

**Infectious Diseases Control (Coronavirus, Quarantine) Regulations 2021
(S. R. & O. No. 1 of 2021)**

Quarantine Exemptions Direction No. 6

Background

In accordance with regulation 17 of the Infectious Diseases Control (Coronavirus, Quarantine) Regulations 2021, the Chief Medical Officer has reviewed the requirements of those Regulations. She has reported the outcome of her review and in her opinion change is required.

I am satisfied that the risk of persons arriving by air from the United Kingdom spreading coronavirus has significantly reduced because the incidence of the disease in the United Kingdom has significantly reduced in recent weeks. The roll-out of the vaccination programme across the United Kingdom is also a consideration. Vaccination, among other benefits, reduces the infectiousness of a vaccinated individual who becomes ill with the virus.

Further, all south-bound air passengers and air crew must possess a valid notification of a negative test result for coronavirus, taken within 5 days before the date of actual departure as a condition of carriage by Air Tanker Services Limited. A person exhibiting symptoms of the disease or who has tested positive is not permitted to board the flight. The airline has implemented social distancing policies and the requirement for passengers to wear face coverings. These measures reduce the likelihood of infected or infectious persons arriving in the Falkland Islands by air. There are no other air passenger carriers operating routes to the Falkland Islands at this time.

The risk to persons living and working in the Falkland Islands of serious illness or death resulting from the transmission of coronavirus infection is also significantly reduced as over 95% of the resident adult population of the Falkland Islands and over 1,000 members of the current population at Mount Pleasant Complex have completed the full course of vaccination against coronavirus. The effect of high vaccination coverage is a significant reduction both in the risk of community transmission and in the risk that a vaccinated individual who becomes infected will need hospital care. The potential impact of a community outbreak on our health service is very significantly reduced.

Finally, our health service has developed a robust and effective test and trace policy for persons in quarantine that has been effective in identifying potentially infected travellers and their immediate contacts. The health and emergency services departments of the Falkland Islands Government have worked well with British Forces South Atlantic Islands to respond efficiently and effectively to minor local outbreaks of disease.

In the circumstances, I am satisfied that the period of quarantine can be safely reduced for those arriving by air from the United Kingdom who test negative for coronavirus on day 2 and day 8 of quarantine and for children under the age of 6 who are in quarantine with them.

Direction

In accordance with regulation 11(3) of the Infectious Diseases Control (Coronavirus, Quarantine) Regulations 2021 (“the Regulations”) I, Nigel James Philips C.B.E., direct that —

1. Persons who arrive by air from the United Kingdom on or after 3 June 2021 and are of a description specified in paragraph 2 are not required to comply with the requirements in Part 3

of the Regulations for the remainder of the period of quarantine that would otherwise apply to them under regulation 9.

2. Paragraph 1 applies to —

(a) a person aged 6 years or over who —

(i) on or before the end of the second day after the day of arrival in the Falkland Islands has a negative result for a test for coronavirus administered by the King Edward Memorial Hospital and all other persons on the same flight had a negative result for a test for coronavirus within the same period; and

(ii) on the eighth day after the day of arrival in the Falkland Islands, has a negative result for a test for coronavirus administered by the King Edward Memorial Hospital and all other persons staying in the same place of quarantine as the person also had a negative result for a test for coronavirus on the same occasion; or

(b) a person who is a child aged less than 6 years, if a person who has responsibility for the child and with whom the child is in quarantine meets the requirements in subparagraph (a).

27 May 2021



N. J. PHILLIPS C.B.E.,
Governor.