

Message

From: Mark Drakeford (Ministerial) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=844EDF8FE30146B195193DFEC3E73FFB-DRAKEFORD,]
Sent: 26/07/2021 15:22:48
To: PS FirstMinister (Ministerial) [ps.firstminister@gov.wales]
Subject: Re: Note to POs re EU and US vaccinated

I think my reaction is as it has been throughout: that the risks from international travel remain real, and that the UKG's approach is not proportionate to that risk. The recent Beta variant concerns in France are surely enough to warn of the risks of treating all EU countries as if they were in the same position. We will, once again, be in the position of having to follow what is decided, but I think we should continue to voice our reservations and concerns.

Thanks

Mark

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From: PS FirstMinister (Ministerial) <PS.FirstMinister@gov.wales>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 4:03:55 PM
To: Mark Drakeford (Ministerial) <Mark.Drakeford614@gov.wales>
Cc: PS FirstMinister (Ministerial) <PS.FirstMinister@gov.wales>
Subject: FW: Note to POs re EU and US vaccinated

FM to see the note below in relation to those traveling from EU and US to UK

Officials have asked if you have a view on the 4 points below?

Beth

From: Bateman, Bethan (OFM - European Transition) <Bethan.Bateman@gov.wales>
Sent: 23 July 2021 16:00
To: PS Minister Health & Social Services <PSMHSS@gov.wales>; PS FirstMinister (Ministerial) <PS.FirstMinister@gov.wales>; [NR] (PSG - Recovery and Restart) <[NR]@gov.wales>
Cc: Lalley, Liz (PSG - Recovery and Restart) <Liz.Lalley@gov.wales>; Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director) <Reg.Kilpatrick@gov.wales>; Jenkins, Clare (OFM - Special Adviser) <Clare.Jenkins010@gov.wales>; PS Chief Medical Officer <PSChiefMedicalOfficer@gov.wales>; [NR] (HSS - Workforce & OD) <[NR]@gov.wales>; Giudice, Carla (HSS - Mental Health, NHS Governance and Corporate Services) <Carla.Giudice001@gov.wales>; Daniels, Jo-anne (HSS - Mental Health, NHS Governance and Corporate Services) <Jo-Anne.Daniels@gov.wales>; Brunt, Huw (HSS - DHP Public Health Protection) <Huw.Brunt@gov.wales>; [NR] (EPS - SED) <[NR]@gov.wales>; [NR] (HSS - DHP Public Health Protection) <[NR]@gov.wales>; Trott, Jo (Project Team - C19) <Jo.Trott@gov.wales>; [NR] (ESNR - Rural Economy & Legislation) <[NR]@gov.wales>
Subject: Note to POs re EU and US vaccinated

[Name Redacted] for the attention of the First Minister and Minister for Health and Social Services,

With thanks to [NR] for his drafting, this note is to flag the further developments on liberalising international travel that are likely to be brought forward by the UKG next week.

We expect the proposal will be implement reduced requirements for those fully vaccinated in the EU and US upon arrival in England. This is expected to be discussed by Covid-O on 28 July with a coming into force date possibly as soon as 2 August.

We are pressing to receive more details of what is being proposed and full engagement with us prior to any decision. However, indications are that the same relaxations as recently implemented for those fully vaccinated in the UK upon arrival from amber countries (i.e. pre-departure and Day 2 PCR tests, with no requirements for a Day 8 PCR test and self-isolation) are envisaged. If this is the proposal, key points are:

1. In the EU, the European Medicines Agency has so far approved the same four vaccines as the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has in the UK and in the US the Food and Drug Administration has approved the same – excluding AZ.
2. The EU has a digital COVID certificate which provides proof that a person has been vaccinated, has received a negative test result, or has recovered from Covid. The certificate displays the information which would be needed to determine that a person has been fully vaccinated under our definition (full dosage +14 days).
3. There are various state-level arrangements for certifying vaccination in the US and evidence of vaccine status would be paper-based (Covid Vaccine Cards). This presents a high risk of fraud and so far the UKG appears to have only identified linking the policy to evidence of US citizenship / residence as a measure to limit such fraud.
4. The UKG will not have electronic systems in place to check documents, nor Border Force capacity to do any more than spot checks without generating unacceptably long queues. Therefore, responsibility for checking vaccine certification will – as currently for those vaccinated in the UK – be placed on carriers.

Further briefing will be provided for the Covid-O meeting following our review of a paper (not yet received) and formal advice will follow that. We have commissioned public health advice to inform this which will be developed as more details become known.

We would appreciate receiving any initial views on the proposal and are on standby to discuss as needed.

Best wishes

NR

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth adfer ac Ailgychwyn ar ôl Covid | [Covid Recovery and Restart Directorate](#)
Llywodraeth Cymru | [Welsh Government](#)