



Department  
for Education

# **Boarding school students from red list countries: quarantine arrangements**

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## Introduction

The guidance in this document applies in relation to boarding school students travelling to attend a boarding school in England who meet the UK entry requirements and have travelled from or through a [‘red list’ country](#) in the previous 10 days (referred to as ‘boarding school students’ in this document).

In line with this guidance, boarding school students must quarantine within accommodation provided for or arranged by their boarding school.

Anyone who is not a British or Irish national, or who does not have the right to reside in the UK, who has travelled from or through a ‘red list’ country in the previous 10 days, is not permitted to enter the UK and should be told not to travel.

Boarding school students arriving from (or who have, in the past 10 days, travelled through) red list countries are not permitted to use the [test to release scheme](#).

Other students travelling to attend a boarding school in England who have not travelled from, or through, a red list country in the previous 10 days must quarantine in accordance with the [Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance](#) and [How to quarantine when you arrive in England](#). Much of the guidance below will overlap with this guidance and some of the additional advice may be useful in setting up quarantine arrangements for these other students. Note that students travelling from or through red list countries should never quarantine in the same ‘household’ (see below) as students travelling from non-red list countries.

## The international travel regulations

Subject to certain exceptions, the [Health Protection \(Coronavirus, International Travel\) \(England\) Regulations 2020](#) (“the International Travel Regulations”) require UK or Irish nationals or those with a right to reside in the UK who have travelled to, from or through a ‘red list’ country, in the 10 days before arriving in England, to self-isolate in government approved accommodation. Amendments have now been made to the International Travel Regulations that mean that boarding school students, who are either UK or Irish nationals or who have a right to reside in the UK and have travelled from or through a ‘red-list’ country in that 10 day period, are instead to self-isolate instead in accommodation provided by their school.

Under Schedule B1A to the International Travel Regulations, self-isolation must be in government approved accommodation, unless you are a ‘relevant person’. A ‘relevant person’ now includes the following – a person to whom all of the following conditions applies:

- a) is, or was on the 1 September 2020, a child (a person under the age of 18)
- b) travels to the UK for the purposes of receiving education at a boarding school in England at which education and accommodation is due to be provided for them
- c) is not accompanied into the UK by an individual who has responsibility for them, or if they are aged 18, would have had such responsibility if P was a child (see regulation 2(2) of the International Travel Regulations for how ‘responsibility’ is to be construed),
- d) the Secretary of State has confirmed in writing that paragraph 18 of Schedule B1A to the International Travel Regulations applies in relation to them and has not withdrawn that confirmation

‘Boarding school’ is to cover the following schools and colleges in England as defined in Schedule B1A that provide accommodation for their boarding school students on their own premises or arrange accommodation for their boarding school students to be provided elsewhere:

- alternative provision academies
- community, foundation and voluntary schools and community or foundation special schools
- registered independent schools
- non-maintained special schools
- pupil referral units
- institutions within the further education sector within the meaning of section 91 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992
- 16 to 19 Academies

The Secretary of State has decided to confirm (in writing) that paragraph 18 of Schedule B1A to the International Travel Regulations applies in relation to any person who meets each of the requirements listed in sub-paragraph (a) to (c). The Department for Education will write to schools and colleges setting out this decision. In writing, the Department will also explain what arrangements for quarantine accommodation, transport from the port of entry to the quarantine accommodation and testing of those quarantining should be made.

## School regulation

Independent boarding schools are required to meet [the Independent School Standards](#). There is no disapplication of these requirements in relation to boarding school students quarantining having arrived from, or having travelled, through a red list country. This includes the requirements in the Independent School Standards to have regard to [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#). Other boarding schools are also required to have regard to [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) through separate legislation. All boarding schools are required to have regard to either the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools or the National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Residential Special Schools (as applicable).

Specifically, the Independent School Standards require proprietors of independent boarding schools to ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and boarders accommodated at their school, to ensure that relevant health and safety laws are complied with, to ensure that pupils are properly supervised by staff and that the welfare of pupils is safeguarded by the effective implementation of risk assessment policies. Both sets of NMS contain standards relating to boarder's health and well-being and the safety of boarders or children

The Department for Education consider that a failure to have regard to the guidance in this document, or to follow it, may be indicative of a breach of any one or more of the Independent School Standards described above or of either set of NMS.

The Department for Education will ask inspectorates to consider this guidance when assessing a boarding school's compliance with the relevant Independent School Standards or NMS. The Department for Education intends to commission additional inspections of a sample of boarding schools while this guidance applies to check compliance.

If any independent school fails to meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards, regulatory and enforcement action will be considered in line with [the Department for Education's Policy Statement](#).

Boarding schools which are licenced student sponsors must continue to meet the requirements and duties set out in the Student sponsor guidance. The Home Office will consider what action is appropriate, in accordance with the policy, if any regulatory action is taken by the Department for Education that indicates one or more of the sponsorship requirements or duties are not being met. This may include suspending or permanently removing a school's ability to sponsor student visas and child student visas.

## Before travelling

Schools need to have travel plans in place, including arrangements for the collection and transfer of students to the boarding facilities where they will quarantine. These need to be explained to students and their parents before they travel.

Schools should send boarding school students returning from or through red list countries the following:

- a copy of the letter from the Department for Education to the school confirming that boarding school students are covered by an exception
- a letter from their school to the boarding school student meeting the requirements set out in the letter from the Department for Education to the school

Boarding school students should be ready to present both of these letters to UK Border Force officials on arrival.

Before travelling, all boarding school students must:

- take a coronavirus (COVID-19) test and get a negative result during the 3 days before they travel
- book and pay for a travel test package, which will include coronavirus (COVID-19) tests to be taken on day 2 and day 8 of their quarantine
- complete a [passenger locator form](#) before arrival, with details of where they will quarantine, when they will arrive and the travel test package booking reference number. This should be completed in line with the Department for Education's letter to boarding schools which will confirm that these arrangements apply

Boarding school students must have proof of a [negative coronavirus test](#) to travel to England – this includes UK citizens. They must take the test in the 3 days before the service on which they will arrive in England departs. For example, if they travel directly to England on Friday, they must take the test on the Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Boarding school students must book a travel test package which costs £210. They must take a coronavirus (COVID-19) test on or before day 2 for variant surveillance and a test on or after day 8 to check that they do not have coronavirus (COVID-19).

Boarding school students should [use the booking portal to book their travel test package](#) (this is administered by CTM).

## Travel to boarding school

Schedule B1A to the International Travel Regulations, in effect, requires a boarding school student to travel directly to where they are quarantining using transport determined by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has determined that the transport must meet the following conditions: it must be a motor vehicle, it cannot be

public transport and it must be transport that has been pre-arranged by the school or college in England at which the student or pupil is due to attend as a student or pupil on their arrival in England.

There may be cases where the above requirements related to transportation cannot be met, In such cases, the Department for Education will need to be contacted well in advance of the student or pupil travelling, in order for bespoke arrangements to be made.

When arriving from a red list country, boarding school students should be met at their port of entry by representatives of their boarding school and be transported directly to their boarding facility to isolate.

The boarding school representative should ensure they are at the port of entry in good time to pick up the arriving boarding school student(s) and carry proof of identity. They should have proof of identification with them. If the representative has issues getting to the port of entry on time they should phone and advise the the Managed Quarantine Operations Centre in accordance with the details in the Department for Education's letter to schools. This includes if there is a change in the school representative responsible for the student's pick up and transport after the school has issued its letter to the student. When they have arrived at the port of entry and are ready to pick up the pupil, they should go to the 'Managed Quarantine' collection point in the arrivals hall and once their identity has been confirmed the individual will be brought through to meet them.

The boarding school travel representative who is responsible for transport should ensure:

- appropriate social distancing (at least 2 metres) is maintained at all times
- children should wear face coverings (unless aged under 11 or otherwise exempt)
- good hand hygiene is maintained by ensuring a plentiful supply of alcohol hand gel
- if more than one child is travelling, ensure the transport is of a size that will allow social distancing and ensure there is a seating plan with allocated seating
- in coaches, three rows of seats must be allowed between students and the driver
- good ventilation within the vehicle through open windows or effective air conditioning
- that transport does not stop at any services (including at request of passenger), unless in an emergency such as fire
- where a long journey necessitates toilet breaks, these stops should be pre-arranged with facilities that should be exclusively for the use of the travelling boarding school student(s) for the duration of the stop and can be cleaned afterwards before being used again (schools may want to make arrangements with other schools to use facilities if needed on route)
- the destination school is notified around 20 minutes prior to arrival so they can prepare for the arrival
- children disembark in a socially distanced manner and are transferred to the care of school staff

- if more than one child has travelled pass the seating plan to the school for test and trace purposes

On arrival at the school, a one-way system should be established along paths that take boarding school students to the household areas where they will quarantine. School staff facilitating arrival should wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times. A clear system should handle the arrival of multiple boarding school students at once and ensure strict social distancing. Boarding school students arriving from red list countries should be kept separate from students arriving from other countries and other students at all times.

## **Quarantine in school boarding facilities**

Boarding school students arriving from red list countries must quarantine for at least 10 days on arrival in England (this requirement may be extended under circumstances set out below). Under the International Travel Regulations, in effect, this quarantine must be served in accommodation where the Secretary of State considers it is appropriate.

The Secretary of State has determined that in the case boarding school students the quarantine is to take place in accommodation that comprises of residential facilities organised by the school or college in England that the pupil or student (as the case may be) is due to attend as a pupil or student on their arrival in England. The accommodation must constitute separate accommodation meaning it must be accommodation that is physically self-contained.

For the purposes of quarantine, a mainstream boarding school is usually considered a 'household'. However, in the case of pupil and students travelling from red list countries there, in effect, should be a separate household that can be physically isolated from the rest of the school. Each household should occupy part of the school site which is separated from the parts of the site used by other households for isolation and quarantine purposes and areas used by other staff and students. For example, households may occupy separate buildings or parts of buildings. Students arriving from red list countries must quarantine in a separate household both from students required to quarantine who have not come through red list countries and from students who are not required to quarantine. This allows multiple boarding school students arriving from (or having travelled through) red list countries to quarantine together in the same household. However, no additional boarding school students should join a household more than three days after the first member of the household started quarantine. No member of a household may leave quarantine until all members of the household have met the criteria for ending quarantine set out below.

## **Residential facilities used for quarantine**

Rooms should have individual ventilation systems (e.g. room or window fan coil units that do not recirculate to other parts of the building) or windows that open (safely). Alternatively, the school should have a non-recirculating ventilation system that permits redirection of the air flow from areas outside the area in which a household is quarantining into the area in which a household is quarantining.

The school should put in place COVID secure arrangements to bring meals and other essential commodities, such as toiletries, to the area where quarantine is occurring.

The school should put in place COVID secure arrangements for cleaning rooms, changing bedding, handling laundry and disposing of waste.

The school should ensure quarantining red list households use separate bathrooms from the rest of the school and make sure all boarding school students have their own individual towels, both for drying after bathing or showering and for hand-hygiene purposes.

## Supervising and supporting boarding school students during quarantine

Schools should provide appropriate information to boarding school students about how they need to behave while in quarantine and how they will access services and can contact staff when help is required.

Schools should:

- ensure boarding school students follow the guidance on [how to quarantine when they arrive in England](#)
- ensure boarding school students are supervised such that there is no opportunity to leave their household area, except where carefully supervised to ensure no contact with individuals from outside their household and staff responsible for the supervision and care of the household
- put in place arrangements for the oversight of boarding school students in quarantine that protect the safety and welfare of all students and staff, minimising the school staff who interact with the boarding school students
- provide boarding school students with clear rules (based on this guidance) as to what is expected and acceptable during their quarantine period including a clear statement of the area that the boarding school students are allowed to occupy (e.g. an area including their room and toilet/bathroom facilities that are for the use of red list quarantining boarding school students and no-one else)
- provide boarding school students with as much information as will be helpful for them to understand the practicalities of being in quarantine such as arrangements for meals, room cleaning, disposing of rubbish, laundry, process for requesting and enjoying outdoor exercise and emergency procedures. Rules and information should be provided verbally and in writing
- provide alcohol gel for each boarding school student, with advice on how to use the gels and the risk of ingestion and flammability of the gel
- have procedures in place, agreed in advance with parents, setting out what it will do in the case of an emergency

The school should also put in place appropriate arrangements for the collection and treatment of laundry and waste from each quarantining household. This should prevent unnecessary contact between staff and members of the household.

- staff should wear appropriate PPE (masks, aprons, gloves, eye protection etc.) when handling laundry from quarantining boarding school students. Laundry should be treated as infectious and double bagged, should be tagged with the care area and date, and stored in a designated, safe lockable area while awaiting laundering. Hot wash at 60°C.
- all consumable waste items that have been in contact with quarantining boarding school students, including used tissues, should be put in a plastic rubbish bag,

double bagged and tied. This should be disposed of with normal household rubbish after a wait of 24 hours.

## **Exercise and fresh air**

Boarding school students may leave the place in which they are quarantining for exercise only under staff supervision. School staff should ensure that boarding school students within a quarantining household do not come into contact with any individuals from outside the boarding school students' household or staff supervising and providing care to their household.

## **Testing boarding school students**

Boarding school students arrive on day zero and testing must take place on day 2 and 8.

Schools staff should collect new test kits when boarding school students arrive and put them in storage (ensuring storage is at an appropriate temperature: 5°C to 22°C). Schools should have a plan setting out which boarding school student will receive test kits on which day.

When required, school staff should collect test kits from storage and deliver them to boarding school students within their household accommodation. After boarding school students have completed the test, school staff should collect the test kit and put it into a box which should be closed and sealed for transport. They should not handle the test kit further before collection when they should be passed to the courier.

Boarding school students should normally complete the test themselves, following the instructions. School staff should familiarise themselves with test-kit instructions so that they can provide appropriate support for boarding school students where necessary.

## **Visitors to boarding school students in quarantine**

Boarding school students in quarantine from red list countries should not receive visitors, except in exceptional circumstances. If it is necessary for social workers, other children's social care staff, medical staff or other professionals to engage with a child they should consider in the first instance if this can be done so remotely and where this is not possible or appropriate, they should follow the [safe working in education guidance](#) when making any unavoidable visits.

## Leaving quarantine under exceptional circumstances

Boarding school students must not leave the place where they are quarantining until their quarantine has ended (see below), except on any of the grounds set out in paragraph 13(1) of Schedule B1A to the International Travel Regulations. These include the boarding school student leaving:

- to fulfil a legal obligation (for example, to attend court)
- to seek medical assistance where this is required urgently or on the advice of a registered medical practitioner
- to avoid injury, illness or escape a risk of harm (for example situations such as fire or flooding or where there is a risk of abuse) or
- to access critical public services including social services or services provided to victims (for example critical access such as for a child to see their social worker)

In the case of some of the other grounds (related to exercise, visiting a person who appears to be dying and attendance at a funeral), prior permission (“a required prior permission”) needs to be given by a person authorised by the Secretary of State. Where appropriate, the Department for Education has written or will write to schools granting authorisations to give required prior permissions.

## Ending Quarantine

All members of a household that have quarantined together should remain in quarantine until all members of the household have served 10 days quarantine.

If any member of a household tests positive during that time, the boarding school student’s whole household will be required to quarantine for a further ten days (with the day after the test was taken counting as day 1 of the additional quarantine).

If the result of a boarding school student’s day 8 test is inconclusive, the household must stay in quarantine until they take an additional test and receive a negative result.

Once quarantine is over, boarding school students are no longer required to meet the restrictions set out in this guidance. However, schools should continue to manage all boarding school students in line with the [Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance](#).

## Risk assessments

Schools will need to undertake their own risk assessments about how to quarantine boarding school students safely. Schools should have regard to [guidance on isolation for those showing symptoms of coronavirus](#) in planning for the quarantine of arriving boarding school students. For example, fire safety risk assessments should be updated to consider the need for social distancing on evacuation and risk assessments in completing emergency repairs and maintenance should consider the need for social distancing. Schools can seek advice from [Public Health England's local health protection teams](#) if needed.

## School staff

Households in residential settings, in contrast with other households, will almost always need to have staff and other professionals arriving and leaving during the period of self-isolation or quarantine.

Where possible, residential settings should operate a consistent staff rota to minimise the risk of transmission. The rota should avoid individual staff having contact with multiple isolating or quarantining households. If any household within the setting is self-isolating or quarantining, staff should follow careful infection control measures during and after visits, in the same way as any self-isolating household would if they had unavoidable visitors.

Staff who are non-resident, visiting or partially resident and who travel between an affected setting and their own home will need to pay particular attention to careful infection prevention and control, including social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene.

Any staff member who develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), or has someone in their household who has developed symptoms, should cease working immediately and [self-isolate](#).

School staff working with boarding school students who are in quarantine after arriving from red list countries will be supplied with Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits to self-swab and test themselves once per day at home. Staff must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff should also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with their school to help with contact tracing. Staff with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result if the test was done at home. Those with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school and use protective measures.

School staff working with boarding school students who are in quarantine after arriving from red list countries will be supplied with test kits to undertake a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test once a week and submit it for analysis in accordance with the instructions once per week.

You should refer to the [guidance on safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings](#) in relation to all engagement with boarding school students in quarantine. This includes arrangements where a child or young person showing symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) requires staff contact for personal care.

## Education

Where schools wish to commence the education of any quarantining students, this may only be done where it would be consistent with the student maintaining their quarantine (i.e. through remote learning).



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