



Note No A235/21

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office presents its compliments to all diplomatic missions, consulates and international organisations and has the honour to provide further details of Her Majesty's Government's precautionary action following the designation by the World Health Organisation of the new Omicron COVID-19 variant, which is currently under investigation by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

The Prime Minister has announced new measures in response to the Omicron variant, including the requirement to wear face coverings in shops and on public transport; for self-isolation for contacts of suspected Omicron cases, including for those who are fully-vaccinated; and for all international travellers arriving in the UK to take PCR tests on or before the end of the second day after their arrival. The new variant includes a large number of potentially biologically significant mutations which may change the behaviour of the virus with regard to vaccines, treatments and transmissibility. Protocol Directorate, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, asks all members of diplomatic missions, consulates and international organisations to comply with all relevant public health requirements including taking a PCR test by the end of the second day after their arrival into the UK, and to self-isolate until they have a negative result, irrespective of eligibility for formal exemption from this requirement.

At 0400 on 28 November Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Angola were added to the travel red list. South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe and Namibia were added at 1200 on 26 November. The requirements for travellers arriving from red list countries remain that all travellers, including diplomats and their dependants who have been in these countries in the last 10 days, must quarantine at home for 10 days.

Protocol Directorate assures diplomatic missions, consulates and international organisations that application of these regulations is without prejudice to any immunity from jurisdiction or inviolability that an individual might enjoy otherwise than by the operation of the regulations.

For more detailed information to support understanding and implementation of all of the current COVID-19-related regulations, diplomatic missions, consulates and international organisations should continue to refer to Her Majesty's Government's guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all diplomatic missions, consulates and international organisations the assurances of its highest consideration.



FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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