

Media Release

Date: 19 May 2021

South East of England moves to Category 2 from 00.01 Thursday 20 May 2021

An update to data provided by Public Health England announced yesterday, has meant that the South East region of England has dropped to a Category 2 with effect from 00.01 Thursday 20 May 2021.

The update to Public Health England's data was required due to positive lateral flow tests, which were then subsequently confirmed by a PCR test, being counted as 2 new positive cases instead of 1.

Having heard the announcement in the UK, Public Health Services in Guernsey immediately reviewed the corrected data and noted that the prevalence rates for the South East of England meant that it should have been classified as a category 2 region from last Friday (14 May).

We are aware of approximately 160 travellers who have arrived in the Bailiwick since Friday who might have been impacted by this update, specifically relating to those travelling from, or in some cases through, the South East of England. This region should have been classified as a Category 2, as opposed to a Category 3, region from the 14th May. Staff from the Guernsey Border Agency and Public Health Services have already started to contact these passengers to advise them of the issue and to make the necessary changes to their self-isolation requirements.

Dr Nicola Brink, Medical Officer of Health said:

'It is unfortunate that this discrepancy in the data occurred and will have impacted on some arrivals to the Bailiwick. However, teams of staff are working hard to contact everyone impacted as it would be unreasonable to make travellers continue to abide by category 3 self-isolation and testing requirements when they have only ever been in a category 2 country or region in the 14 days prior to arriving in the Bailiwick.'

Anyone who thinks that they may have been affected by update, and has not been contacted by 12 noon tomorrow (20 May 2021) should email travel.tracker@gov.gg. Please be patient and do not email before 3pm as this will divert resources away from the immediate task of calling travellers.