

Coronavirus – France moved off quarantine list

Passengers arriving from France in Scotland will no longer need to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated under the latest review of travel restrictions announced by The Scottish Government.

The step to align France with the rest of the EU is possible due to a reported fall in the country's Beta variant case rate. The latest review of international travel regulations has also moved India from the red travel list to amber.

Spain remains on the amber list but travellers are advised to be cautious as investigations continue into a new variant originating in South America and now present in Spain.

The government recommends that passengers choose a PCR test prior to departure from Spain, rather than other available tests such as lateral flow, to give greatest assurance before travelling. The latest changes come into effect at 4am on Sunday 8 August 2021 following analysis by the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC).

The countries moving from the red to amber are India, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Georgia and Mexico, as well as the French overseas territories of Réunion and Mayotte, have moved to the red list which means travellers returning to Scotland will have to stay in managed isolation for 10 days.

In line with current guidance, individuals should not travel to red list countries on holiday, or for any leisure purposes.

In light of a decision taken by the UK Government, which manages contractual arrangements on behalf of the four nations, the price of a stay in managed isolation is also increasing from £1,750 to £2,285. The Scottish Government say they will review existing hardship and welfare arrangements for travellers in managed isolation to ensure they remain suitable following this change.

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport Michael Matheson said: "These latest changes make it clear that international travel remains challenging.

"Recent relaxations to travel restrictions for fully vaccinated people were due to the huge success of the Scottish Government's vaccination programme.

"It is vitally important we protect that progress through continued vigilance on importation, and we continue to urge caution given the risks caused by variants of concern."

The latest changes to the traffic light system at a glance are:

Amber to Green:

Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, Romania, Norway.

Amber to Red:

Georgia, Mayotte, Mexico, Réunion.

Red to Amber:

India, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain.

The cost of managed isolation has increased to £2,285 for a first adult and £1,430 for a second adult in a room. The price for children remains at £325.