

CLINICAL UPDATE

4th January 2021

Guidance on the investigation and management of COVID-19 in travellers returning from South Africa and their household contacts.

Introduction

Similar to the Denmark COVID-19 strain and now following the identification of a specific strain of COVID-19 having originated in South Africa during October 2020, further specific actions are recommended for individuals admitted to hospital with relevant travel or contact exposure.

From 24th December 2020, only British nationals, residents, and hauliers are permitted entry into the UK from South Africa and they, along with their households, are required to self-isolate for 10 days.

Household contacts should self-isolate for 10 days from the day the traveller returns to the household within their isolation period, irrespective of when they were last in South Africa.

This guidance applies in England.

Action to be taken

Patients can still and should access emergency NHS services due to COVID-19 symptoms or for other, non-COVID reasons.

- Anyone presenting with COVID-19 symptoms should be asked about recent travel to South Africa or whether they are a household contact of a returning traveller.
- Please record information on date and place of travel, any contact with confirmed cases of COVID-19.

- Please **pre-alert** the receiving Emergency Department indicating the patient has either COVID-19 symptoms and/or has a recent link to South Africa travel (as above); as regardless of the reason for their presentation, any individual with a history of travel to South Africa in the preceding 10 days, or their household contact, should immediately be isolated in a single room with en-suite bathroom facilities and tested for COVID-19 on arrival.
- If the patient is well and can stay at home, the clinician will remind the patient of the need to self-isolate. Please enter key word “**#TRAVEL**” on the CAD notes through the MDT to ensure the ambulance service can log and meet the requirement to provide details of the patient to PHE. Please note that the latest guidance is that if not suitable for self-care at home, the patient must go with a pre-alert to ED and not be referred to alternative care pathway.

Personal Protective Equipment and Cleaning of equipment/vehicles.

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Please continue to follow the Trusts current PPE and vehicle cleaning schedules in line with COVID-19 as there is no requirement to alter PPE (Level 2 or Level 3 for AGP) for identified travellers.

Further information can be found by following the hyperlink:

<https://ntk.eastamb.nhs.uk/news/covid-19-homepage.htm>

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Title of document, continued