

Data Infrastructure Workers: COVID Travel Guidance Updated Monday 5th December 2021

We have been informed by our resilience team in DCMS that the guidance on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) has now been updated. [Here](#) are the rules for the data infrastructure sector. In essence these mean that:

- Before you enter the UK you must take either a lateral flow or PCR test, book a PCR test for arrival in the UK, and complete the passenger exemption form.
- Once you enter the UK, if you have been vaccinated, you must take a PCR test on either day 0 (the day you arrive), day 1 or day 2. You must isolate until you receive confirmation that the PCR test is negative. However, **the sector has an exemption that allows workers to leave isolation to go to work, while they are still waiting for the negative result.**
- If you have not been vaccinated, you must take a test on day 2 and day 8 and remain in isolation until day 10. The same exemption applies, where the worker may leave isolation during this period to go to work.

For red list countries, as has always been the case, workers will need to apply directly to DCMS if they think they should be exempt from the mandatory hotel quarantine. Exemptions will be decided on a case by case basis. Please contact the DCMS COVID-19 Data Infrastructure Resilience team via the mailbox: covid-data-resilience@dcms.gov.uk if you have any queries.

DCMS has asked us to emphasise that exemptions should only be used for essential maintenance and repair. Those that qualify in this sector are:

"A person involved in essential maintenance and repair of data infrastructure required to reduce and resolve outages, or in the provision of goods and services to support these activities".

They have checked government figures about usage of the exemption in the sector and the number is much higher than expected, so they have asked us to emphasise that this exemption is really for essential work only.

Please be aware that this guidance is likely to change frequently so always check on gov.uk first: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england>

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