

17 Mar 2020

COVID-19: exceptional travel advisory notice

Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises against all non-essential travel worldwide

As of 17th March 2020, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have issued an [Exceptional Travel Advisory Notice](#) advising all British people against all non-essential travel worldwide [1]. This [FCO advice takes effect immediately, initially for a period of 30 days](#) [2]. This change in travel advice reflects the pace at which other countries are either closing their borders or implementing restrictive measures in response to the global pandemic [2].

The FCO was already advising against all but essential travel or all travel to a number of countries. This advice remains in place, check [FCO travel advice pages](#) for the latest information, and continue to monitor this website for updates.

The FCO notice provides information on how to change or cancel travel plans and what actions to take if you are already abroad [1].

Returned travellers who are unwell with either a high temperature or new continuous cough, need to self-isolate for 7 days, see the Public Health England [stay at home guidance](#). There is no need to call NHS111 to go into self-isolation. However, if symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, returned travellers in England, should contact [NHS 111 online](#). Those without internet access, should call NHS 111 and for a medical emergency dial 999. In Wales and Northern Ireland contact NHS 111. In Scotland, phone your GP or NHS24 (111).

Resources

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response](#)
- [FCO Travel advice pages](#)

References

1. [Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Travel advice: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) updated 17 March 2020 \[Accessed 17 March 2020\]](#)
2. [Gov.uk, Travel advice against all non-essential travel: Foreign Secretary's statement, 17 March 2020 \[Accessed 17 March 2020\]](#)