



Department  
for Education

Independent Education and Boarding Team  
Bishopsgate House Feethams Darlington DL1 5QE

[registration.enquiries@education.gov.uk](mailto:registration.enquiries@education.gov.uk)

Winchester College

URN: 116532

Email: [information@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:information@wincoll.ac.uk)

Telephone Number: 01962621100

By e-mail

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you about arrangements for boarding school pupils arriving to attend school in England having travelled through or from a red list country in the ten days before their arrival in England (and who are permitted to enter the UK). The government has now published guidance which explains how these pupils can serve their quarantine in accommodation arranged by their boarding schools, subject to certain conditions.

The exception that permits boarding school pupils arriving from red list countries to serve their quarantine in their school is set out in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) Regulations 2020 (the “International Travel Regulations”). This requires, amongst other things, that the Secretary of State decides which people these arrangements apply to.

Through this letter I am advising you that the Secretary of State for Education has decided to confirm that paragraph 18 of Schedule B1A to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) Regulations 2020 (the “International Travel Regulations”) applies to any person who meets the three following conditions from paragraphs 18(3)(a) to (c) of Schedule B1A to those Regulations (“boarding pupils”):

- They are, or were on the 1 September 2020, a child;
- They travel 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; and
- They are not accompanied into the UK by an individual who has responsibility for them or, if they are 18, would have had such responsibility if they were a child.

Relevant definitions of “child” and “boarding school” and relating to where an individual has responsibility for a child, are to be found in the International Travel Regulations.

The result of that decision (until it is withdrawn) is that any person who meets the three conditions mentioned above, having travelled through or from a red list country in the ten days before their arrival in England (and who is permitted to enter the UK), must quarantine in accommodation arranged by their boarding school.

Boarding schools should make arrangements for the quarantine of boarding pupils who are to quarantine in accommodation at their school. Arrangements for quarantine accommodation, transport from the port of entry to the quarantine accommodation and testing of those quarantining should be made in line with [guidance on boarding school students from red list countries](#). Please read this guidance in full before confirming to any pupil that they can return to your school having travelled from a 'red list' country or through a 'red list' country in the ten days prior to their arrival in England.

Before they travel, you should ensure that pupils:

- receive a copy of this letter which they should present to UK Border Force officials on arrival
- receive a letter from their school which they should present to UK Border Force officials on arrival. This letter needs to include:
  - the pupil's name and date of birth;
  - a 24hr contact phone number for the school (this should be different to the pick-up contact below). Please be aware that this number will be called when the individual arrives at the airport to confirm you are expecting the individual; and
  - pick up arrangements from the port of entry (including contact name and phone number for the school representative responsible for pick up and travel arrangements).

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 or the school should phone and advise the Managed Quarantine Operations Centre at 020 7484 9426 (note this number should only be used if there is a change related to pick up arrangement). 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 (depending on the port, there may be a point labelled for boarding students arriving from red list countries) and once their identity has been confirmed the individual will be brought through to meet them.

You should also ensure that all boarding pupils arriving from red list countries (or that have travelled through red list countries in the 10 days prior to arrival) do the following prior to travel:

- 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; and
- complete a [passenger locator form](#) before arrival, with details of where they will quarantine when they arrive and the travel test package booking reference number. In completing this form, they should:
  - o confirm 'yes' when asked 'Are you travelling for a reason that means you do not need to quarantine' Please note: this question is intended to be about quarantining in a government-approved facility rather than related to boarding school students quarantining in accommodation provided by their school (which remains mandatory under the arrangements for such students who have travelled from or through a red list country);
  - o then confirm the appropriate exception to hotel quarantine – pupils travelling to a boarding school in England should use 'Travelling from abroad to a boarding school (England, Northern Ireland and Scotland only)';
  - o then confirm that 'yes' they need to self-isolate;
  - o then confirm that 'yes' they know they know where they will be staying on arrival;
  - o then provide the address of their boarding school as the place that they will serve quarantine and provide the date of arrival; and
  - o then confirm that they are required to complete covid-19 tests and provide the booking reference for these tests.

Finally, the effect of the International Travel Regulations is that boarding pupils cannot leave or be outside the place they are quarantining unless for the exceptional grounds specified in those Regulations (see paragraph 13(1) of Schedule B1A). See the guidance at the link above for further details. In the case of some of these 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. By this letter I am authorising the headteacher at your school, or if the headteacher is unavailable, a deputy headteacher at your school, to decide whether to give a required prior permission (and in that connection to impose any reasonable requirements in relation to the exercise, the visit to the person or attendance at the funeral).

Yours faithfully,



Sue Whitehouse  
Deputy Director  
Independent Education and School Safeguarding Division