

## PJA ADVICE / BHA & GOVERNMENT PROTOCOLS FOR RIDING IN FRANCE

As at Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Anyone planning to ride in France should familiarise themselves with these travel and quarantine requirements for both travel to France and return to the United Kingdom. Please note that you must apply to the BHA for Elite Athlete Exemption **BEFORE** travelling to France if you wish to return immediately to sport specific training and competition in Britain, without any isolation period. Full details of this process are outlined below.

### FRENCH GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

If a jockey wishes to ride in France (an Amber list country), **as it currently stands all arrivals into France from the UK need to self-isolate for seven full days on arrival**. Different criteria apply to those travelling into France from within the EU. Full guidance can be found at

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

Before travelling, you must have a negative PCR test within 72 hours of your arrival into France – often called a Fit-To-Fly certificate. You must also complete a Sworn Statement, a template for which can be found at:

<https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Actualites/L-actu-du-Ministere/Certificate-of-international-travel>

### FRANCE GALOP REQUIREMENTS

The complete French protocols can be found at [https://www.france-galop.com/sites/default/files/travel\\_to\\_france\\_march\\_21.pdf](https://www.france-galop.com/sites/default/files/travel_to_france_march_21.pdf). You need to inform France Galop of your intention to ride in advance and must provide France Galop with the following, in advance of Jockey Declarations:

1. Your intended date of riding, the race and the name of the horse(s) you intend to ride.
2. A copy of your Sworn Statement
3. A copy of your negative PCR Test / Fit to Fly certificate.
4. A copy of your BHA Clearance (which can be obtained from the Clerk of the Scales following your last ride prior to travelling).

You should send France Galop the above information/documents by emailing [santejockeys@france-galop.com](mailto:santejockeys@france-galop.com), [sdesplanches@france-galop.com](mailto:sdesplanches@france-galop.com) and [blemasson@france-galop.com](mailto:blemasson@france-galop.com).

## **BHA & UK GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS**

In advance of travelling, you need to complete a BHA Elite Athlete Exemption.

The full BHA Elite Athlete Exemption protocol can be accessed at [http://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/covid19/Requirements\\_GB\\_personnel\\_returning\\_Nonexempt\\_Countries\\_England.pdf](http://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/covid19/Requirements_GB_personnel_returning_Nonexempt_Countries_England.pdf) and the Elite Athlete Exemption application form can be found at <https://www.cognitofirms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/DomesticEliteAthleteExemptionEngland>.

There are two layers of testing required which then permit participants returning from Amber countries like France to return to sport specific training and competition without any isolation period. For Green and Red Countries UKGov rules apply and there is no EAE currently.

1. UK Government testing requires a test prior to return to the UK and on or before Day 2 and one on or after Day 8. These must be booked through accredited providers. To then move out of home quarantine before 10 days a separate Test to Release test on Day 5 is required. Many of these tests are postal and the return can be up to 4 days.
2. Racing Industry/BHA Testing as part of the Elite Athlete Exemption protocol requires daily supervised Lateral Flow Tests for 10 days from and including the day of return. These can be undertaken face to face in an NHS Community Testing Centre or at home using a supervised video consultation model. These are in addition to the UK Government tests above and the combination allows granting of an EAE and the lifting of isolation requirements for the purpose of sport specific training and competition.

On arrival back to the UK, when not doing sport specific training/competition individuals must otherwise quarantine as per UK Government guidelines and must not car share to course.

Jockeys can still go to France to ride if they don't want to sign up to the BHA's Elite Athlete Exemption Scheme, but would need to complete UK Government requirements so could not ride here until completing self-isolation. They must also complete this Overseas Racing Notification form before they will be allowed back on course:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/OverseasRacingNotification>

**You should book all your testing in advance of travelling to ensure you avoid any delays to testing or missing required tests.**

Aside from testing (including the pre-travel test) and travellers must complete a [Passenger Locator Form](#) and importantly tests should be booked in good time to allow delivery of kits to the correct address. Forward planning is key here.



The BHA has secured discounted testing rates with two providers – CHB Medical and Qured, and details are attached. With respect to the Qured Test there is a discount code **JOCKEY18** that can be applied for an 18% discount. The CHB Medical discount codes are on the attached flyer.

#### [COVID-19 Swab PCR Home Test Kits – CHB Medical](#)

#### [Qured Covid-19 tests & prescriptions delivered to your door](#)

There are of course many other providers of testing so travellers are at liberty to source their own tests and do not have to use the attached if there are equivalent providers elsewhere. The relevant UK Government pages can be found here:

General Guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england>

List of Day 2&8 Accredited Testing Providers - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providers-of-day-2-and-day-8-coronavirus-testing-for-international-arrivals>

**Please note that any Elite Athlete Exemption is rendered void if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and identified as a close contact during travel and required to isolate.** Through the BHA we have been able to appeal a small number of these isolation orders.

**Please also note that UK Government travel advice changes frequently and travellers must check each time before they travel both for entering their destination country and the return to the UK.**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact a member of the PJA Team or Dr Jerry Hill at the BHA.