Data Centre Operator Briefing:

Quarantine Exemptions

techUK

AMBER LIST COUNTRIES

Guidance as at 28 July 2021. **Please always check for updates on gov.uk:**
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england#amber-list

Staff returning from an amber list country will need to provide the following:

- a negative test result for Covid-19, taken in the 3 days before travel (so if the flight / train was on Friday they could take a test on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday). This may be a Lateral Flow or PCR test.
- Information including age, DOB, result of the test, date the test sample was collected or received by the provider, name of test provider and confirmation of the device used or that it was a PCR test. This link contains guidance on everything required for return to the UK.
- A passenger locator form must also be completed.

Unvaccinated Staff ("vaccinated" means having had two doses of an approved vaccine and be 14 days clear of the second dose)

Unvaccinated staff coming from amber list countries need to quarantine for 10 days on return to the UK and need to take a test on day 2 and day 8 unless they opt for the test to release scheme and pay for a private test after 5 days of isolating. This link is the portal for booking the travel test package for day 2 and 8 testing.

When in quarantine, key workers may leave their accommodation when conducting the specific exempt activity or travelling directly to and from their accommodation and a location for the purposes of this work. For data centres, the exemption applies to 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.

Regarding key worker quarantine exemptions, here is the gov.uk link for data infrastructure exemptions - it sets out the requirements outlined above.

Fully vaccinated staff will no longer need to isolate for 10 days when returning from an Amber list country, unless they have been in France (see below). They will need to take a covid test on day 2, but if negative, do not need to take a test on day 8. If the test is positive, individuals must quarantine for 10 days and take another test on day 8.

FRANCE
Special conditions currently apply for France but please check latest guidance from Government as the situation is fluid. From 19 July anyone arriving from France (including those transiting through France), **irrespective of vaccination status** must
- quarantine in the place they are staying for 10 days.
- take a COVID-19 test on day 2 and day 8 after arrival in the UK
This is essentially the same as the guidance for unvaccinated passengers returning from other Amber list countries.

RED LIST COUNTRIES

In the event an operator is returning from a red list country and needs an urgent exemption you will need to contact DCMS immediately as the process is different and decided on a case by case basis.

QUERIES and PROBLEMS

If you have queries relating to quarantine or encounter issues or delays that need escalating, please contact the DCMS Data Resilience Team: covid-data-resilience@dcms.gov.uk and /or the techUK contacts below.

Contacts

Emma Fryer
Associate Director, techUK
Tel: 01609 772 137
Mob: 07595 410 653
 emma.fryer@techuk.org

Lucas Banach
Programme Assistant
Tel: 020 7331 2006
Lucas.banach@techuk.org

About techUK

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Further information in our data centre programme Directory:

 https://www.techuk.org/data-centres-programme/data-centres-resource-index.html

NB: See the COVID-19 section of this Directory for more briefings and guidance