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Division

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Dear Colleague,

NEW CORONAVIRUS TRAVEL REGULATIONS

I write to inform you that The Scottish Government has today published emergency regulations for international travel into Scotland.

[The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(International Travel\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#) and [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Public Health Information for Passengers Travelling to Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#) will come into effect at 00:01 on Monday 8th June 2020.

These regulations would normally be subject to an affirmative process in the Scottish Parliament, however, Scottish Ministers have deemed this an urgent requirement in our public health response to COVID-19. As emergency regulations, they will cease to have an effect 28 days after signing if they have not been approved by a resolution of the Scottish Parliament. The regulations make provision for review every 21 days and will fall after 12 months if not revoked before then.

In taking these steps, the Scottish Government has worked in full co-operation with the UK Government and other Devolved Administrations. Broadly similar regulations take effect from tomorrow in all 4 countries.

I would like to thank Directors of Public Health, Public Health Scotland and everyone who has assisted us to take these measures quickly.

Outline of effect of the regulations

The purpose of these regulations is to protect public health and seek to limit the introduction of transmission opportunities from imported cases of COVID-19, as infection rates within Scotland are falling. Scottish Ministers deem these actions proportionate to the public health harm the Government is seeking to avoid.

The regulations will introduce new requirements for all international travelers arriving at Scotland's borders:

- A requirement to complete and submit contact details (online) on a passenger locator form; and
- A requirement to self – isolate for 14 days on arrival.

This applies to all travelers including those in the Common Travel Area (CTA) who have travelled out with the CTA in the previous 14 days.

There are exemptions to these requirements which have been described in Schedule 2 of [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(International Travel\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#). This includes pilots and crews, mariners and seamen.

There are also some limited exceptions from the requirement to remain in self-isolation which include seeking medical assistance, fulfilling a legal obligation and to obtain basic necessities and medical supplies, however, these are notably smaller than the list of exceptions in the existing regulations and do not permit leaving the place of self-isolation for reasons such as exercise, travelling to work, accessing childcare or education, or moving house during the 14 day period. The public guidance can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/overview/>

Compliance

UK Border Force officials will have responsibility for carrying out spot checks at all ports of entry, while Police Scotland will have enforcement powers when individuals are landside in Scotland including powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices and refer the most serious of cases to the Crown Office for consideration of prosecution.

Self-Isolation Accommodation

Most people will self-isolate in their own accommodation with their own household or the people they have travelled with. HM Government has committed to facilitating accommodation for travellers who cannot arrange their own accommodation to self-isolate.

Symptomatic Passengers

Port health arrangements for symptomatic passengers have not changed. Port Health Officers will assess the status of the symptomatic traveller and decide what action to take. Powers are available to Port Health Officers under [Schedule 21, Part 3, of the Coronavirus Act 2020](#). NHS Boards were asked to liaise with Border Force on local arrangements and contact details.

If required, HM Government will provide accommodation for travellers who cannot arrange their own accommodation to self-isolate. However, after local risk assessment, a decision may be taken to provide alternative accommodation. The cost of this will be met by HM Government.

Asymptomatic Passengers

Asymptomatic passengers will be asked to travel directly, without delay, to their own accommodation to self-isolate. This must be at the address declared to Border Force on the Locator Form.

HM Government has committed to facilitating accommodation for travellers who cannot arrange their own accommodation to self-isolate, however the traveller will be expected to meet the cost of this.

Where a traveller cannot pay for this, provided they have right of entry to the UK, HM Government may seek to recover these costs.

Contact Tracing

Where contact tracing is required, port health officials and NHS Boards should follow their current standard operating procedures for obtaining contact tracing information e.g. by requesting information from carriers. In due course, locator forms for travellers will be available via PHS from the Home Office but this will not be in place immediately. We will provide further information as soon as this data sharing arrangement is in place.

From 22nd June a sample of those people arriving from abroad and self-isolating will be contacted by call handlers in Scotland who will provide them with public health advice, guidance and support.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline Campbell