



## GLAA Brief

Issue 66 – October 2020

Covid19, worker self-isolation and seasonal agricultural workers

**This Brief publishes the latest guidance on workers travelling to the UK and self-isolation due to coronavirus.**

### Introduction

Due to the current pandemic, it is imperative that we all ensure we are taking precautions to minimise the spread of Covid19. This Brief aims to reiterate the Government's position regarding travelling to the UK and self-isolation upon arrival in the UK and provide the GLAA's advice regarding best practice when recruiting temporary workers who have travelled from abroad seeking employment.

### Current Government self-isolation guidance

The Government's current position is that anyone travelling to the UK from any country must provide their journey and contact details using the online passenger locator form<sup>1</sup> before travelling to the UK. They must also self-isolate for the first 14 days after arrival in the UK at the address they have provided on the passenger locator form, unless they are from an exempt country, i.e. the travel corridor<sup>2</sup>. It is extremely important that the person self-isolating remains within the declared accommodation for 14 days as it can take up to 14 days for any coronavirus symptoms to develop.

Anyone self-isolating should stay away from others, including those in their household, unless they have travelled to the UK together. They must not have visitors unless they are providing emergency assistance, care or medical assistance, veterinary services or critical public services. They should not be going out to work where they have a job, or to look for work. It is important they avoid as much contact as possible with other people, including those living at the same address.

### Seasonal Agricultural Workers

Government guidance provides some exemptions to the self-isolation rules. However, those that come under the exemption still need to follow the same guidance as people who live in the UK<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

<sup>3</sup> England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>;

Northern Ireland: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>

The seasonal agricultural workers exemption applies to those workers who have already been offered employment to undertake seasonal work and specific activities in edible horticulture on a named farm. Before travelling to the UK, they will need to complete the passenger locator form. Upon arrival in the UK they must go immediately to the farm where they have been offered employment. They can start work immediately but they must self-isolate on the farm for 14 days. Following this period, they will need to follow the advice for seasonal agricultural workers coming to England to work on farms<sup>4</sup>.

Workers from the EU should show a letter from their employer when they arrive at the UK border confirming they will be employed as a seasonal worker. Workers from outside the EU should show their visa at the border as usual.

### Best practice advice for GLAA licence holders

We are aware that some workers have been arriving in the UK and not self-isolating for the 14-day period as advised. Instead they have been travelling to recruitment agencies looking for work in the GLAA regulated sectors. This practice increases the risk of transmission of Covid19 and goes against Government guidance. Anyone refusing to self-isolate could be fined up to £1000 or face further action.

The GLAA advises all licence holders, that where you have individuals arriving on your premises looking for work, you should determine when they arrived in the UK and from which country. If they have not travelled from a country within the travel corridor, then they should be in self-isolation for a period of 14 days. This is to protect everyone they encounter, including you and your staff, from the potential risk of becoming infected with Covid19. In these instances, the worker should be advised of the self-isolation guidance and told to return to their declared address and self-isolate for 14 days. They should not remain on your premises for any longer than necessary. Once the 14-day self-isolation period is over, the worker is at liberty to return to your agency for recruitment.

The GLAA may consider any instances where workers who should be isolating have been allowed to register for work during the isolation period as a breach of Licensing Standard 1.1. We will also report such circumstances to the appropriate Authorities; this may be your local Authority and/or the Police for further investigation.

### Further information

1. If you have any further queries, please contact the GLAA helpline on 0345 602 5020 or email [licensing@gla.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@gla.gov.uk).
2. For the latest news and updates from the GLAA:



Twitter: [@UK\\_Glaa](https://twitter.com/UK_Glaa)



facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheGLAA>

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Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Wales: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coming-to-the-uk-for-seasonal-agricultural-work-on-english-farms>