

Turkey, Poland, Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba removed from England travel corridor exempt list

- Turkey, Poland, Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba removed from list of travel corridors for England following data showing a significant increase in confirmed cases
- up to £10,000 fixed penalty introduced for passengers who breach self-isolation following return from non-exempt countries or regions
- travellers urged to check the latest advice from the FCDO before travelling and all passengers are required to fill in a [passenger locator form](#) before returning home

People arriving into the UK from Turkey, Poland or Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba from 4am Saturday 3 October will need to self-isolate for 2 weeks as the countries are removed from the [travel exemptions list](#).

At the same time, from tomorrow (Friday 2 October) the penalties issued to people who breach self-isolation after returning from a non-exempt country will increase.

The penalties, which mirror those recently announced for those breaching self-isolation following a positive COVID test or contact from Test & Trace, will now increase incrementally for repeat offenders – rising from £1,000 for first offences up to £10,000 for subsequent offences.

Data from the Joint Biosecurity Centre and Public Health England has indicated a significant change in both the level and pace of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Poland, Bonaire, and St Eustatius and Saba, leading to ministers removing these from the current list of travel corridors.

A range of factors are taken into account when deciding to remove a country from the exemption list, including the continued increase of coronavirus within a country, the numbers of new cases, information on a country's testing capacity, testing regime and test positivity rate and potential trajectory of the disease in the coming weeks.

The Turkish Health Ministry has said it has been defining the number of new COVID-19 cases in a different way to the definition used by international organisations such as WHO and ECDC, meaning that the JBC's risk assessment for Turkey has been updated to reflect the likely impact of this on the data for incidence and test positivity rates.

Data from Poland shows a 66% increase in the weekly incidence (cases) per 100,000, rising from 14.7 on 23 September to 24.4 on 30 September. Test positivity for Poland has nearly doubled in a week, increasing from 3.9% to 5.8% too.

Data shows there has been a consistent increase in newly reported cases in Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba over the past 2 weeks with a 740% increase in newly reported cases from 5 between 10-16 September to 42 between 24-30 September.

At the same time, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) has updated its [travel advice](#) to advise against all but essential travel to Poland and Turkey. The FCDO already advises against all but essential travel to Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba.

The government has made consistently clear it will take decisive action if necessary to contain the virus, including removing countries from the travel corridors list rapidly if the public health risk of people returning from a particular country without self-isolating becomes too high.

People currently in Turkey, Poland, Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba are encouraged to follow the local rules and check the [FCDO travel advice pages](#) for further information. The government is urging employers to be understanding of those returning from these destinations who now will need to [self-isolate](#).

Covid-19 has profoundly changed the nature of international travel. Travellers should always check the latest advice from the FCDO, given the potential for changing coronavirus infection rates to affect both the advice about travelling to other countries and rules about self-isolation on return. All travellers, including those from exempt destinations, will still be required to show a complete passenger locator form on arrival into the UK unless they fall into a small group of exemptions.