

Media Release

Date: 26 November 2021

Six countries added to red list in response to new COVID-19 variant

The Bailiwick of Guernsey, which has aligned its travel requirements with the UK Government's that apply in England, continues to observe the same red list. **This means the countries placed on the UK's red list today at midday will also be treated as red list countries for the purpose of travel to the Bailiwick.** These countries are South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

This action is being taken as a precautionary response to the new COVID-19 variant B.1.1.529 which is currently considered a Variant Under Investigation by the UK Health Security Agency.

The variant includes a large number of spike protein mutations as well as mutations in other parts of the viral genome. There is a potential for these to be biologically significant mutations which may change the behaviour of the virus with regards to vaccines, treatments and transmissibility. More investigation is required. It is for this reason that the Bailiwick is implementing these additional precautions.

The requirements for those arriving from red list countries are as follows:

For all travellers, vaccinated and unvaccinated, travelling directly into the Bailiwick from a region on the UK's red list, and those travelling via the UK before 4am on Sunday.

- Day 1 (Day of arrival) and Day 9 PCR tests for travellers aged 12 and over.
- Isolate until Day 9 negative result.
- Children aged 11 and under will not be tested and will follow the same self-isolation requirements as accompanying parents/guardians.
- Children aged 12-17 will be tested and follow the same self-isolation requirements as accompanying parents/guardians.

For all travellers, vaccinated and unvaccinated, travelling from a region on the UKs red list via the UK into the Bailiwick from 4am on Sunday

- You cannot transit through the UK. You must complete self-isolation requirements in the UK.
- Once completed you can travel onto the Bailiwick as a 'Blue Traveller' with no additional travel restrictions.

Full details for all travel requirements can be found at:

<https://covid19.gov.gg/guidance/travel/current>

Further to this, anyone who has been to one of the six countries now included on the red list in the past 14 days is being contacted and asked to take a PCR. These people are also asked to isolate from now until they receive their result.