



British Horseracing Authority requirements for international horseracing competition travel during coronavirus

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Section A: General Guidance

1. Overview

Coronavirus [regulations and guidance](#) remain in place to help stop the spread of COVID-19. This includes regulatory requirements for travel into the UK; what you must do depends on whether you qualify as fully vaccinated under the rules for travel to England.

To safeguard the industry and in conjunction with UK Government [guidance for elite sport](#), horseracing in Great Britain continues to operate under the British Horseracing Authority ("BHA") [COVID-19 Guidelines and Operating procedures](#). This includes COVID status certification requirements for race meeting attendees (see [Annex A](#)). From 11th January everyone entering the Weighing Room complex on a raceday will need to present on arrival evidence of a negative Lateral Flow Test (LFT).

To minimise industry risk, those who travel to or from Great Britain, to participate in elite horseracing competition, must comply with UK Government requirements and notify the BHA of their travel.

As horseracing is recognised as an elite sport, the BHA has an additional facility to issue individuals with Elite Athlete Exemption ("EAE"). If issued, individuals can leave quarantine to conduct specific exempt activity/activities (horseracing competition and training), subject to meeting BHA requirements.

This document summarises UK Government requirements for international travel for those entering Great Britain who have travelled in connection with the sole purpose of horseracing competition.

2. BHA Contacts

We will do what we can to assist you however, if you aren't proactive and contact us at the last minute, we may not be able to process your application or provide advice and guidance.

For more information or queries regarding the content of this document, please contact the BHA's Medical and/or Licensing Department using the following emails:

medical@britishhorseracing.com

licensing@britishhorseracing.com

3. Government Advice and Requirements

The information in this document is based on our current understanding and interpretation of government guidance but requirements can change quickly, and it is your responsibility to keep up to date with the latest official advice offered in all countries that you will visit on your journey.

Full UK Government Guidance can be found at the following links:

- [travel to England](#)
- [travel to Northern Ireland](#)
- [travel to Scotland](#)
- [travel to Wales](#)

Section B: Key checks when planning international travel

In addition to BHA requirements, key things to do when planning travel abroad or to England are:

1. Check [foreign travel advice](#) for all countries you will visit or travel through. [Arrange any COVID-19 tests](#) you will need to enter the countries and find out how you can [prove your vaccination status](#) during travel.
2. Check the requirements of the Recognised Racing Authority that you plan to race with. You should contact the racing authority directly to obtain this advice.
3. [Check UK Government requirements to find out what you need to do to enter the UK.](#)

Section C: UK Government Requirements

To enter England, what you must do by law depends on:

1. whether you qualify as fully vaccinated for travel to England; and
2. the countries or territories that you have travelled from or through in the 10 days before your arrival in England.

1. Vaccination Status

To qualify for fully vaccinated status when travelling to England, you must have proof of full vaccination with a full course of an approved vaccine.

You must have had your final dose of the vaccine at least 14 days before you arrive. The day you had your final dose does not count as one of the 14 days.

If you are fully vaccinated under the UK vaccination programme, you can prove your vaccination status using either [NHS COVID Pass](#) for England and Wales, [NHS Scotland COVID Status](#) app or [COVIDCert NI](#) in Northern Ireland. Paper certificates are also available.

There are different ways to prove vaccination status if you were vaccinated outside of the UK.

Full details on the UK Government definition of Fully Vaccinated can be found [at this link](#).

*****COVID status certification and face covering in all close contact outdoor operational areas are required on racecourses. See [this document](#) for full details of racecourse requirements. Further details on COVID status certification can also be found at Annex A.*****

2. Rest of the World – Fully Vaccinated

This is what you need to do if you qualify under the fully vaccinated rules for travel to England.

Before you travel to England you must:

- [book and pay for a COVID-19 test](#) – to be taken after you arrive in England
- [complete a passenger locator form](#) – to be completed in the 48 hours before you arrive in England

If you're in England for less than 2 days, you still need to book and pay for a day 2 COVID-19 test.

After you arrive in England you must take a COVID-19 test. This is the test that you booked before travel.

You can take the test any time after you arrive and before the end of day 2 at the latest. The day you arrive is day 0.

If your test result is positive, you must self-isolate.

From 4am 9 January you can take a lateral flow test instead of a PCR test. If the result of the lateral flow test is positive, you must self-isolate and take a PCR test.

3. Rest of the World – Not Vaccinated

This is what you need to do if you do not qualify under the fully vaccinated rules for travel to England.

Before you travel to the UK you must:

- [take a COVID-19 test](#) – to be taken in the 2 days before you travel to England
- [book and pay for day 2 and day 8 COVID-19 PCR tests](#) – to be taken after arrival in England
- [complete a passenger locator form](#) – to be completed in the 48 hours before you arrive in England.

After you arrive in the UK you must:

- [quarantine in the place you are staying for 10 full days](#)
- take your COVID-19 PCR tests – you must [book these tests](#) before you travel. You must take the first test on or before day 2 and the second test on or after day 8. The day you arrive is day 0. Once your test results are available, you must comply with the requirements outlined [here](#).

If you are in England for less than 10 days, you need to quarantine for the time you are here. You need to book day 2 and day 8 PCR tests. You only need to take the tests if you are still in England on those days.

Under the [Test to Release scheme](#) you can choose to pay for a private COVID-19 test after you have been in England for 5 full days. If the result is negative (and the result of your day 2 test result was negative or inconclusive) you can end your quarantine. The scheme is voluntary and applies to those quarantining in England only.

4. Red list countries and territories

There are different rules if you have been in a red list country or territory in the 10 days before you arrive in the UK. Red list rules apply whether you are fully vaccinated or not.

[Check which countries and territories are on the red list and read the red list rules.](#)

*****There are no horseracing exemptions for red list travel*****

5. Ireland, the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man

If you're travelling to England from within the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, you do not need to:

- complete a passenger locator form
- take any COVID-19 tests
- quarantine on arrival in England

This only applies if you have not been outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man in the 10 days before the day you arrive in England. If you have, you must follow the international travel rules in the place where you arrive.

Section D: BHA Elite Athlete Exemption Scheme

The BHA has an Elite Athlete Exemption (“EAE”) scheme in place for unvaccinated participants travelling internationally for the sole purpose of horseracing competition. These schemes aim to safeguard our industry from coronavirus (COVID-19) infection whilst providing controlled routes for elite horseracing competition purposes so that:

- Domestic BHA athletes and support staff can return to training and competition in the UK as soon as possible, following sports specific international travel; and
- Internationally recognised horseracing athletes and support staff can enter the UK to attend BHA Race meetings (and provide ancillary equine care) as quickly as possible.

1. What does being on the BHA's EAE scheme mean?

All unvaccinated individuals entering the UK are currently subject to a period of quarantine and testing. If you are granted EAE, you will be able to attend horseracing specific training and competition immediately but must quarantine and undertake tests in accordance with Government requirements at all other times.

To mitigate risk of infection spread, you will also need to undertake BHA approved supervised lateral flow tests daily, for the 10 days that you would be otherwise required to quarantine.

2. Who can apply for an EAE?

You may be eligible for EAE if you are an unvaccinated Professional Jockey and/or travelling support staff (Trainer and Racing Staff) that is accompanying the elite equine athlete and are:

- appropriately licensed / registered with the BHA; or
- appropriately licensed / registered another Recognised Racing Authority and attending a horseracing meeting that has been designated as a "[Specified Event](#)".

Travel must be for the sole purpose of attending competition (recognised racing meeting) and training (the yard where the horse is stabled).

We require EAE submissions at least 5 days before travelling. If you have already begun your travel, you are ineligible for an EAE.

3. EAE Travel and Quarantine Behaviour Requirements

Individuals must observe requirements during travel and quarantine, to be eligible for and remain on the EAE Scheme:

- 3.1. Individuals must [quarantine](#) in their accommodation when not at the training or competition venue (racecourse / yard where horse is stabled). Eating out or attending other locations or events (including horse sales and other race meetings or trainers yards) during the trip or whilst quarantining on return is not permitted.
- 3.2. Individuals must be tested as per UK Government coronavirus (COVID-19) requirements whilst on the EAE scheme*. All test arrangements and results must be shared with the BHA's CMA as soon as they are received, to remain on the EAE Scheme.
- 3.3. Individuals will need to undertake daily BHA approved supervised Lateral Flow Tests for so long as they are required to quarantine*. The cost of these tests will be borne by the applicant. These tests may be taken face to face at NHS Community Testing Centres or using an online test provider or an approved person as designated by prior arrangement with the BHA CMA.
- 3.4. 2 metre social distancing must be maintained wherever possible.
- 3.5. A 3-layer face mask, covering your mouth and nose, must be worn where social distancing is not possible, or as required by venue requirements.
- 3.6. Sharing transport must only be done if 2 metre social distancing can be adhered to. No car sharing is permitted.
- 3.7. Sharing a room must only be done if you are already a household bubble.
- 3.8. When riding a leg up may be received provided face coverings are worn.
- 3.9. You must take extra precautionary measures such as sanitising contact points and regularly sanitising hands. Hand sanitizer should be used as a minimum before and after entering and exiting mode of transport on each occasion.
- 3.10. If a positive result is received or you show [Covid-19 symptoms](#), you must notify the [NHS coronavirus service](#), [BHA Medical](#) and your employer immediately.
- 3.11. International applicants must leave the UK within 48 hours of the end of the Specified Event.

**You cannot use an NHS PCR test for any of the above tests (these may only be taken if you have coronavirus symptoms).*

4. Application Process

4.1. Individuals wishing to be considered must apply to the BHA using the appropriate application at least 5 days before travel. Information required includes:

- 4.1.1. Full Name, Date of Birth and Quarantine address in GB.
- 4.1.2. Copy Passport.
- 4.1.3. Vaccination details.
- 4.1.4. Event Details (country, racecourse, race, horse and date).
- 4.1.5. Detailed Travel information (journey times, booking references and operator, etc).
- 4.1.6. Full address of all locations that you will visit (E.g. hotel and stables).
- 4.1.7. Written copies of the Covid-19 secure protocols (in English) from other jurisdictions visited in the 10 days prior to travel to GB for review by BHA CMA.
- 4.1.8. Confirmation of compliance with all quarantine, scheme and testing requirements.

4.2. Applications for an EAE can be made using this form:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/EliteAthleteExemption2>

- 4.3. Information will be reviewed, and further information sought as required. To accept individuals on the EAE Scheme, the BHA will need to be satisfied that race meetings attended outside of the UK are run in a covid-secure manner and you will need to provide evidence of how you will safeguard yourself when travelling and competing. The application form will ask for all the information we need to make a decision. Please take time to provide accurate and detailed information to assist us with your application.
- 4.4. In considering your application we may request for further written details, photographs, and/or conduct a telephone interview to confirm information provided as part of the risk assessment process. Checks and monitoring will be conducted and, where considered necessary, further enquiries may be made to confirm the accuracy of the information provided and compliance with requirements.

5. EAE Written Evidence

- 5.1. A decision will be reached on your EAE application. Acceptance will result in you being provided with written evidence for your [Passenger Locator Form](#) and presentation at the UK Border. You must notify BHA immediately if plans change and/or exemption is no longer required.
- 5.2. You must email the [BHA's CMA](#) with all COVID-19 Test arrangements and results as soon as they are received. If a positive result is received you show [Covid-19 symptoms](#), you must notify the [NHS coronavirus service](#), [BHA Medical](#) and your employer immediately.
- 5.3. International applicants must notify BHA (medical@britishhorseracing.com) on the day that they leave England.

Section E: International Participants

International participants may attend a British race meeting using UK Government routes or Elite Athlete Exemption status. All international participants (including racing staff) will be required to provide COVID status certification as outlined in [COVID-19 Guidelines and Operating procedures](#) and at Annex A to attend the meeting. From 11th January everyone entering the Weighing Room complex on a raceday will need to present on arrival evidence of a negative Lateral Flow Test (LFT).

If using a UK Government route, please notify licensing@britishhorseracing.com before travel, to ensure all staff have relevant COVID status certification to gain racecourse entry.

Section F: General Conditions / Changes to requirements

Government: The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has led to unprecedented international border closures and other restrictions. All countries may impose travel restrictions without notice, including cessation of current schemes or allowances.

If you do travel, you should be prepared to accept quarantine requirements. That is 10-days quarantine and Government testing, potentially in a quarantine hotel, if the country and/or territory is added to the red list).

BHA: The BHA reserves the right to change any testing requirements, processes and/or requirements to best safeguard horseracing in Great Britain from the spread of COVID infection. Any such decisions will be taken in accordance with UK Government advice.

Exemption or Accreditation will be revoked if you breach BHA requirements, produce a positive test result, show Covid-19 symptoms or are required to Self-Isolate by any UK Government Agency.

Participant: If any participant is knowingly in contact with a suspected case of COVID-19 or are formally notified as such by NHS Test and Trace they must immediately suspend any activity and go into isolation and notify the BHA CMA.

Breaching Requirements: Any deliberate or accidental breaches of these requirements will be investigated by BHA Integrity and may result in immediate suspension pending further action. Any individual found to have breached government and/or BHA requirements (including BHA Rules and protocols) or provided incorrect information the individual will:

- be subject to disciplinary action by the BHA; and
- have any BHA EAE or status voided and have to comply with UK Government policy, Border Force and Public Health England will be notified with any breaches.

Annex A: COVID status certification

Full details of the UK Government definition of Fully vaccinated can be found [here](#).

When COVID status certification is required for racecourse attendance, every individual must:

- Be fully vaccinated (at least two doses)
- Or have completed a negative lateral flow or PCR test before attending, ideally within the previous 12 hours or at most within the previous 48 hours
- Or be exempt based on approved medical exemption or clinical trial participation

All attendees should prepare to provide evidence of COVID status certification to enter the racecourse, particularly as specific attendance numbers cannot always be known in advance.

Where certification is required, any person who does not have valid evidence of full vaccination, a recent negative test or medical exemption will be refused entry to the racecourse.

How to get COVID status certification

The easiest way to share COVID-19 vaccination records or test results is through the [NHS COVID Pass](#), which is available to [download](#) or can be requested as a [letter](#), either online or by calling 119.

International attendees if vaccinated in another country can show [alternative proof of vaccination](#).

If you cannot provide evidence of vaccination status, a negative lateral flow or PCR test will enable you to enter the racecourse. Rapid lateral flow tests can be ordered through the [NHS website](#) or collected from a [pharmacy](#).

Proof of a negative lateral flow or PCR test can be shown using the [NHS COVID Pass](#), or with a valid email or text from NHS Test and Trace. A photograph of a negative test will not be accepted, nor will the actual test kit.

More information about the NHS COVID Pass and how to provide proof of COVID status in England, Scotland and Wales is [available here](#).