



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

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Planning your Journey to UNFCCC COP26 FAQs

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1. Before you Travel - take action now

i) Get your Covid-19 vaccination and declare your vaccination status

Do I have to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to come to COP26?

Full vaccination is strongly encouraged for all those attending COP26. The safest way for COP26 to happen in person is for those attending to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

The UK government recently announced it would only accept a very limited set of vaccines and vaccine certificates - how does this apply to COP26?

Special arrangements are in place for COP26. Only for COP26 we are accepting all vaccines.

Which vaccines will be accepted?

Exceptionally for COP26 as a UN event, and with strict Covid-19 testing regime and safety protocols, the UK will recognise all Covid-19 vaccines. We would encourage WHO approved vaccines to be selected by those who have the choice.

Will the UK pay for my vaccine?

The UK offered Covid-19 vaccines to all registered COP26 participants who were unable to access them through other means; the window to sign up for this programme has closed and we are working hard to get the vaccines out to those who requested them. You should have received information about how to book an appointment and where to get your vaccine if you have applied for one.

What is full vaccination?

People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks (14 days) after completing a full course of Covid-19 vaccinations. For most vaccines that is two jabs. Additional booster jabs are not required.

What evidence, or paperwork, will be required to prove vaccination status for COP26?

Participants should provide Covid-19 vaccination information through the [UNFCCC COP26 portal](#) and self-certify their vaccine status on the passenger locator form (PLF) required before departing for England or Scotland.

Will additional testing be in place for those participants who do not have a UK-licensed vaccine?

Everyone at COP26 will be subject to the comprehensive Covid-19 -safety measures; the robust daily testing regime applies to everyone regardless of their vaccination status.

Do the same rules apply to Ministers?

Ministerial heads of departments, who are also members of their national party delegation plus two named essential members of their immediate staff (who are also members of their national party delegation), are exempt from all quarantine requirements under the COP26 code of conduct.

Will additional checks/measures be in place for participants who have not been vaccinated?

Yes. The quarantine and testing requirements on entry to England and Scotland will be more extensive for those who are not fully vaccinated and have been in a red list country, or territory in the 10 days immediately prior to their arrival.

Unvaccinated arrivals who have not been in a red list country or territory in the 10-days immediately prior to their arrival will be required to take an additional “day 8” PCR test. (Day-8 is 8 days after arrival into the UK).

In the event of a positive COVID-test result, or if anyone develops symptoms, vaccination status will be considered in determining the appropriate trace and isolation requirements. At COP26, we expect everyone to comply with comprehensive Covid-19 safety measures regardless of vaccination status.

Can you guarantee that all COP26 participants will be fully vaccinated?

It is very strongly recommended that those who wish to attend COP26 are fully vaccinated. A position the UK Government, Scottish Government and UNFCCC share and have widely publicised. Our COP26 vaccine programme is delivered to the accredited participants who registered for it via the UNFCCC portal and who would otherwise have been unable to get vaccinated. A robust testing regime will be in place for everyone.

Will the public need to have been fully vaccinated to access the Green Zone?

There are no plans for proof of being fully vaccinated to be required for access to the Green Zone. The recent announcement on Vaccine Certification in Scotland only applies to specific higher risk settings and, whilst details of the scheme are being finalised, this will not include the Green Zone.

Do under 18s have to be vaccinated to attend?

It is strongly recommended that everyone coming to COP26 is fully vaccinated against Covid-19, however we recognise that vaccination of those under the age of 18 is not currently recommended by the World Health Organization, and vaccines are not widely available for this age group.

People under the age of 18, who need to quarantine, are eligible for the reduced Managed Quarantine Service (MQS) period of 5 days regardless of vaccination status. However, they must be accompanied by a responsible adult for the duration of their stay in managed quarantine. The responsible adult must be fully vaccinated and registered via the UNFCCC portal to attend COP26 to allow the young person to qualify for the 5 days managed quarantine. If the responsible adult is not fully vaccinated or not registered to attend COP26, they and the young person will both have to quarantine for 10 days.

ii) Apply for a UK visa (if required)

What is the process for applying for a visa to come to COP26?

We are encouraging visa nationals to apply early for COP26 to ensure visas can be processed in time for travel to the UK. Delegates who are visa nationals, and have an official acknowledgement from UNFCCC, will be able to make a gratis (free) application. Some delegates to COP26 may be exempt from immigration control guidance. Details can be found at Exempt (EXM) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Those who are exempt from immigration control are not required to give their biometric data and can send a representative to submit their exempt application and passport to a visa application centre. We strongly encourage visa national delegates who are exempt from immigration control to apply for an exempt vignette.

The process for applying for a visa to come to COP26 is outlined on the COP26 [website](#).

If you are a visa national and have an official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC (if you are a COP26 registered participant), you will be able to make a gratis (free) application via a COP26 specific visa form, available via [this link](#).

You will not have to pay the user application fee charged at some VACs, but will have to pay for any added value service you choose, such as Priority Visa or Keep My Passport While Applying.

Your UNFCCC official acknowledgement will contain a unique reference number. You will need to use your unique reference number to access your free application. UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) will cross reference all applications received against the UNFCCC online registration system. If your application is successful you will receive a multiple-entry visa valid for 6 months.

If you are a representative of one of the following 4 organisations:

- The Adaptation Fund
- The Green Climate Fund
- The Global Environment Facility
- The Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism

You will receive a vignette endorsed 'Exempt', valid for multiple entries and the duration of your stay in the UK.

Am I exempt from providing my biometrics when travelling for COP26?

Not all registered COP26 participants are bio-exempt. Only those who qualify under the exemption criteria will be bio-exempt. All participants that have an acknowledgement letter from the UNFCCC will be eligible to apply for a gratis visa (exempt visa already gratis), using the COP26 visa application route and will have to submit their biometrics.

I am a [visa national](#) attending COP26 as an official participant. Will I be exempt from immigration control?

If you are attending COP26, you will be exempt from immigration control when visiting England or Scotland for the conference if you fall into one of the following categories:

- heads of state and eligible members of their households
- serving government ministers and their eligible family
- government officials accompanying a serving government minister
- members of certain international organisations

I am exempt from immigration control, do I still need to give my biometrics?

Participants who are exempt from immigration control are not required to give their biometric data. Those who form part of the official party or delegation of serving Government Ministers or equivalent and employees of International Organisations will also be exempt from biometrics.

It is the role you have within a Ministerial delegation that will determine whether you are exempt from giving biometrics. Those forming part of a Ministerial delegation will be able to apply for an exempt vignette. You can apply for an exempt vignette if you do not normally need a visa to work in the UK because you're exempt from immigration control. It can help you avoid delays when you enter the UK, but you do not have to have one.

I am not exempt from immigration control, will I need to give my biometric information?

All other participants (including observers, media and parties not led by a minister) once they have completed their visa application, must make an appointment to give their biometrics at the nearest Visa Application Centre (VAC). The application will be free of charge. The [Find a visa application centre - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) page has links to VAC websites by country.

If you are a diplomat posted outside the UK, or a senior government official, travelling to England or Scotland for COP26, you will not be exempt from immigration control unless you are eligible through one of the categories above. Diplomatic/Official passport holders who are not travelling as part of the Head of State/Ministerial delegation, are not automatically exempt from giving biometrics.

You can read more about the exempt criteria in the [Exempt guidance](#).

I am a government minister who has been invited to COP26. What visa modifications apply to me?

Ministerial participants whose nationality requires a visa (“visa nationals”) and who have an official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC (certifying that you are accredited to COP26) will be able to make a free application via the COP26 specific visa form, available via [this link](#). Visa applications will be processed within 15 working days.

Ministerial participants who are visa nationals and meet the criteria to be exempt from immigration control are encouraged to apply for an exempt vignette to facilitate their travel to the UK. Exempt vignettes are issued free of charge.

Participants who are exempt from immigration control are not required to give their biometric data. Those who form part of the official party or delegation of serving Government Ministers or equivalent and employees of International Organisations will also be exempt from biometrics.

Ministers of Cabinet level attending the World Leaders Summit (WLS) or COP26, travelling from red list countries, with a maximum number of two essential support staff who will be identified in the formal confirmation letters from HMG will be exempt from Managed Quarantine.

Do I need to apply for a visa if I am a visa national and meet the exempt criteria?

If you are a visa national and meet the criteria to be exempt from immigration control, we encourage you to apply for an exempt vignette. An exempt vignette is issued free of charge and confirms that you are exempt from immigration control. You will be able to present your exempt vignette when travelling to England or Scotland and at the border to demonstrate your immigration status.

To apply, follow the guidance on [applying for an exempt vignette](#).

What is the application process if I am a visa national and meet the exempt criteria?

If you are a visa national and meet the criteria to be exempt from immigration control, you must first complete your application form and then you/your representative will need to submit your passport at a visa application centre (VAC). You will not be required to give biometrics in support of your application.

You will not have to pay the user application fee charged at some VACs but will have to pay for any added value service you choose, such as Keep My Passport While Applying.

How can I demonstrate that I meet the exempt criteria?

If you believe that you are exempt from immigration control, you may, for example, provide a note verbale from your government, or an official letter from your employing organisation.

If you are a [visa national](#) you are encouraged to apply for an exempt vignette, as this should assist in facilitating your travel to England or Scotland and movement across the English and Scottish border.

What do I need to do if I am attending COP26 but want to obtain a visit visa that is valid for longer than six months?

If you are attending COP26 and want a long-term UK visit visa (i.e., a visa valid for multiple years) you must make a standard visit application. You must also pay the associated visa fee, demonstrate that you meet the requirements of [Appendix V of the Immigration Rules](#) and will be undertaking only a [permitted activity](#). COP26 Travel Regime modifications are only valid for the duration of COP26 and won't be valid if you extend your stay beyond this time.

I am attending COP26 but do not have an official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC. What do I need to do?

Please ensure you are a registered COP26 participant as this should provide you with official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC.

If you are a visa national attending COP26 without an official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC, you must apply for a standard visitor visa, pay the associated visa fee and demonstrate that you meet the requirements of [Appendix V of the Immigration Rules](#).

If you do not have an official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC, you should not use the free COP26 route as you may be refused a visa. You can find out more about applying for a visitor visa [here](#).

What do I need to do once I have completed my visa application?

All other participants (including observers, media and parties not led by a minister) must make an appointment to give your biometrics at the nearest visa application centre (VAC). For those UNFCCC funded delegates who need to travel to another country to apply for the visa, a maximum of 3 night Daily Subsistence Allowance will be provided.

You can find up to date information on VAC locations and opening hours on our commercial partners' websites. The [Find a visa application centre - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) page has links to VAC websites by country.

Can I submit my biometric information at a location other than a VAC?

Our VACs offer a number of chargeable additional services, including an on-demand mobile biometric collection service. You should check the availability of this service with your local VAC/commercial provider, however the UKVI will not cover the costs associated with this service should you decide to use it.

How long will it take to get my decision once I have submitted my biometrics?

We aim to process straightforward applications in 15 working days. We strongly recommend that you make your application early.

You should not attempt to travel to England or Scotland until you have received your exempt vignette or visa.

I need to get my decision more quickly. How can I get a faster decision?

If you are applying via a VAC, many locations offer Priority and/or Super Priority visa services. These are optional, chargeable services in addition to the standard visa fee and UKVI will not cover the costs should you choose to purchase them.

Details on the availability of priority visa services and associated costs can be found on our commercial partners' websites: [Find a visa application centre - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Do I need to be vaccinated to apply for my visa?

There is no link between vaccines and visas. There is no requirement to be vaccinated against Covid-19 in order to apply for a UK Visa.

Can I add an additional programme to my COP26 visit?

To keep all participants as safe as possible during the event, we are encouraging all delegates to only visit COP26. Due to the size and complexity of the event the UK government cannot offer additional security, protocol or logistical support outside the COP26 venues.

iii) Book your managed quarantine hotel (if required)

I have not been in a red list country 10 days immediately prior to arrival in England or Scotland, am I required to go to a managed quarantine hotel?

Participants who have only been in non red list countries or territories 10 days immediately prior to arrival in England or Scotland are not required to spend time in a UK-Government or Scottish Government approved Managed Quarantine Service (MQS) hotel. If you have been in a non red list country, you are also exempt from self isolation upon arrival.

I am fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and have been in a red list country within 10 days of arrival into England or Scotland, am I required to quarantine in a managed quarantine hotel?

Yes. As you are fully vaccinated, you will be required to quarantine for a reduced period of 5 days in an approved managed quarantine hotel. This is a specific modification for COP26.

I am not fully vaccinated against Covid-19 or unaware of my vaccination status, I have been in a red list country within 10 days of arrival into England or Scotland, am I required to quarantine in a managed quarantine hotel?

Yes. Due to being unvaccinated or not knowing your vaccination status, you are required to quarantine in an approved managed quarantine hotel for 10 days. The passenger locator form will require you to declare your vaccination status ahead of departing for the UK.

If I arrive at an airport in England or Scotland and stay airside, can I get a connecting flight to Glasgow and enter mandatory quarantine stay (MQS) there?

No. An individual arriving in England from a red list country (or having been in a red list country in the previous 10 days) must quarantine in a hotel in England before travelling to Scotland (where they would not have to quarantine again). Individuals transiting to countries within the common travel area do not fall under the 'transit passenger' exemption in paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 of the ITOLRs.

Why is there a reduced period of quarantine for fully vaccinated participants attending COP26 from red countries?

The UK and Scottish Governments have put in place special arrangements for COP26 recognising this is a unique event, that must be fully inclusive to achieve the climate outcomes urgently needed.

The evidence shows that transmissibility of variants of concern and the virus is significantly lower for people who are fully vaccinated. Therefore we have taken a balanced approach.

Public health remains our priority.

I am from a red listed country and I am vaccinated. In my understanding I would only need to quarantine for 5 days and the UK government will pay for this. But the Quarantine Management system says that I must quarantine for 10 days. Can you

please clarify which one is correct? This is important because it affects my departure dates.

If you are travelling from a red list country and fully vaccinated, you are only required to quarantine for 5 days as per the modifications made to the Travel Regime for COP26 participants. Anyone not fully vaccinated would be required to quarantine for the full 10 days.

Is the UK offer for quarantine applicable in Glasgow? So if my flight takes me into Glasgow will I be able to quarantine there or should I land in London?

Quarantine will be available wherever you travel to. If you land in England, you will need to quarantine in England, if you land in Scotland, you will need to quarantine in Scotland. Also, if you arrive in England, you must undertake MQS before you can travel to Scotland.

What happens if I test positive for Covid-19 whilst in managed quarantine?

If you test positive for Covid-19 whilst in managed quarantine, you are then required to extend the period by 10 days from the date of the positive test result. (If your MQS stay is funded by HMG the extended period will also be funded.)

I am required to stay in a managed quarantine hotel, how do I book?

You must pre-book your MQS before travelling to England or Scotland. A COP26 specific booking process is in place. Participants must be registered as COP26 participants, via the UNFCCC registration portal and have declared their vaccination status in order to begin the booking process. Further detailed guidance on how to book will be issued very soon.

Do red list country delegates, arriving for COP26, need to use the UKG funded managed quarantine hotels? Can they book hotels independently?

Delegates that have been in a red list country or territory in the 10 days immediately prior to travel must book into an official managed quarantine hotel. A bespoke booking system is in place for all COP26 participants, further details will be communicated very soon.

Will the UK government pay for my stay in managed quarantine?

The UK government will fund the required stay for registered COP26 participants who would otherwise find it financially difficult to attend COP26, including all those:

- registered COP26 participants from the Global South
- registered COP26 participants who are observer, non-state actors, media and representatives of international organisations
- registered party participants who are from developing countries on the red list

(If in doubt consult the UK Embassy or High Commission in your country.)

What is included in the MQS package?

The quarantine package will include transport from your point of arrival in England or Scotland to the MQS hotel, accommodation, three meals a day, required Covid-19 testing during your stay and transport back to your point of arrival.

MQS hotels are set up to safely quarantine guests by preventing potential transmission of Covid-19 within the hotel and to the surrounding community. While the hotel will provide all the amenities required to ensure a comfortable stay, running the hotel in a Covid-19 secure way means that some services normally associated with hotel accommodation may not be available.

In the event that you become ill, medical support will be available.

Transport from the MQS hotel to your COP26 accommodation is not included.

Will special arrangements be in place for disabled delegates?

Yes. If facilities are required they can be requested at the point of booking.
Detail of the UK MQS system can be found [here](#)

I am a minister but not coming as part of the delegation. Will I have to quarantine if I've come from a red list country?

Unless you are a "Ministerial head of department and are also a member of your national delegation attending COP26", you will be expected to enter managed quarantine for 5 days (if you are fully vaccinated) or for 10 days (if you are not fully vaccinated or your vaccination status is unknown) - as per the COP26 Code of Conduct. Further details on quarantine can be found elsewhere in this pack.

I am not a minister but coming on behalf of a minister. Will I have to quarantine if I've come from a red list country?

Unless you are a "Ministerial head of department and are also a member of your national delegation attending COP26", you will be expected to enter managed quarantine for 5 days (if you are fully vaccinated) or for 10 days (not fully vaccinated) - as per the COP26 Code of Conduct. Further details on quarantine can be found elsewhere in this pack.

I am a senior civil servant / Mayor / Governor. Will I have to quarantine if I've come from a red list country?

Unless you are a "Ministerial head of department and are also a member of your national delegation attending COP26", you will be expected to enter managed quarantine for 5 days (if you are fully vaccinated) or for 10 days (not fully vaccinated) - as per the COP26 Code of Conduct. Further details on quarantine can be found elsewhere in this pack.

I am not a minister but hold a diplomatic passport. Will I have to quarantine if I've come from a red list country?

Unless you are a "Ministerial head of department and are also a member of your national delegation attending COP26", you will be expected to enter managed quarantine for 5 days (if you are fully vaccinated) or for 10 days (not fully vaccinated) - as per the COP26 Code of Conduct. Further details on quarantine can be found elsewhere in this pack.

I am a Minister coming as part of the official delegation. Do I need to quarantine?

No. Ministerial heads of department that are also a member of their national delegations attending COP26 will be exempted from MQS.

Does it matter if I only want to come to a particular part of COP26? Do I have to arrive at a particular date to be eligible?

As long as you are a registered participant and have a formal confirmation letter, you can attend COP26 at your convenience.

Can I choose which hotel I will be staying in for MQS?

No. In order to manage the operation the MQS hotel will be designated for you. All hotels in use are of a suitable standard, and all have WiFi available. Detail of the UK MQS system can be found [here](#)

I am under the age of 18 and fully vaccinated but my responsible adult is not fully vaccinated. Do I still qualify for the reduced managed quarantine period?

Unfortunately, if your responsible adult is not fully vaccinated or not registered to attend COP26, you will need to stay with the responsible adult so you do not qualify for the reduced period and will need to be quarantined for 10 days.

I am under the age of 18 and do not have a responsible adult to accompany me in managed quarantine, can I still travel to England or Scotland?

All under 18s need to be accompanied by a responsible adult in managed quarantine. A fully vaccinated responsible adult who is also a registered COP26 participant, must accompany any under 18 who wants to take advantage of the shortened quarantine period in order that both the under 18 and adult have the same quarantine period of 5 days.

2. Pre-departure

i) Take a Covid-19 test and get evidence of negative result

I have heard lots of different tests mentioned. Please could you explain what they are?

- PCR - Polymerase Chain Reaction test - these check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample. The sample will be sent for processing at a lab
- LFD - Lateral Flow Device test - these detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus. They give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test
- PDT - Pre-departure test - refers to a Covid-19 test

Participants from red list countries

I am fully vaccinated, what do I need to do to travel to COP26 from a red list country?

If you are attending COP26 from a red list country or your country has been on the red list within 10 days of your arrival and you are **vaccinated**, please be aware of the following:

- You must complete a passenger locator form
- You must take a Covid-19 pre-departure test in the 72 hours before your mode of transport departs for England or Scotland
- You must take a PCR Covid-19 test within 48 hours of arrival in England or Scotland
- You must complete managed quarantine for 5 days at your point of arrival
- You must take PCR Covid-19 tests as part of managed quarantine
- You must take a daily LFD test for the duration of the event. Evidence of a negative LFD test result will be required to enter the Blue Zone.

I am unvaccinated and travelling to COP26 from a red list country. What do I need to do?

If you are attending COP26 from a red list country or your country has been on the red list within the last 10 days of your arrival and you are unvaccinated or have not declared your vaccination status, please be aware of the following:

- You must complete a passenger locator form
- You must take a Covid-19 pre-departure test in the 72 hours before your mode of transport departs for England or Scotland
- You must undertake managed quarantine for 10 days at your point of arrival - if you arrive in England, your MQS will be in England. If you arrive in Scotland, your MQS will be in Scotland
- You must take PCR tests during your Managed Quarantine stay

- You must take a daily LFD test for the duration of the event

Participants from non red list countries

What do I need to do if I am travelling to COP26 from a non red list country and am fully vaccinated?

If you are attending COP26 from a non red list country and are vaccinated please be aware of the following:

- You must take a Covid-19 pre-departure test in the 72 hours before your mode of transport departs for England or Scotland
- You must complete a passenger locator form
- take a PCR Covid-19 test within 48 hours of arrival to England or Scotland
- You must take a daily LFD test for the duration of the event

What do I need to do if I am travelling to COP26 from a non red list country and I am unvaccinated?

If you are attending COP26 from a non red list country and are unvaccinated please be aware of the following:

- You must take a Covid-19 pre-departure test in the 72 hours before the service you take to depart to England or Scotland
- You must take a PCR Covid-19 test within 48 hours of arrival to England or Scotland;
- You must complete a passenger locator form
- You must take a PCR test on day 8 of arrival in England or Scotland
- You must take a daily LFD test for the duration of the event

I am a Ministerial head of department and am also a member of the national delegation. What will I need to do to comply with the COP26 Code of Conduct upon arrival in England or Scotland? What rules am I exempted from?

If you are attending COP26 from a red or non red listed country, you will need to do the following:

- You must take a Covid-19 pre-departure test no more than 72 hours before departure to England or Scotland
- You must take a PCR Covid-19 test within 48 hours of arrival to England or Scotland;
- You must complete a passenger locator form
- You must take a daily LFD test for the duration of the event
- If you are coming from a red list country or territory, you may be eligible for exemption from the requirement to go through managed quarantine. Ministerial heads of department that are also a member of the national delegation arriving from non-red list countries will not be subject to managed quarantine.

Will the rules that are applicable in England be the same as in Scotland, where the summit is being held?

We have developed our travel regime policy and our test, trace and isolate protocols in close consultation with the Scottish Government, Public Health England and Public Health Scotland. Scotland and England's rules will closely mirror each other for the purposes of the Summit.

I am attending the WLS and main COP26 events. Which modifications from restrictions apply to me?

If you are attending COP26 after the WLS and have received an invitation (confirmation letter) from HMG to attend both events, the WLS rules will continue to apply for the duration

of COP26. This will be communicated in due course as part of the Code of Conduct and WLS Admin note.

I am travelling to the WLS from a red or non red list country, what do I need to do?

If you are attending WLS from a red list country or your country has been on the red list within 10 days of your arrival and you are **vaccinated or unvaccinated**, please be aware of the following rules apply:

- take a Covid-19 pre-departure test in the 72 hours before your mode of transport departs for England or Scotland
- take a PCR Covid-19 test on the day of arrival to England or Scotland (that is **day 0**);
- You must complete a passenger locator form

How do I know if my country is on the red list?

The lists are published on the HMG website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england#job-and-medical-exemptions>

What happens if the RAG listing for my country listing changes before the summit?

If your country has been on the red list during the 10 days before your departure, you should continue to follow the rules for individuals from red list countries.

If your country moves on to the red list before your departure to the UK, you will need to follow the rules for red list arrivals. This will include booking a stay in a managed quarantine hotel.

What if I booked my flight and MQS package already, but my country has now been taken off the red list?

We will deal with changes in circumstances and impacts on travel and or MQS plans on a case by case basis as appropriate.

Why is X country on the red list?

Decisions on red list country assignment and associated border measures will continue to be taken by Ministers, who take into account the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) risk assessments alongside wider public health factors. The data for all countries will be kept under review and the Government will not hesitate to take action where a country's epidemiological picture changes. A summary of the JBC methodology is published on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), alongside key data that supports Ministers' decisions.

What methodology is this decision based on?

The traffic light system categorises countries based on risk to protect public health and the vaccine rollout from variants of Covid-19. The Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) produces risk assessments of countries and territories. Decisions on red or non red list assignment and associated border measures are taken by Ministers, who take into account the JBC risk assessments, alongside wider public health factors. Key factors in the JBC risk assessment of each country include:

- genomic surveillance capability
- Covid-19 transmission risk
- variant of Concern transmission risk

A summary of the JBC methodology is published on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), alongside key data that supports Ministers' decisions.

What rules apply for participants transiting through red list countries?

On the point of transiting, we will follow the UK Government rules in place at the time of COP26. These current rules are outlined below.

UK Government guidance states that you must follow the rules for a country's colour category, even if you have only transited through it briefly. This includes changing flights within the same airport. The guidance states the following:

A transit stop is a stop where passengers can get on or off the same part of the transport in which you are travelling. It can apply to ships, trains, or flights. Your ticket should show if a stop is a transit stop.

The rules of a country or territory that you make a transit stop in could apply if:

- new passengers get on and are able to mix with you
- you or other passengers get off the transport you are on and mix with other people, then get on again

However, there are some very limited exceptions to this, as follows:

Making a transit stop would not affect what you have to do on arrival in England if, during the stop:

- no new passengers, who are able to mix with you, get on
- no-one on-board gets off and mixes with people outside
- passengers get off but do not get back on.

Full guidance is available [here](#). We will keep you informed if the situation changes.

What if my point of arrival in the UK is in Wales or Northern Ireland?

Special travel arrangements for COP26 participants will not be in place for anyone whose point of arrival into the UK is in Wales or Northern Ireland. Those wishing to take advantage of the COP26 specific measures must enter the UK in England or Scotland.

ii) Complete a passenger locator form

Before leaving my country of origin, what do I need to complete?

All arrivals to the UK, including those attending COP26 must complete a [passenger locator form](#) up to 48 hours before they arrive in the UK. You may be asked to show this before boarding your mode of transport to the UK.

The PLF asks for my vaccination status, in order to select 'yes', what criteria do I need to meet?

If you meet any of the following, please select 'yes' to vaccination status on the PLF.

- You are, or will be, fully vaccinated against Covid-19, at least 14 days in advance of your departure if you are not required to go into MQS, for the purposes of COP26, all vaccines are valid
- For those who are required to go into MQS on arrival, you will need to have received your final vaccine dose at least 10 days before you arrive in the UK, with the day of your final dose being day 0 and the day of arrival being day 10, to qualify for 5 days MQS.
- You are a participant in an approved Covid-19 vaccination trial
- You are under 18

iii) To note: International transit hubs Q&A

There are issues with many transit points in flights from the region and unreliability of flight schedules at this time. Australia and New Zealand are major transit points for South Pacific countries, but would require expensive quarantine on return journeys (while waiting for onward flights to the islands). What support is there for this?

We are working closely with international partners and UNFCCC to address the challenges that delegations from the Pacific Islands and elsewhere may face in travelling to COP26. This includes the challenges in transiting, such as the availability of flights and, being subject to border measures including quarantine. We are trying to extrapolate where and what these challenges are and will work collaboratively with the governments of major transit hubs to agree on an approach to help facilitate travel for COP26 participants.

3. Arriving in England or Scotland

i) Provide the correct documents at the UK Border

What documentation must I provide at the English or Scottish Border?

You need to provide the following documents at the English or Scottish Border:

- completed passenger locator form
- evidence of a negative Covid-19 test, taken in the 72 hours before your mode of transport departed for England or Scotland
- managed quarantine hotel booking if you are arriving from a red list country
- COP26 confirmation letter downloaded from the UNFCCC portal with your name on it- this will be issued to all registered participants. Participants may need to present their confirmation letter to transport carriers or Border Force so should ensure they carry it with them to ensure a smooth process. Failure to do so may impede your ability to travel to England or Scotland.

ii) Take the relevant post arrival Covid-19 tests

What Covid-19 tests must I take after arrival?

The relevant post-arrival Covid-19 testing regime will be based on your vaccination status and the countries you have visited in the last 10 days.

- Participants from non red list countries must:
 - take a PCR Covid-19 test within 48 hours of arrival to England or Scotland;
 - take a PCR Covid-19 test on day 8 if unvaccinated
 - take daily LFD Covid-19 tests in advance of attending the conference venue - these will be provided by the UK Government (daily testing will begin on the 31st October, and so participants arriving on the 15th will not need to do this until the 31st)
- Vaccinated or unvaccinated participants who have been in **red list** countries must:
 - participate in Covid-19 tests provided to you during and after your MQS stay. These tests are included in the MQS package

- take daily LFD Covid-19 tests in advance of attending the conference venue - these will be provided by the UK Government, full details will be provided in due course.

Please note, if you are arriving ahead of COP26, you will not be subject to daily testing until the start of the conference. Participants who arrive for the pre-session will not need to take daily tests until the start of the COP26 on 31 October

What restrictions will I face on entering England or Scotland?

In order to enable the attendance of all parties, there will be **COP26-specific arrangements for the travel restrictions participants will encounter as they enter England and Scotland**. This includes:

- requirement for unvaccinated participants from red list countries to quarantine for the standard 10 days in a MQS hotel.
- a reduced quarantine period of 5 days in a MQS hotel for fully vaccinated participants from red list countries
- no requirement for self-isolation on arrival to England or Scotland for those coming from non red listed countries, whether vaccinated or not

These arrangements strike a balance between allowing critical climate talks to continue with representation from around the globe, while continuing to have measures in place to protect public health.

Isn't this one rule for us, another rule for the public? It doesn't seem fair to people who have been waiting to see their families for months.

We are exceptionally planning specific and time-limited changes to the normal rules for COP26 in order that representatives from all around the world can agree critical steps to tackle climate change. The climate emergency necessitates an approach that allows the whole globe to come together.

Do I need to self-isolate when entering from a non red list country?

No. Arrivals will need to take a PCR Covid-19 test within 48 hours of arrival to England or Scotland; unvaccinated non-red list travellers will also need to take a day 8 PCR test.

iii) Public Transport

When travelling around England or Scotland, what public health rules will I have to adhere to?

When in England or Scotland, a variety of public or private transport will be available. You will be expected to adhere to public health rules specific to the UK at the time, just as members of the public will be. Please note that rules could differ between England and Scotland, especially around wearing facemasks. These are required for public transport in Scotland and then underground in London, however are recommended on all other public transport.

Will using public transport cost me whilst attending COP26?

All participants will be issued with a smart card giving you free access to public transport in Glasgow, Edinburgh and in between.

4. Code of Conduct

What is the COP26 Code of Conduct?

The COP26 Code of Conduct (CoC) is a document outlining the acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and conduct that is expected of all participants attending COP26.

Will I need to sign up to the Code of Conduct?

As at every COP, signing up to the Code of Conduct is mandatory for all participants.

What happens if I breach the Code of Conduct?

Breaching the Code of Conduct may result in debadging by the UNFCCC, and in some cases, breaches may constitute prosecutable offences.

I have heard that the UK will ask about a vaccine passport, what do I need to do?

You will not be required to show a vaccine passport, or any other proof of vaccination, at any COP or WLS event. There are no plans in England to introduce domestic vaccine passports. In Scotland, people over the age of 18 will need to show they are fully vaccinated before they are allowed entry to higher risk settings, such as nightclubs.

Why is travel testing needed under the Code?

Testing helps to protect you when traveling as well as detect cases of Covid-19 and contain the threat of new variants.

Will participants have to pay for Covid-19 testing required under the Code?

All participants are responsible for their own pre-departure testing. The UK government will provide the following tests as necessary:

- PCR test within 48 hours of arrival to England or Scotland
- PCR test on day 8 after arrival
- Any test taken as part of the MQS package
- Daily LFD tests at the event
- Confirmatory PCR test in the event of a positive LFD test result
- Confirmatory tests in the event of the onset of symptoms Covid-19 symptoms

Tests will be sent directly to your hotel as required.

What will happen if participants refuse to take tests?

As at every COP, all participants will be asked to sign up to a Code of Conduct. This will include the expected testing regime. Where there are specific medical/other valid reasons for not taking a test, we will consult public health officials on what appropriate measures can be taken. Should breaches of the Code of Conduct occur, the UNFCCC Secretariat and we are committed to taking appropriate action. If necessary this will include the removal of delegate badges and therefore the ability to participate in the conference.

Will people still need to take tests even if they are fully vaccinated? Will non-vaccinated participants need to take more tests?

We expect that everyone at COP26 will need to take daily Covid-19 tests, regardless of vaccination status as no vaccine provides complete immunity.

What information do I need to provide to gain access to the event?

Participants will need to have been registered and have received confirmation of their registration from the UNFCCC Secretariat. Once participants have registered, they will receive a badge that must be held at all times to gain access to the event. They will also have to present a negative Covid-19 test on the given day.

I am a non-political member. Will I need a badge and a daily test?

All participants, regardless of their roles within their respective entourage, will require a badge and provide a negative Covid-19 test to gain access to the event.

What additional Covid-19 measures will be in place during the event?

All Participants will need to comply with the relevant health protocols in accordance with the Code of Conduct. That includes:

- observe 1m social distancing
- wear a face covering except when seated, eating or drinking or if medically exempt
- take self-administered LFD tests in your accommodation before travelling to the summit on each and every day throughout the event. A negative result will be required to gain access to the Blue Zone each day. If a positive LFD result occurs, the participant must immediately self isolate in their existing accommodation. The result will be confirmed via a PCR test. If this is negative the participant is free to return to the event, if it is positive 10-days of self isolation are required. Contact Tracing will be conducted to identify anyone at risk who will also be asked to Self Isolate
- participate in spot testing as required
- a PCR test will also be required for those that report Covid-19 symptoms

5) YOUNGO and The UN Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY):

YOUNGO:

- YOUNGO is the Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC. It consists of UNFCCC accredited youth-led organisations, groups, delegations, and individuals working in climate change-related fields
- A number of representatives from the YOUNGO family of organisations will be invited to attend COP26 and associated events. YOUNGO representatives follow the same process as any other accredited observer organisations to get registered to COP26 and are full delegates
- YOUNGO representatives who have an official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC will be able to make a gratis application, using their unique reference number to access their free application
- UKVI will cross reference all applications received against the UNFCCC online registration system

The UN Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY):

- COY is a conference event under the banner of YOUNGO that takes place in Glasgow ahead of COP26. COY serves as a space for capacity building and policy training, in order to prepare young people for their participation at COP26
- COY is not part of COP26 and UNFCCC has no organisational role in the event. COY is organised by different youth organisations and most participants will not attend COP26
- COY Participants will not be eligible to make a gratis application via the COP26 specific visa form. They will be required to apply for a standard visitor visa, pay the associated visa fee and demonstrate that they meet the requirements of [Appendix V of the Immigration Rules](#).

6. After the conference/Exiting England or Scotland

Do the COP26 modifications apply if I stay on in England or Scotland for other purposes?

Once COP26 has finished, you are expected to make your own arrangements to leave England or Scotland as soon as practically possible. The COP26 Travel Regime only applies to participants attending or facilitating COP26 and the COP26 World Leaders Summit or travelling in order to leave the UK. Therefore the COP26 exemptions will not apply when in the UK for purposes other than COP26.

Am I required to have an exit test when leaving the conference at the end of my involvement in the event?

England and Scotland will not be requiring an exit test but there may be additional pre-travel requirements for participants to return to their home countries or enter another country from England or Scotland. There will be an expectation to arrange this privately but we will be able to sign post participants to private providers.

What do I do if I test positive for Covid-19 before returning home?

If a positive LFD result occurs, the participant must immediately self isolate in their existing accommodation. The result will be confirmed via a PCR test. If this is negative the participant is free to return to their travel plans, if it is positive 10-days of self isolation are required.