

Sailing pleasure craft to English ports/marinas/harbours

What you must do when you arrive in England depends on where you have been before you arrive. Countries are rated as red, amber or green for Coronavirus with specific rules you must follow to enter England. See here [for full guidance](#).

You must follow these rules even if you have been vaccinated.

A country or territory may be moved between lists without warning.

Red list countries and territories (sailing to the UK is banned)

If you have sailed from a country or territory on the red list, you cannot enter an English port/harbour/marina. You will be committing an offence and could be fined £10,000.

British or Irish Nationals, or those with residence rights in the UK can enter England, but only through a designated airport, and must quarantine in a Government managed facility for 10 days.

Amber list countries and territories

If you have sailed to England from an amber list country or territory, or at any point in the previous 10 days departed from or transited through an amber list country, there are specific rules to follow.

Before you travel you must

- have a negative [COVID-19 test](#), taken within 3 days prior to travel
- book and pay for [day 2 and day 8 COVID-19 travel tests](#) - to be taken after arrival in England
- complete a [passenger locator form](#)

On arrival you must

- [quarantine at home](#) or in the place you are staying for 10 days
- take a COVID-19 test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8

From 19 July, fully vaccinated UK residents arriving in England from amber listed countries no longer have to self-isolate on their return. Read the [announcement](#) about the rule changes. **As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from [France](#).**

From 2 August, travellers arriving in England from amber listed countries who have been fully vaccinated in the USA or Europe, no longer need to self-isolate on arrival. Read the [announcement](#) about the rule changes. **As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from [France](#).**

Pre-departure testing and day 2 testing measures still apply.

Green list countries and territories

Before you travel you must

- take a [COVID-19 test](#)

- book and pay for a [day 2 COVID-19 test](#) - to be taken after arrival in England
- complete a [passenger locator form](#)

On arrival you must

- take a COVID-19 test on or before day 2 after you arrive
- only quarantine if the test result is positive

Common questions

1. Will there be sector specific guidance for pleasure craft?

The complex nature of maritime and its sub-sectors means industry and stakeholder groups are best placed to interpret government guidance and regulations on behalf of their members - we will of course continue to support and clarify as needed.

2. Does time at sea count towards mandatory 10-day quarantine?

No. The status of the country of departure, at the time of arrival in England, is what matters for determining which requirements apply.

- **Red list countries:** if you have sailed from or been in a country or territory on the red list, you cannot enter an English port, harbour or marina.
- **Amber list countries:** if you sail directly from an amber list country taking more than 10 days to arrive in England, you must still quarantine at home or the place you are staying for 10 days on arrival. Under coronavirus legislation, the 10-day quarantine period starts from the time of arrival in England, so the length of the journey does not impact that.

From 19 July, anyone fully vaccinated with an NHS vaccine no longer needs to quarantine.

From 2 August, anyone fully vaccinated with vaccines authorised by the EMA and FDA in Europe and the USA, will be able to travel to England from amber listed countries without having to quarantine. As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from France.

- **Green list countries:** time spent at sea is not relevant. You must take a COVID-19 test on or before day 2 after you arrive, and only quarantine if the test result is positive. This would be quarantine at home or the place you are staying for 10 days from when you test positive.

3. How do I meet pre-departure testing requirements if I set sail more than 3 days previously?

The requirement for a negative pre-departure test is for it to be taken in the 3 days before you depart for England. Therefore, the test should be taken in your last port of call before sailing to England.

4. The PLF cannot be completed unless you have a Day 2/8 test reference number. What if I believe I don't need a test?

Anyone arriving in England from a country not on the red list are required to book tests to take on day 2 after arrival (amber and green list passengers) and day 8 (amber list passengers only). You must book and pay for your mandatory testing package before departure for England, and will be automatically prompted to enter the booking details on the PLF. You cannot submit the PLF without those details.

There are a very limited set of circumstances where people are not required to book a travel test package. If you believe you qualify for one of these exemptions, then you should select 'Exemption other' on that question on the form, and detail why you are not required to book tests. This will be checked by Border Force on arrival.

From 19 July, anyone fully vaccinated with an NHS vaccine no longer needs to quarantine when returning from an amber list country - they must still have a pre-departure test and a day 2 test after their return. As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from France.

From 2 August, anyone fully vaccinated with vaccines authorised by the EMA and FDA in Europe and the USA, will be able to travel to England from amber listed countries without having to quarantine - you must still have a day 2 test after your return. As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from France.

5. In the 'countries you have visited' section of the PLF, you must enter a country you have been in during the last 10 days only. What if you have been at sea for more than 10 days?

You cannot leave this box empty. A country's status at the time of arrival in England is what matters for determining which requirements apply. You are advised to select the country you have sailed from regardless of the time spent at sea.

6. On the PLF the list of acceptable points of arrival does not include many a yacht would use?

There is an 'Other Maritime' option in the dropdown menu which should be selected for arrivals not coming into one of the named ports of entry.

7. How do I arrange my 'Day 2' COVID-19 travel test if unsure of arrival date?

The requirement is to take a test 'on or before day 2' so there is some leeway built into the system. Different providers offer different services, and it is advisable to speak to some of the private providers to understand what they can offer if unsure of arrival date.

8. You cannot submit the PLF until 48 hours before you plan to arrive in the UK. What about journeys that take more than 2 days?

Unless exempt, you will be committing a criminal offence if you have not completed the passenger locator form, making you liable for a fine. The form allows you to enter information in advance of departure and save it. Practically, you could fill in and save

a draft version before leaving your departure point, logging on and submitting once off the English coast.

9. What if the date and time of arrival submitted on the PLF changes while sailing to England?

We recognise it will not always be possible to give an accurate date/time of arrival for pleasure craft arriving in England. Similarly, for other types of international arrival it is likely that people may have flights or ferries delayed. The form is simply asking for an approximate or 'anticipated' time of arrival to help calculate the timing for testing requirements or end of quarantine, as appropriate.

10. Can I quarantine onboard my vessel when I arrive?

Yes – you can quarantine for 10 days at home or in the place you are staying. There is advice on how to quarantine when you arrive which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-quarantine-when-you-arrive-in-england>

11. If I decide to quarantine on board my yacht, how do I arrange COVID-19 travel tests?

We recommend you get in touch with private providers to discuss requirements and options that they provide in the first instance. If you have any further questions, you can also contact

dhsctesttrace.customerfeedbackteam@nhs.net

12. Am I exempt from testing requirements if I am in the UK for less than 3 days?

Anyone arriving in England from a country not on the 'red list' is required to book tests to take on day 2 after arrival (amber and green list passengers) and day 8 (amber list passengers only). There is no exemption for short stays. You must book and pay for your mandatory testing package before departure to England, and will be automatically prompted to enter the booking details on the PLF. The PLF can now only be completed if you have fulfilled appropriate COVID-19 travel requirements.

From 19 July, anyone fully vaccinated with an NHS vaccine no longer needs to quarantine when returning from an amber list country - you must still have a day 2 test after your return. As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from France.

From 2 August, anyone fully vaccinated with vaccines authorised by the EMA and FDA in Europe and the USA, will be able to travel to England from amber listed countries without having to quarantine - you must still have a day 2 test after your return. As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from France.

13. As the skipper of my own yacht, am I exempt from the requirements to complete a PLF and have a pre-departure test?

No. The owner/skipper of a private yacht is not exempt from the requirement to complete a PLF. A recreational trip on a yacht cannot be described as an activity carried out in the course of their work. Even though as skipper, you may consider yourself the 'master', skippering a recreational yacht does not fulfil the requirements to be exempt.

Similarly, as skipper of your own yacht, you are not exempt from the requirement to have a pre-departure test.

14. As a skipper of my own yacht, am I exempt from quarantine?

No. The exemption from quarantine does not apply because you have not travelled to England in the course of your work. Of course, for anyone arriving from a green list country or a country in the Common Travel Area, quarantine requirements don't generally apply.

From 19 July, anyone fully vaccinated with an NHS vaccine no longer needs to quarantine when returning from an amber list country. As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from France.

From 2 August, anyone fully vaccinated with vaccines authorised by the EMA and FDA in Europe and the USA, will be able to travel to England from amber listed countries without having to quarantine. As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from France.

15. What if I am employed as a skipper by a third party to return their yacht to England – do I qualify for an exemption?

Yes, However, in addition to being employed to return the yacht in the course of your work, you must satisfy extra conditions specified in the legislation which means travelling alone i.e. the yacht does not carry passengers. In these specific circumstances, you would be exempt from the requirement to complete a PLF and the self-isolation requirements as long as you are ordinarily resident in the UK. If the skipper is not ordinarily resident in the UK, they are exempt from the self-isolation requirements only while undertaking their work.

Even if you are exempt from self-isolation requirements, you must still complete coronavirus tests on days 2, 5 and 8 after arrival.

Any crew employed in addition to the skipper by a third party to return their yacht to England, would also qualify for the same exemption (as long as the yacht does not carry passengers).

From 19 July, anyone who is fully vaccinated with an NHS vaccine can travel back from an amber list country quarantine-free. Day 2 testing measures still apply. As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from France.

From 2 August, anyone fully vaccinated with vaccines authorised by the EMA and FDA in Europe and the USA, will be able to travel to England from amber listed countries without having to quarantine. Day 2 testing measures still apply. As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from France.

Evidence

This will be checked by Border Force on arrival. If you work on a ship you should show a Seafarer's Identification Document (SID) if you have one.

If you don't have a SID, you can show your joining papers, seafarer's employment agreement or a seafarer's discharge book (Continuous Certificate of Discharge) instead. Alternatively, you could show a basic training certificate or declaration from the registered owners of the vessel that you are a crew member.

16. What if I transit through UK waters but spend 2-3 days at anchor/mooring before departing for another country?

If a vessel has moored-up in English waters, then it has 'arrived' and the requirements to quarantine and/or test are set out above. You will also need to check if a negative test is required to enter your destination country, or quarantine upon arrival.

17. If I sail to another country e.g. France, returning on the same day, what must I do?

If a UK resident sails to another country and stops at a port, disembarks or allows someone else to come aboard the vessel, even if they return on the same day, they are classed as an international arrival in the UK and must comply with the applicable quarantine and testing rules on return to England.

18. What if I am racing from the UK to a finish line in French waters but then returning directly back to the UK without touching land – what do I need to do?

Under the new regulations for England that came into effect on 17 May, sailing through a country's waters will not count as the person having been in that country, as long as they don't stop at a port, don't disembark and don't allow anyone else to come aboard the vessel.

19. I am racing from abroad to a finish line or turning mark in England and leaving again without anchoring, anyone disembarking or allowing anyone else to come aboard the vessel – what do I need to do?

Under the new regulations for England that came into effect on 17 May, sailing through a country's waters does not count as the person having been in that country, as long as they don't stop at a port, don't disembark and don't allow anyone else to come aboard the vessel. As long as you do not moor-up (including anchoring), then you have not 'arrived' and the requirements for quarantine and/or tests set out above do not apply.

20. Will maritime ports be designated as points of entry?

There are currently no maritime ports designated as points of entry for those arriving from red list countries. If you have been in a red list country, you can only enter England through a designated airport and must quarantine for 10 days in a Government managed facility.

21. What happens if I arrive in England (from a red list country) at a non-designated port?

You will be committing an offence if you arrive at a non-designated port and could be fined £10,000. You would still be required to make a booking and enter a Government managed quarantine facility for 10 days.

22. What happens if the country you depart from is moved to the red list while sailing to England?

The status of the country at the time of arrival in England, is what matters for determining which requirements apply. If the country you have sailed from is classified as red list on the day of your arrival, you will be refused entry unless you are a British or Irish National or have residence rights in the UK. You will still be required to book and enter quarantine in a government-approved Managed Quarantine Facility for 10 days.

23. What about the Common Travel Area (CTA)?

You do not need to take a COVID-19 test or quarantine on arrival in England if you are travelling within the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, (the Common Travel Area), and you have not been outside of the Common Travel Area in the previous 10 days. The Crown Dependencies and Ireland have their own COVID-19 regulations in place which you must check to establish whether you can sail there.

24. I have had two NHS Covid vaccinations – what does this mean for sailing to England?

From 19 July, UK residents sailing to England from amber list countries who have been fully vaccinated with an NHS administered vaccine will no longer need to quarantine. The rules changed on 8 August meaning those arriving from France are now included.

A full vaccination means 14 days have passed since your final dose of the vaccine

- you still need to have a negative pre-departure test and a day 2 PCR test after your return to England
- there will be no change to requirements for anyone returning from a green or red list country, even if fully vaccinated.

Anyone planning to sail to England will still need to complete the PLF which will include the requirement to declare vaccination status and provide proof of a pre-departure test. Day 2 testing measures also still apply.

25. I have been vaccinated in the US or Europe – what does this mean for sailing to England?

From 2 August, anyone sailing from amber listed countries who has been fully vaccinated in Europe (EU Member States, European Free Trade Association countries and the European microstate countries of Andorra, Monaco and Vatican City) or the USA will not have to quarantine when entering England. As of 8 August, this includes those arriving from France.

Vaccines must be authorised by the EMA and FDA in Europe and the USA respectively, to qualify.

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Anyone planning to sail to England will still need to complete the PLF which will include the requirement to declare vaccination status and provide proof of a pre-departure test. Day 2 testing measures also still apply.

Devolved Administrations

This document clarifies how the COVID-19 border measures are implemented in England. Different regulations apply in the Devolved Administrations (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

- Wales: <https://gov.wales/rules-foreign-travel-and-wales-coronavirus-covid-19-html>
- Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-international-travel-quarantine/pages/red-amber-and-green-list-countries/>
- Northern Ireland: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-advice>