

UPDATED TRAVEL RESTRICTION GUIDELINES FOR ALL TRAVELLERS FROM COUNTRIES WITH CONFIRMED COVID-19 B117 STRAIN (SARS-COV-2 VARIANT DETECTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM)

Pursuant to the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary re: Additional Measures to be Observed Relative to the SARS-COV-2 Variant First Detected in the United Kingdom dated 05 January 2021, the following updated travel restrictions are hereby implemented, *to wit*:

I. Inclusion of Portugal, India, Finland, Norway, Jordan, and Brazil among the countries/jurisdictions subject to travel restrictions

- A. Foreign passengers coming from or who have been to Portugal, India, Finland, Norway, Jordan, and Brazil within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines shall be prohibited from entering the country effective 0001H, 08 January 2021 Manila time until 15 January 2021;**
- B. Effective immediately, foreign passengers coming from, or who have been to the aforesaid countries/jurisdictions within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, arriving before 0001H of 08 January 2021 Manila time, shall not be prohibited from entering the Philippines but shall be required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine period notwithstanding a negative Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) result;**
- C. Likewise effective immediately, Filipino citizens coming from, or who have been to the aforesaid countries/jurisdictions within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, including those arriving after 0001H of 08 January 2021 Manila time, shall not be prohibited from entering the country, but shall be required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine period notwithstanding a negative RT-PCR result; and**
- D. Filipino and foreign passengers merely transiting through the aforesaid countries/jurisdictions shall be covered by the rules as provided in paragraph II of the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 31 December 2020.**



For immigration concerns, you may contact:

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II. Rules on incoming unaccompanied minor Filipino passengers

- A. **Effective 0001H 08 January 2021, all unaccompanied minor Filipino citizens coming from countries/jurisdictions where travel restrictions are in place** on account of the UK variant pursuant to the directives of this Office, shall **not be allowed entry until 15 January 2021, except if such minors are returning through the repatriation program** of the national government. The repatriated minors shall be turned over to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration house parent who, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall ensure the minors' safety and their observance of quarantine protocols.
- B. All unaccompanied minor Filipino citizens who are not part of the repatriation program of the national government, arriving prior to 0001H 08 January 2021, shall be turned over to an authorized DSWD officer who can similarly ensure their safety and observance of quarantine protocols.

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IN VIEW THEREOF, please be advised of the following supplementary guidelines in Immigration Arrival Formalities:

I. For arriving **FLIPINO NATIONALS**

- A. Subject to the rule on unaccompanied minors below, all Filipino citizens shall be allowed entry.

B. Unaccompanied minors

1. **Effective 0001H 08 January 2021 until 15 January 2021, all unaccompanied minors from travel-restricted countries¹** shall not be allowed entry except those who are part of the repatriation program of the national government, who shall be turned over to OWWA and the DSWD upon arrival in the Philippines;
2. Effective immediately, **all unaccompanied minors who are arriving from travel-restricted countries prior to 0001H 08 January 2021** shall be allowed entry and turned over to the DSWD;
3. Effective immediately, **all unaccompanied minors from non-travel-restricted countries** shall be allowed entry.



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All Filipino citizens allowed entry shall be subject to RT-PCR test, quarantine and isolation protocols issued by the DOH.

II. For arriving FOREIGN NATIONALS

- Those coming from or who have been to the 27 travel-restricted countries¹**(i.e. with immigration admission to said countries and not mere lay-over at the airport), within 14 days immediately preceding arrival to the Philippines shall **NOT be allowed entry**.

The above prohibition to enter the Philippines shall apply to ALL foreigners regardless of their visa category, or previously issued endorsement or exemption from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) / privileges (under RA6768/Balikbayan) during the duration of the travel ban, **except those covered by IATF-MEID Resolution No. 92 series of 2021²**.

- Those who (a) **transited** or who have a mere lay-over at the airport of **the 27 travel-restricted countries** (lay-over only at the airport and with no immigration admission at said countries); and (b) those **NOT coming from** these countries may be allowed entry, **PROVIDED** they are **authorized to enter** the country **thru relevant resolutions of the IATF-MEID** and **subject to RT-PCR test, quarantine and isolation protocols issued by the DOH**.

Existing guidelines for arriving crew member/s shall still be observed.

All of the foregoing is without prejudice to the exercise of the mandate of the Bureau of Immigration in Arrival and Departure Formalities.

¹UPDATED SUMMARY OF TRAVEL-RESTRICTED COUNTRIES

1	United Kingdom of Great Britain	15	Singapore
2	Denmark	16	Sweden
3	Ireland	17	South Korea
4	Japan	18	South Africa
5	Australia	19	Canada
6	Israel	20	Spain
7	The Netherlands	21	United States of America
8	Hong Kong, SAR	22	Portugal
9	Switzerland	23	India
10	France	24	Finland
11	Germany	25	Norway
12	Iceland	26	Jordan
13	Italy	27	Brazil
14	Lebanon		*effective 0001H, 08 January 2021 until 15 January 2021



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²EXEMPTED IN TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS PURSUANT TO IATF-MEID RESOLUTION NO. 92 SERIES OF 2021

- a. Local/accredited foreign diplomats and international organizations such as World Health Organization and United Nations [9(e) visa holders **or** diplomatic/official/regular passport holder with valid 9(a) visa and DFA authorization]
- b. Foreign dignitaries [with DFA authorization]
- c. Those for medical and emergency cases, including their medical escorts, if any [with valid 9(a) visa and DFA authorization]



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