



QUARANTINE (SELF-ISOLATION) FOR NHS SCOTLAND STAFF RETURNING TO THE UK

1. This guidance updates the information provided in [DL\(2020\)20](#) and [DL\(2021\)13](#) and should be read in conjunction with the latest Scottish Government advice, [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): international travel and managed isolation \(quarantine\)](#).
2. The changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world means that governments often need to react with public health measures at short notice. Although the Scottish and UK country classification system, as well as the measures required on return to the UK, have changed recently, the ongoing unpredictability of the pandemic only reinforces the point made in DL(2021)13 that it is not possible to book foreign travel on the assumption that no quarantine will be required on return.
3. For this reason, staff planning on traveling abroad are encouraged to check COVID-19 infections rates in any potential destinations and should do this in the full awareness that the status of their destination may change at short notice either in the run up to or during their trip. For travel booked after the date of this circular, therefore, no special leave will be granted for any required quarantine associated with foreign travel unless that travel is for essential reasons e.g. as a consequence of a family illness or bereavement (in which case special leave can continue to be granted in situations where the staff member cannot work from home during their quarantine).
4. Quarantine associated with non-essential foreign travel should be accommodated either through annual leave or unpaid leave or some combination of these elements, to be agreed between the staff member and their manager.

Action

5. NHS Boards and Special Health Boards should ensure that this policy is widely publicised to staff and managers.

Yours sincerely

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DL (2021) 36

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