

Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) is following the official guidance from the NHS, UK Government and World Health Organisation. The situation is changing constantly and we will update as new guidance is issued. To ensure you have the latest guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

On **4 October 2021**, the UK Government announced a simplified system for international travel in light of the success of the UK's domestic vaccine rollout. The former traffic light system was replaced by a single red list of countries and territories with all other countries and territories becoming classified as rest of the world. This has now been updated and from 4am Monday 22 November, COVID-19 vaccines on the WHO EUL will be recognised and all under-18s coming to England will be treated as fully vaccinated at the border.

International travel: what do the rules mean if you are travelling to England?

If you intend to travel to England, the arrival requirements will depend on where you have been in the 10 days before you arrive into the UK and your vaccination status

Passengers from countries and territories classified as rest of the world **who are** recognised as being fully vaccinated with authorised vaccines and certificates under England's international travel rules will need to [book and pay for a COVID-19 test](#) to be taken before the end of day 2 in England and [complete a passenger locator form](#) in the 48 hours before arriving in England. Passengers can choose a lateral flow test or a PCR test and will need to enter their COVID-19 test booking reference number on their passenger locator form.

Passengers from countries and territories classified as rest of the world **who are not** recognised as being fully vaccinated with authorised vaccines and certificates under England's international travel rules, will need to take a Covid-19 test in the 3 days prior to travel, [book and pay for day 2 and day 8 COVID-19 PCR tests](#) and [complete a passenger locator form](#) in the 48 hours before arriving in England. Passengers will also need [quarantine at home or in the place they are staying for 10 full days](#) following arrival

Passengers who have been in a red list country in the 10 days before departure will need to take a Covid-19 test in the 3 days prior to travel, [book a quarantine hotel package, including 2 COVID-19 tests](#) and [complete a passenger locator form](#). Passengers that have made a transit stop in a red list country will not be affected by the requirements for red list countries if no new passengers board the aircraft, vessel or train carriage, passengers got off but did not get back on again or passengers are kept separate from those who did not arrive on the same aircraft, vessel or train carriage as them

What does fully vaccinated mean?

Fully vaccinated means that passengers have had a complete course of an **approved vaccine** at least 14 days before they arrive in England. The day the passenger had their final dose does not count as one of the 14 days. To meet the criteria for being fully vaccinated, passengers must:

- Have had their vaccine administered under the UK or UK overseas vaccination programme;
- Have had their vaccine administered under the United Nations vaccine programme for staff and volunteers
- Have had their vaccine administered under an approved vaccination programme in one of the [countries or territories listed](#);
- Be under 18 years of age and resident in the UK or a country or territory which has approved proof of vaccination
- Be taking part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial in the UK or the USA (US residents only for USA trials)
- Be unable to have a COVID-19 vaccination for a medical reason which has been approved by a clinician under the medical exemptions process and be resident in England

Approved vaccines

You must have had a complete course of one of the following vaccines at least 14 days before you arrive in England

- Oxford/AstraZeneca
 - Pfizer BioNTech
 - Moderna
 - Janssen
 - Sinovac-CoronaVac
 - Sinopharm
 - Covaxin
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- Formulations of these vaccines, such as AstraZeneca Covishield, AstraZeneca Vaxzevria and Moderna Takeda, also qualify as approved vaccines,

If you were vaccinated with a 2 dose vaccine (Moderna, Pfizer BioNTech, Oxford AstraZeneca, sinovac-coronaVac, Sinopharm, Covaxin or a combination of them), you must have had both doses to be considered fully vaccinated for travel to the UK. This applies in all cases, even if you've recently recovered from COVID-19 and have natural immunity.

Those who have had COVID-19 and have only had one dose of a 2 dose vaccine must follow [the rules for unvaccinated arrivals](#).

Where 2 doses of a vaccine are required for a full course, you can:

- mix 2 different types of vaccine from the above list, for example Oxford/AstraZeneca and Moderna

- have the 2 vaccinations under 2 different approved programmes, for example Australia and Japan, UK and USA, France and Canada

If you had an approved one dose vaccine (the Janssen vaccine), you are fully vaccinated

Under 18's coming to the UK who are UK residents or residents of a country or territory with an approved proof of vaccination

The rules for under 18's coming to the UK have also been simplified, [travel rules for all under-18s coming to England](#) , anyone under 18 entering the UK will be treated as fully vaccinated at the border and will be exempt from self-isolation requirements on arrival, day 8 testing and pre-departure testing. They will only be required to take 1 post-arrival test and a confirmatory free PCR test if they test positive, please see details below:

Children aged 17 and under do not have to quarantine on arrival in England if they are either:

- UK residents or residents of a country or territory with an approved proof of vaccination
- the children of someone who is fully vaccinated under the UK overseas vaccination programme

This applies whether they are vaccinated or not.

Children aged 4 and under do not have to take any COVID-19 travel tests.

5 to 17 year olds:

- do not have to take a COVID-19 test before travel to England
- must take a test on or before day 2 – arrival day is day 0

[Check the list of countries and territories with approved proof of vaccination.](#)

Children under 18 arriving from all other countries

Children aged 5 to 17 who are resident in any country that is not on the approved proof of vaccination list must:

- take a [COVID-19 test](#) (if aged 11 or above) before travelling to England

- take a COVID-19 PCR test on or before day 2 in England – arrival day is day 0
- take a COVID-19 PCR test on or after day 8 in England – arrival day is day 0
- quarantine at home or in the place they're staying for 10 full days, or for the duration of their stay if it's less than 10 days

Children aged 4 or under from these other countries do not have to take travel tests.

They must follow quarantine rules. [Test to release](#) is an option to reduce the quarantine period.

NOTE: If parents are not fully vaccinated, then the child / Young person would also be considered unvaccinated by GOSH and would either be admitted as AMBER pathway or would need to complete quarantine alongside parents in the community before coming into the hospital

Positive test results

If passengers booked a lateral flow test and the result is positive, [they must take a PCR test](#) to confirm the result and they [must self-isolate](#) until they get the result of the PCR test.

If the PCR test result is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 full days – the day they took the lateral flow test is day 0. Anyone accompanying the passenger may also be asked to self-isolate

Visitors From China

China vaccines are approved, however Mainland China is not currently on the list of approved countries/territories. This means even with proof of vaccine, those that travel from Mainland China will still need to be quarantined. Please check for updates prior to travel

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/countries-with-approved-covid-19-vaccination-programmes-and-proof-of-vaccination>