

UPDATE 1 November 2021

(The TIER updates are not as frequent now.)

Tourism Alliance Coronavirus Update – 1 November

- **Paying Back SEISS**

HMRC has published an online checking service to help people who may have to pay back some of their SEISS grant. This is of particular relevance to people who have received a letter from HMRC recently saying that they may need to pay back some or all of the grant they received or have realised that they have made a mistake in one of their claims.

<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-need-to-pay-back-a-self-employment-income-support-scheme-grant/pay-back>

- **Adherence to Self-Isolation Rules**

ONS has published another wave of their tracker on how well people are adhered to the rules when testing positive for Covid. The good news is that 78% of people said that they fully adhered to the requirements throughout their self-isolation period – a figure that has remained pretty consistent over the last four months. However that still means that 22% of people carried out at least one activity during self-isolation that is not allowed such as leaving the home or having visitors for reasons not permitted under legislation.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandselfisolationaftertestingpositiveinengland/27septemberto2october2021>

- **'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough' and 'Suffolk' Receiving Enhanced Support**

The general public guidance on coronavirus has been updated to say that 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough' and 'Suffolk' local authority areas are now receiving enhanced support due to a rise on the number of cases of coronavirus in those areas, meaning that people and businesses in those areas should take special care in operating in a covid secure manner. These are the first Local Authority Areas to receive enhanced support since the end of August.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

- **Bespoke Testing For Jobs With Travel Exemptions**

The guidance for people with travel exemption has been updated to advise people with an exemption that they will now receive text reminders from Gov.uk telling them to follow their bespoke testing programme. The text will be sent from + 44 (0)7984 404 870 but this might display as coming from a different number if they've left the UK or have a non-UK phone number.

In a tourism context, people with travel exemptions include those in the coach, airline and cruise sectors.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bespoke-testing-regimes-for-exempt-groups>

- **Guidance for Visa Applicants And Temporary Visitors Updated**

This guidance has been updated to reflect the removal of travel restrictions. Temporary Visitors are advised to return home now that there are no Red countries but it acknowledged that those that have not been able to do so and have a visa, leave or 'exceptional assurance' that expires before 30 November 2021 may request additional time to stay. It also acknowledged that there will be cases

where people may be unable to return to a country or territory listed as green where that nation has closed their borders or where quarantine facilities are temporarily over-subscribed. In these circumstances, people can also request 'exceptional assurance'.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

- Insurance For Travel To Switzerland

The guidance on insurance needs for travel to Switzerland has been updated to say that people can only use their GHIC or EHIC in Switzerland if they are a:

- o UK national
- o Swiss national
- o citizen of the EU
- o refugee
- o stateless person
- o dependant or survivor of someone with one of these nationalities or statuses

So people outside these categories, such as non-EU nationals with indefinite leave to remain in the UK ,can use their GHIC or EHIC when in the EU but not in Switzerland.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance#travel-to-the-EU-and-Switzerland>