exempt from self-isolation.