



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Planning your Journey to UNFCCC COP26 Q&A

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Glossary

Acronym	Definition
CoC	Code of Conduct
COP	Conference of Parties
COY	Conference of Youth
HMG	Her Majesty's Government (UK Government)
ITOLRs	The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel and Operator Liability) (England) Regulations 2021 and The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel and Operator Liability) (Scotland) Regulations 2021
JBC	Joint Biosecurity Centre
LFD	Lateral Flow Device
MQS	Managed Quarantine Service
P&Is	Privileges and Immunities
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PDT	Pre-Departure Test
PLF	Passenger Locator Form
POA	Port of Arrival
UKVI	UK Visa & Immigration
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VAC	Visa Application Centre
WLS	World Leaders Summit

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?

In order to facilitate an inclusive event for the WLS and COP26 only, HMG is accepting any Covid-19 vaccine administered by any vaccination system that is authorised by the government of the country in which the vaccine was received. This means Sputnik V, Sinopharm, SinoVac, Astrazeneca produced outside the UK, Bharat Biotech and others are accepted 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 registration portal](#) and self-certify their vaccine status on the passenger locator form (PLF) required before departing for England or Scotland.

I see that from 4th October, travellers will need specific documentation to prove vaccination status and will have to follow non-vaccinated rules if travellers don't have it. Will this apply to COP26 travellers?

For UNFCCC registered COP26 participants there is a bespoke vaccine eligibility criteria in place. Therefore declaration of your vaccine status through the UNFCCC registration portal and through your passenger locator form (PLF) is sufficient to comply with UK border requirements.

You must carry your confirmation letter with you at all times to show you are exempt from certain requirements and to avoid being denied boarding by your travel operator. Participants will not be able to generate their confirmation letters until they have both declared their vaccination status and confirmed that they have read and understood that they will comply with the Code of Conduct.

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.

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 been in a red list country or territory in the 10 days prior to their arrival will be required to undergo 10 days in managed quarantine.

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-19 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?

The recent announcement on vaccine certification in Scotland applies to specific higher risk settings. Certification would not be required for wholly business events in the Green Zone. It is possible that certain larger events (with over 500 participants), for example where there is a standing live performance for members of the public or an evening drinks reception may require participants to provide evidence of vaccination. The organiser of the event is responsible for determining whether certification applies.

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.

Do I need a booster vaccine to attend?

Full vaccination is strongly encouraged for all those attending COP26.

Additional booster jabs are not required for participants to be considered fully vaccinated. 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. There is no UK offer of booster vaccines for those coming to COP

ii) Apply for a UK visa (if required)

Who needs a visa to come to COP26?

If you are a visa national and are not exempt from immigration control (see below) you are required to hold a valid visa to travel to the UK for COP26.

If you require a visa, we encourage you to apply as soon as you can to ensure your application can be processed in time for your travel to the UK. The COP26 visa and the standard visit visa have a standard processing time of up to 15 working days once biometrics (fingerprints and photograph) have been submitted at a visa application centre (VAC).

Visa national participants attending COP26 will need to factor in both standard visa processing timescales and Managed Quarantine (MQ) requirements when applying for a visa, or risk their travel being delayed and missing part/all of the Conference.

Chargeable priority services are available at most Visa Application Centres. Delegates are encouraged to access these services where they are available as there are now less than 15 working days to the Conference.

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

The process for applying for a visa to come to COP26 is outlined on the COP26 website. Participants who are visa nationals and have an official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC (you are registered as a COP26 participant) will be able to make a gratis (free) application via the COP26 specific visa form, available via this link.

At the start of the application process, visa national participants will need to choose the Visa Application Centre (VAC) from where they will provide their biometric data before being able to select the bespoke visa application form for COP26.

Further information on VAC locations and opening hours can be found on our commercial partners' websites.

- o TLS contact in Europe, Africa and parts of the Middle East
- o VFS global for all other countries

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.

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

How do I access the COP26 visa application form?

The COP26 visa form is available here:

<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/apply-visa-type/exempt>

You will first need to enter the country in which you are applying and where you will submit your biometrics (fingerprints and photograph) and click 'next'. You will then need to confirm that you are able to submit your biometrics and click 'next'.

You will then have an option to select the '*UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) attendee*' link and click 'apply now'.

If the steps detailed above do not bring you to the '*UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) attendee*' link, try clearing your browser history and repeating the process.

How long does it take for a visa to be issued?

The standard processing time for the COP26 visa and the standard visit visa is up to **15 working days** once biometrics (fingerprints and photograph) have been submitted at a VAC.

We strongly recommend that participants make their application as soon as possible to ensure the visa can be processed in time for their travel dates.

For a quicker decision, participants can use the UK priority services, where available, for an additional fee. These are optional, chargeable services 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk).

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

I am a visa national, but don't have official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC. How can I apply for a visa to come to COP26?

Visa nationals attending COP26 without official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC must 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](#).

Visa nationals without official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC and who apply under the COP26 route will be asked to withdraw and re-apply using the standard visitor visa application online.

Visa nationals applying for visit visas from [red list countries](#) will continue to have their applications paused until travel restrictions are lifted. Further details on applying for visit visas from red list countries can be found [here](#).

Who is exempt from requiring a visa to attend COP26?

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](#)

The FCDO or UNFCCC will be able to inform you whether you are exempt from UK immigration control for the purposes of attending COP26.

If you are a diplomat posted outside the UK, or a senior government official, travelling to the UK on official business, you will not be exempt from immigration control unless you are eligible through one of the categories above.

We strongly encourage visa national participants who are exempt from immigration control to apply for an exempt vignette. This is the vignette issued to confirm that someone is exempt from immigration control and is free of charge. An exempt vignette confirms an individual's exempt status and should facilitate the holder's travel to the UK

Those who are exempt from immigration control are also not required to give their biometric data and can send a representative to submit their exempt application and passport to a visa application centre. Exempt vignettes are issued free of charge.

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 can also apply for an exempt vignette valid for multiple entries and the duration of your stay in the UK.

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

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

Participants who are exempt from immigration control are not required to give their biometric data.

Government officials who are visa nationals and who are members of national COP26 negotiating delegations led by a minister (and therefore constitute the official party or delegation of a Serving Government Minister or equivalent) are exempt from immigration control (as above) and therefore do not need to submit biometrics as part of their application.

All other COP26 participants must provide their biometrics at their nearest VAC as part of the visa application process.

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

Serving government ministers or equivalent who are visa nationals are exempt from immigration control but are strongly 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.

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 strongly 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.

If you apply for an exempt vignette, you will need to arrange for your passport (and a photograph) to be submitted to your nearest VAC and we recommend this is undertaken **no less than 15 days in advance of travel** so that it can be endorsed with an exempt vignette. To apply, follow the guidance on [applying for an exempt vignette](#).

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 1,2 or 10 years) you must make a standard visit application. You must also pay the associated visa fee, and demonstrate that you meet the requirements of [Appendix V of the Immigration Rules](#) and will only undertake [permitted activities](#) when in the UK.

COP26 Travel Regime modifications are only valid for the duration of COP26 and won't be valid if you extend your stay beyond the dates of the conference.

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 UKVI will not cover the costs associated with this service should you decide to use it.

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 participants 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.

If I am exempt from MQS am I also exempt from a Visa?

No, the requirements for MQS and visas are different and have different exemption rules. You must apply for a visa to come to the UK if you are a visa national.

Please use the information above to decide if you are exempt from a Visa. Exemptions rules for MQS are covered in section iii below.

iii) Book your managed quarantine hotel (if required)

Guidance Update (28/10/2021)

Changes to the red list have been announced on Thursday 28 October. As usual, there will be a delay between when the announcement is made and the date when the changes will be effective from.

Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Panama, Peru and Venezuela will be removed from the red list from 04:00am Monday 1 November. The announcement precedes the date the changes come into effect, so it is important to note that quarantine rules from red list countries will apply in the intervening period. Please see the below FAQs for further information.

What happens if my country is removed from the red list and I'm already in Managed Quarantine?

- As you are currently checked into a quarantine hotel, you will need to follow the quarantine rules that were in place when you entered the UK and continue to quarantine at the hotel for the duration already specified to you upon entry.
- This is 5 days of quarantine for fully vaccinated individuals and 10 days of managed quarantine for those who are not vaccinated or who have not declared their vaccination status.
- Guests can only leave managed quarantine in limited circumstances. These are set out in guidance [here](#). You cannot leave the quarantine facility early because your country was removed from the red list.

Can I change my flights so I arrive in the UK after Monday 1 November 04:00am so I don't need to complete MQS?

- Yes. If you do so, please ensure you contact CTM, the managed quarantine provider, to cancel your booking. Their details are available on your MQS booking reference.

What happens if I leave my red list country to travel for COP 26 and I arrive in the UK before 0400 Monday 1 November?

- If you already left your country, and you were en-route to the UK when the changes to the red list were announced and you will cross the UK border before the changes come into effect at 4am on Monday 1 November, then you will need to stay in a quarantine hotel for the required duration depending on your vaccination status.
- This is 5 days for fully vaccinated individuals and the normal 10-day period of managed quarantine period for those who are not vaccinated or who have not declared their vaccination status.
- You cannot leave your quarantine facility early unless you receive permission to do so due to circumstances covered in the [exemptions from managed quarantine guidance](#).

What happens if I leave my red list country to travel for COP 26 and I arrive in the UK after 0400 Monday 1 November?

- If by the time you cross the UK border the changes have come into effect, you will be treated as an arrival from a non red list country and will not have to stay in a quarantine hotel

I am a Ministerial Head of Department and have a letter from the UK Government which exempts me from managed quarantine. Do I need to change my exemption letter?

- You can still travel using the letter from the UK Government demonstrating your exemption from managed quarantine. You do not need to be reissued an updated exemption letter.
- The exemption letter will not be required after 04:00 Monday 1 November, so if you are travelling after this date you should carry your UNFCCC confirmation letter instead, as you will not need to quarantine on arrival.

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.

Arriving in the UK for managed quarantine

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

If you are arriving from a red listed country into any airport in England, in order to transit to Scotland you will need to pass through border control and therefore need to be quarantined in England before onward travel to Scotland.

If I arrive prior to COP26 or WLS can I take advantage of the travel exemptions for other purposes?

The travel exemptions are **ONLY** in place for the purposes of COP26 and must not be taken advantage of for other purposes.

Once I have completed my MQS, can I plan trips or meetings inbetween attending COP26?

No, the travel regime **ONLY** applies to COP26 participants and for the purpose of attending or facilitating COP26. When you complete managed quarantine you should transit directly to your event-time accommodation.

I'm travelling to COP from within the UK, will I need to undergo managed quarantine?

Participants that are based in the UK do not need to follow the travel regime and will not need to undergo managed quarantine. The travel regime is just for participants travelling from other countries.

What if the country I am travelling from comes off the red list more than 10 days before I travel and no longer need a MQS hotel?

If the country you are travelling from ceases to be on the red list 10 days prior to travel, you will be contacted to confirm the cancellation of your managed quarantine booking.

What do I need to do if I need to change my travel booking?

If you want to change your travel plans, you should check the terms and conditions of your booking to understand the impact.

You should discuss any changes in your travel plans with your travel provider (the organisation you booked with) as soon as possible, to consider available options.

What if I test positive just before travelling? Will my MQS be cancelled or refunded?

If you paid for your MQS booking as you do not qualify for funding, you can follow the guidance on the CTM page to cancel your booking and claim a refund.

If you qualify for funding and therefore did not pay for your booking, please complete this form: **COP26 Amendments & Cancellation Form** to cancel your booking. Failure to cancel your booking will limit capacity for other travellers.

What do I do at the airport?

When you arrive in England you'll need to provide your completed passenger locator form to Border Force officers alongside your passport and negative Covid-19 test result. You will be escorted through the airport with other passengers who need to stay in a quarantine hotel. Please follow signs and instructions for the Managed Quarantine Service.

Officials will meet you at passport control. They will guide you through baggage claim and customs to the dedicated hotel transport.

If my country comes off the red list and I have already booked a managed quarantine hotel, can I still stay there?

No, non red list travellers cannot stay in managed quarantine.

The country I am travelling from has come off the red list and I have booked my flights already, taking into account the 5/10 days quarantine. Will the UK cover my hotel costs for these days or the cost of rebooking flights?

The UK Government will not reimburse any flight cancellations or additional accommodation costs.

Managed Quarantine and vaccination status

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 and 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.

I have had one dose of a vaccine but not yet had the second one. Do I qualify for reduced MQS?

If your vaccine requires more than one dose, you are not considered fully vaccinated until you have received all required doses. Participants are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after completing a full course of Covid-19 vaccinations. Participants who are required to go into MQS on arrival will need to have received their final vaccine dose at least 10 days before arrival in the UK, with the day of the final dose being day 0 and the day of arrival being day 10, to qualify for 5 days MQS.

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 a registered COP Participant 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. Participants that are 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?

Yes, if you fly directly into Scotland you will be able to undergo managed quarantine in Scotland. Please note that MQS capacity is far greater in London and Scottish MQS rooms will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so early booking for those planning to fly directly to Scotland is advised.

Managed quarantine for Ministers

Are ministers attending the World Leaders Summit (WLS) exempt from managed quarantine?

We will be asking each World Leader- via Heads of Missions- to name the minimum essential team they require to join them at the WLS or facilitate their attendance.

All participants attending or facilitating the WLS who are named on the Confirmation Letter are exempt from completing a period of managed quarantine. You must have a formal letter from the UK Government (the confirmation letter) confirming that you are a WLS participant for this exemption to apply.

To Note: Any individual, whether attending or facilitating WLS or attending COP26 who requires access to the inviolable UN territory referred to as the Blue Zone MUST be registered through the UNFCCC Online Registration System. This is regardless of any confirmation letter received from UKG in relation to travel restrictions and exemption.

Are ministers who are attending only COP26 (and not the WLS) also exempt from managed quarantine?

'Ministerial Heads of Department' plus **two** immediate staff members who are also part of their national delegation who are registered UNFCCC COP participants are exempt from all quarantine requirements under the COP26 Code of Conduct.

Who counts as 'Ministerial Heads of Department plus two immediate staff members' in the Code of Conduct and thus would be exempt from quarantine requirements?

To qualify for this exemption, an individual must meet **all** the following criteria:

- **Title:** Holds a national level political office e.g. the Energy Secretary of State or the Rail vice-Secretary
- **Scope:** Leads the work of a government department reporting to the World Leader e.g. on energy, environment or agriculture (Secretary of State or Junior level)
- Part of the **national delegation**
- Named and identified as a Ministerial Head of Department on the **Confirmation letter** for COP26 (ready to be presented to Border Force or transport operators)

For each person who meets the definition above, **two individuals** can accompany them. These accompanying people (retinue) must be members of the national delegation and named on the confirmation letter.

'Ministerial Heads of Department' **does not** include:

- Ministers in sub-state governments (unless they are included in the +2 of above)
- Mayors or Governors coming to COP26 only Climate envoys (unless they are included in the +2 of above)
- Head of delegations e.g. negotiators coming to CO26P only (unless they are included in the +2 of above)

How do I choose my +2?

The plus two are named essential staff accompanying each minister travelling from red list countries/territories who will be exempt from managed quarantine. These individuals must be identified as such in the confirmation letters from the UK Government to COP26 participants (via the UNFCCC portal). Essential support staff accompanying the minister must be part of the national delegation. If the Minister is attending the WLS, they and their support staff must be named as part of the World Leader's delegation.

Do I need to attend WLS as well as COP26 to qualify for the ministerial exemption?

No. The ministerial exemption applies to Ministers who oversee or head the work of government departments that are also members of their national delegation attending COP26 and identified in the confirmation letters from the UK government.

Do the same rules apply to Heads of Delegations? Heads of International Organisations? Speakers?

- Some participants, such as heads of state, employees of certain International Organisations and serving ministers, may be exempt from immigration control.
- Participants who believe that they may be exempt from immigration control are encouraged to consult the exempt guidance on GOV.UK.
- 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.

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 member of your national delegation attending COP26, you will be required 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.

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.

Staying in a Managed Quarantine Hotel

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 is available on the COP26 website on the Delegates page.

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 day after the positive test. If your MQS stay is funded by HMG the extended period will also be funded. If you have had to pay for your own MQS stay as you do not qualify for funding, you should follow the process set out on the CTM portal to arrange an extension to your stay.

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

Participants 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. Details on how to book can be found on the COP26 website on the Delegates page.

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?

During your MQS, 3 meals a day, drinks and snacks will be provided. Vegetarian, vegan and Halal diets can be accommodated, please specify any dietary requirements on the booking form. Covid-19 testing will also be provided as well as transfers to your quarantine hotel and then transport back to your port of arrival once you have completed quarantine.

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

Transport from your port of arrival to your COP26 accommodation is not included.

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. Details on how to book your managed quarantine and what to expect during your stay can be found in the COP26 Guide to Managed Quarantine

What is the MQS hotel cancellation policy?

If you no longer require MQS because you are no longer attending COP26, you must complete the **COP26 Amendments & Cancellation Form** to cancel your booking. It is **very important** that if you no longer require MQS that you cancel your booking. Failure to cancel your booking will limit capacity for other travellers.

If you paid for your booking separately because you do not qualify for funding, please defer to the guidance on the CTM page.

Can I pass my MQS booking to a colleague if I can no longer travel?

You will need to complete this form: **COP26 Amendments & Cancellation Form** and ensure all your information is changed to your colleagues information, this includes their vaccination status.

Can I get extra snacks / drinks during my MQS stay?

There is a 24-hour room service option to provide additional food and drink. The MQS package will include three meals a day, tea, coffee, fresh fruit, water and soft drinks. The hotel will provide menus to facilitate choice of meals and will accommodate any dietary requirements. Meals will be delivered outside the hotel room door via contactless delivery.

If you have items delivered to you during the quarantine period (such as food deliveries), they'll be brought to the door of your hotel room by the managed quarantine hotel staff.

What if I need special facilities or arrangements for a disability or medical condition?

Participants with a medical condition or disability should declare this, along with subsequent support needs, when making your MQS booking. If your disability or medical condition is severe, and you are concerned that you will not get the support you need in a Managed Quarantine Hotel, you may wish to apply for a 'modification to the duty quarantine' in a managed facility and quarantine elsewhere instead. Government guidance on how to make an application can be found [here](#).

Where should I pick up the Covid-19 test kit for managed quarantine?

The tests you will need to carry out in MQS will be provided in your hotel room.

Who will pick up my test and submit it for testing in managed quarantine?

There will be staff in the hotel who will pick up your test from your hotel room and ensure that it is sent to the lab for testing.

How long does it take to receive the test results?

PCR tests are sent to the lab and you can expect results within 36 hours. In some cases it could take 48 hours for the results to be returned.

Are they PCR tests?

Yes, in managed quarantine you will be required to complete three PCR tests if you are completing 5 days of MQS on day 0 and 3. A third PCR test will be required on day 8 after you have left quarantine. You will be required to complete two PCR tests if you are required to complete 10 days MQS, this will be on day 2 and 8.

Can I go to the hotel gym or pub?

No, you must stay inside your MQS hotel room for the required amount of time without leaving for any reason other than an emergency.

What if I fall ill during my managed quarantine stay or require welfare support?

There is a package of medical and welfare support in managed quarantine available to all, and emergency healthcare is available. Your hotel reception team will have contact details for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week access to primary care.

Managed quarantine for under 18s

I am under 18 and cannot bring anyone with me, can I still travel?

You are not permitted to travel to COP26 and stay in a MQS hotel without a responsible adult.

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 am travelling to the WLS, what do I need to do?

If you are attending WLS, please be aware of the following rules apply regardless of vaccination status or countries you have been in:

- Take a Covid-19 pre-departure test in the 72 hours before your mode of transport departs for England or Scotland and have evidence of a negative result
- You must complete a passenger locator form
- You must carry a copy of your letter confirming that you are a registered participant or facilitator from the UK Government via the UNFCCC registration portal
- Take a PCR Covid-19 test on the day of arrival to England or Scotland (that is day 0)

i) Pre-departure testing

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

Are there any requirements that my pre-departure test must meet?

Your pre-departure Covid-19 test must be taken within 72 hours before departure and meet the performance standards of $\geq 97\%$ specificity, $\geq 80\%$ sensitivity at viral loads above 100,000 copies/ml. This could include tests such as:

- A nucleic acid test, including a PCR test
- A LAMP (Loop-mediated isothermal amplification) test
- An antigen test, such as an LFD (noting many LFD tests do not meet the standards needed)

Your test result must be in either English, French or Spanish. You must check with your test provider that the test meets these standards. For further information, please see the [guidance on testing before you travel to England](#) guidance or the [testing before you travel to Scotland](#) guidance if you are travelling directly to Scotland.

I'm travelling to COP26 from within the UK. Do I need to undertake a pre-departure test?

No. You do not need to complete a pre-departure test if you are travelling to COP26 within the UK. You will however be subject to daily testing to gain entry to the Blue Zone each day.

I am traveling to COP26 as a registered participant and would like to bring my family along with me. What rules will they need to follow?

If your family are not registered COP26 participants they will have to follow normal international travel rules. We all need to work together to keep numbers at COP26 and people travelling into the UK to the minimum that is essential - **we ask each and every delegation, organisation and individual coming to consider carefully if they are essential.**

ii) Confirmation letter

How do I get a confirmation letter to show that I am a registered COP26 participant or facilitator?

To receive your confirmation letter, you need to register through the UNFCCC COP26 portal. Once you have done this, you will be sent the COP26 Code of Conduct to read and sign. See section 4 for more information about the Code of Conduct. You will also be prompted to declare your vaccination status. Once you have confirmed that you have read and understood that you will need to comply with the Code of Conduct and have declared your vaccination status you will be sent your confirmation letter from the UK Government via the UNFCCC registration portal confirming that you are a registered participant or facilitator for COP26. **It is essential that you have this letter with you when travelling to the UK.**

The COP26 Code of Conduct provides that Ministerial Heads of Department plus two essential support staff who are all part of their national delegation do not need to undergo managed quarantine, provided that they are named on a confirmation letter issued by the UK Government. The Minister, plus the retinue of two, do not need to quarantine in accordance with the COP26 Code of Conduct but they must also be part of the national delegation and registered UNFCCC COP participants. Ministers and their retinue **must** have a copy of this confirmation letter and a copy of their UNFCCC registration letter with them for their journey into England and Scotland.

How do I get a confirmation letter from the UK Government to show that I am a registered World Leaders Summit (WLS) participant or facilitator?

If you are attending the WLS, your head of mission will have been asked to provide the details of all members of the delegation attending the WLS. They will be issued a letter with the details of all members of the delegation who are registered participants or facilitators. HMG will then provide London embassies and host countries with a confirmation letter that names everyone that the WLS exemptions apply to and ensure delegates receive a personal copy. **You must ensure you have a copy of this letter when travelling to the UK and that your name is on it.**

What should I do if I get to the airport/ my mode of transport and have forgotten my COP26 confirmation letter?

If you do not have your confirmation letter you should log into the UNFCCC portal and ensure you have both confirmed that you have read and understood that you will comply with the COP26 Code of Conduct and declared your vaccination status. You should then be able to download another copy of the confirmation letter.. You can present the letter on a smartphone, tablet or laptop to your transport carrier.

What should I do if I get to the airport/ my mode of transport and have forgotten my WLS confirmation letter?

You should contact your head of mission immediately and ask them to issue you a copy of the confirmation letter with your details on it. You can present the confirmation letter on a smartphone, tablet or laptop to your transport carrier. You must be in possession of the confirmation letter to avoid any disruption to your travel to COP26 and to ensure you are able to prove your exemption.

What should I do if I have already received my confirmation letter but I have not signed up to the Code of Conduct and/or provided my vaccination status in the UNFCCC registration system?

In order to generate a valid confirmation letter, COP26 participants must both confirm that they have read and understood that they will need to comply with the Code of Conduct and declare their vaccination status on the UNFCCC portal. Participants will then need to re-enter the UNFCCC website to generate the updated letter. You can present the new letter on a smartphone, tablet or laptop to your transport carrier.

iii) Completing a passenger locator form (PLF)

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

Along with carrying your confirmation letter and evidence of a negative Covid-19 test taken within 72 hours before your departure, all COP26 and WLS participants 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 whether I meet the Covid-19 vaccination eligibility criteria, in order to select 'yes', what criteria do I need to meet?

For the purposes of COP26 only, HMG is accepting any Covid-19 vaccine administered by any vaccination system that is authorised by the government of the country in which the vaccine was received. This is different from the UK Government's normal position of only accepting certain approved vaccines. Please answer this question based on whether you meet the COP26 specific vaccine eligibility criteria not the eligibility criteria set out on the PLF.

Therefore, if you are **not** required to complete managed quarantine you will be considered to meet the vaccine eligibility criteria:

- If you have been vaccinated with any Covid-19 vaccine which is recognised in your country of origin, **and** if you have completed your full course of Covid-19 vaccines (usually two but not always) at least 14 days prior to travelling, **or**
- If you are under 18 (under 18s should be accompanied by a responsible adult), **or**
- If you have participated or are participating in an approved COVID-19 vaccination clinical trial.

If you **are** required to complete managed quarantine you will be considered to meet the vaccine eligibility criteria:

- If you have been vaccinated with any Covid-19 vaccine which is recognised in your country of origin, **and** you 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, **or**
- If you have participated or are participating in a regulated Covid-19 vaccination clinical trial; **or**
- If you are under 18 (under 18s should be accompanied by a responsible adult).

All registered COP and WLS participants are exempt from the requirement to provide evidence of their vaccination status

The PLF says that I need to have evidence of my vaccination status, do I need to provide this?

COP26 and WLS participants should self-declare their vaccination status in the PLF. Participants are otherwise exempt from the requirement to carry any other evidence of vaccination status.

I met the vaccine eligibility criteria for COP26 and selected that I met the vaccine eligibility criteria when completing the PLF. However, my PLF print out states that I do not meet the eligibility criteria. What should I do?

This may happen if you are fully vaccinated under a national vaccine programme that is currently not accepted by the UK for normal travellers. However, for COP26 and the WLS the UK Government is accepting full vaccination under any vaccine programme as meeting the vaccine eligibility criteria. Therefore you should ignore that your PLF print out states this as you have met the COP26 vaccine eligibility criteria. If your PLF print out states this, it will have no impact on the paperwork you are required to present at the border.

The PLF states that based on my travel history I am required to complete a period of self-isolation, what should I do?

All COP26 and WLS participants are exempt from the requirement to self-isolate (except those who have been in a red list country or territory in the 10 days immediately prior to their arrival, who will need to enter managed quarantine). When answering this question in the PLF you should select that you have a UK Government approved exemption from this requirement if you have not been in a red list country or territory in the 10 days immediately prior to your arrival. You should then select one of the following UK Government approved exemption categories which applies to you:

- World Leaders Summit participant or facilitator (England and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required
- World Leaders Summit participant or facilitator also registered as a UNFCCC COP26 participant (England and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required
- Ministerial Head of Department or their essential staff who are part of a national delegation attending UNFCCC COP26 (England and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required
- UNFCCC COP26 participant or facilitator (England and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required

Before departing to England or Scotland, you will need to ensure you are carrying your confirmation letter from the UK Government via the UNFCCC registration portal as evidence that this exemption applies to you.

The PLF asks for a day 2 and day 8 testing package booking reference number. The UK Government is providing my tests during the event, how should I answer this question?

The UK Government will be providing your Covid-19 tests whilst in the UK during the WLS and COP26 if you are a registered participant. You should therefore select that you have a UK Government approved exemption from this requirement. You should then select one of the following government approved exemption categories which applies to you:

- World Leaders Summit participant or facilitator (England and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required
- World Leaders Summit participant or facilitator also registered as a UNFCCC COP26 participant (England and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required
- Ministerial Head of Department or their essential staff who are part of a national delegation attending UNFCCC COP26 (England and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required

- UNFCCC COP26 participant or facilitator (ENgland and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required

Before departing to England or Scotland, you will need to ensure you are carrying your confirmation letter from the UK Government as evidence that this exemption applies to you.

I am travelling from a red list country and the PLF is asking me for the details of my managed quarantine booking but I thought I was exempt, what should I do?

If you are a registered WLS participant or a Government Minister who heads or oversees the work of a government department or you are one of 2 members of their essential retinue, you are exempt from managed quarantine provided you are part of the national delegation. If you are exempt, you should select that you are travelling for a reason that means you do not need to quarantine. You should then select one of the following UK Government approved exemption categories which applies to you:

- World Leaders Summit participant or facilitator (England and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required
- World Leaders Summit participant or facilitator also registered as a UNFCCC COP26 participant (England and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required
- Ministerial Head of Department or their essential staff who are part of a national delegation attending UNFCCC COP26 (England and Scotland only) - HMG Letter required

Before departing to England or Scotland, you will need to ensure you are carrying your confirmation letter from the UK Government as evidence that this exemption applies to you. For further information on managed quarantine and exemptions, please see the dedicated section within this guidance.

Is there further guidance on how to complete the passenger locator form?

Yes. You can access detailed guidance on how to complete the passenger locator form on the [COP26 Delegate Page](#) within the Travel Exemption section.

iii) Rules for participants from non red list and red list countries

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 and have evidence of a negative result
- You must complete a passenger locator form
- You must carry your confirmation letter
- 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 and have evidence of a negative result
- You must complete a passenger locator form
- You must carry your confirmation letter
- You must take a PCR Covid-19 test within 48 hours of arrival to England or Scotland;
- 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

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 and have been in a red list country or territory in the 10 days immediately prior to arrival and you 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 and have evidence of a negative result
- You must complete a passenger locator form
- You must carry your confirmation letter
- 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 port of arrival
- You must take a PCR Covid-19 tests as part of managed quarantine
- You must take a daily LFD test for the duration of the event.

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

If you are attending COP26 and have been in a red list country or territory in the 10 days immediately prior to arrival and you are unvaccinated or have not declared your vaccination status, 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 and have evidence of a negative result
- You must complete a passenger locator form
- You must carry your confirmation letter
- You must undertake managed quarantine for 10 days at your port 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

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 listing for my country changes before the summit?

If you have been in a red list country or territory in the 10 days immediately prior to arrival, 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 my 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.

Border checks

Who will check that I have these documents when I travel to the UK?

Your travel provider is likely to undertake checks prior to you boarding, you should ensure you present your confirmation letter as evidence that you are travelling as a COP or WLS participant. They may also check that you have completed a passenger locator form and have evidence of a negative pre-departure Covid-19 test result.

You may also be asked to present these documents again when you reach the UK.

What happens if I don't have these documents when I travel to the UK?

You are responsible for making sure you have all the correct documentation ready for your journey. If you don't have these documents, you may be denied boarding and will not be able to travel until you have the correct paperwork.

Port of arrival

What is a Port of Arrival (POA) and what does it mean for me as a COP26 traveller?

Your port of arrival will be the point of entry into which you go through passport control and enter the UK. If you go through passport control in England, you must complete managed quarantine in England **before** transiting to Scotland.

For example, if you land in Heathrow and go through passport control and plan on catching a connecting flight later in the day or following day, you must enter managed quarantine in a hotel in the Heathrow area before onward travel.

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.

What if my port 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 port 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.

Do the same rules apply to those going to the Green Zone?

The Green Zone is the public area of the **conference**. For anyone travelling in order to attend COP26 Fringe Events, including the Green Zone, COY16 and protest marches, the normal travel regulations apply. The normal rules are available for [England](#) and [Scotland](#) on the linked websites. [Travel abroad from England during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

I want to travel to the UK early for COP26/WLS related business, how early can I arrive?

The COP26 bespoke travel regime will be in place from 9th October. If you are arriving before 9th October, you should enter the UK through the usual border policy.

Travel Rules for Ministers who oversee or head the work of government departments

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 have been in a red list country or territory in the 10 days immediately prior to arrival, you may be eligible for exemption from the requirement to go through managed quarantine. Ministers who oversee or head the work of government departments that are also a member of the national delegation arriving from non-red list countries will not be subject to managed quarantine.

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.

iv) To note: International transit hubs

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 may be asked to provide the following documents at the English or Scottish Border:

- A 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

- A COP26 or a WLS 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** (under 18s and individuals who have participated or are participating in a clinical trial of a Covid-19 vaccine **do not** need to complete a day 8 PCR test)
 - 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.

What do I need to do if I am already in the UK? Does this apply to me?

When travelling from within the UK, the travel regime does not apply to you. You will need to take part in daily LFD testing.

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.

The weather in Glasgow in November is often cold, wet and windy, with low temperatures of 5 degrees celsius. We recommend ensuring participants bring warm, waterproof clothing to ensure they stay warm and dry when outside.

Will using public transport cost me whilst attending COP26?

All registered participants will be issued with a smart card at registration giving you free access to public transport to complete your journey from your accommodation to the venue. This will cover travel in Scotland, including Glasgow, Edinburgh and in between for the duration of the conference.

When first travelling to the venue, you may need to purchase a ticket, before collecting your smart card at registration. Further information on the different transport options from your accommodation to COP26 will be shared soon.

Note to staff: General info on transport and security is in the Event Operations FAQs which can be found [here](#).

How will participants access the venue? What security/protocols will be in operation?

In order to ensure security of participants and the public, there is a multilayered approach to accessing the COP26 venue. The main access points to the venue are on Finnieston Street. Participants will enter through turnstiles and gates in the outer security perimeter before advancing to the search area to enter the venue. Please ensure you factor in time to pass through these access points and search into your journey and plans for the day as it is likely you will need to queue at peak times.

On the first day you arrive, you will need to show your invitation letter in order to gain access through the outer security perimeter. On subsequent days, you will be asked to show your COP26 accreditation.

Covid-19 Protocol

Participants will need to show evidence of a negative Covid-19 test taken on that day to gain access to the venue on each day. Participants are advised to have this ready to show on entry to ensure quick entry. If participants have questions or issues with testing, there will be support on hand. Further information will be shared on how to access, complete and register your daily tests.

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.

How will you check if I am complying with the Code of Conduct?

As part of signing the Code of Conduct, you are agreeing to comply with the measures in place. Travel operators and UK Border Force will check that you are compliant with requirements such as completing a pre-departure test and a passenger locator form. We will also be conducting spot checks of pre-departure tests at the Blue Zone venue when you collect your pass to ensure our public health measures are working effectively. There will be a mechanism in place through the UNFCCC to manage any breach of the Code of Conduct.

Will transport operators be aware of the exemptions you are putting in place?

Transport operators and carriers will have received guidance and briefing on the bespoke travel measures in place for COP and WLS participants. You must carry your confirmation letter with you at all times to show you are exempt from certain requirements and to avoid being denied boarding by your travel operator.

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 from the day after the test. 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. Travel rules for YOUNGO and The UN Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY):

What is 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 participants.

How can I become an accredited YOUNGO participant?

For further information about YOUNGO and how to become a registered participant, please visit the [YOUNGO website](#).

How can I get a visa to attend YOUNGO?

YOUNGO representatives who have an official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC will be able to make a gratis (free) visa application, using their unique reference number provided by the UNFCCC to access their free application.

UKVI will cross reference all applications received against the UNFCCC online registration system

What is 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.

Am I eligible for a gratis visa for COY?

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

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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 starting from the day after the positive test was taken.