

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

**As at Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Travel to France from the UK is currently prohibited and we have been advised that there are no sporting exemptions in place. Therefore UK based Jockeys cannot ride in France at this time, and the below advice is not currently valid.

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

**As at Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

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 relevant BHA scheme **BEFORE** travelling to France if you wish to return immediately to sport specific training and competition in Britain, without any isolation period. Details of what is needed are outlined below.

**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.

This document is split into two sections. Please visit the section relevant to your vaccination status:

- A. [FULLY UK VACCINATED](#):** This means 14 whole days after final dose of an approved vaccine.
- B. [UK UNVACCINATED](#)**

## A. FULLY UK VACCINATED

### French Government Requirements

Full details including links to the relevant forms are available at <https://uk.ambafrance.org/COVID-19-rules-for-travel-to-France-and-the-UK>

France currently classifies the United Kingdom as an "Amber" category. If you are vaccinated you must:

- Provide proof of your Covid Vaccination Status. This can be obtained from the NHS App or via the following link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/>
- complete a Sworn Statement, a template for which can be found at <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/content/download/128267/1023690/file/09-06-2021-engagement-sur-l-honneur-orange-version-anglaise.docx>

### 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 Vaccination Status (Covid Pass).
4. A copy of your BHA Clearance. This involves:  
Contacting [BHA licensing](#) in advance of the jockey declaration deadline so a clearance can be sent to France Galop on the first occasion you travel that season (please do this in good time)  
AND  
Obtain a racecourse clearance after your last ride here from Clerk of the Scales and present to French Clerk of the Scales on arrival.

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

UK Government Rules change regularly and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england#amber-list-rules>

BHA guidance and forms can be accessed here



[https://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/covid19/BHA\\_Covid\\_19\\_Participant\\_International\\_Travel\\_Requirements.pdf](https://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/covid19/BHA_Covid_19_Participant_International_Travel_Requirements.pdf)

- Complete a [BHA Open Traveller form](#). Once accepted on the scheme, you need to provide the BHA with a copy of the Passenger Locator Form for each journey you take and your Day 2 Test result ([abaker@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:abaker@britishhorseracing.com) and [medical@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:medical@britishhorseracing.com)).
- For each journey to France, Government requires travellers to:
  - Have a negative test taken within three days of your return to England. (The service on which you will arrive back in the UK must set off for the UK within 3 days of when you took the test).
  - book and take a Day 2 Test through an accredited provider (must be booked before returning to England).
  - Complete a [Passenger Locator Form](#) (your form should state that you are travelling using fully UK vaccinated status and using government testing for your journey to France (day-2 test) and not state that it is for a sports status or specific exempt reason).

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

## B. UK UNVACCINATED

### French Government Requirements

Full details including links to the relevant forms are available at <https://uk.ambafrance.org/COVID-19-rules-for-travel-to-France-and-the-UK>

The United Kingdom is currently in the "Amber" category. France has different vaccination rules and entry criteria for arrivals fully vaccinated against Covid and those unvaccinated.

**If you are vaccinated (and in France, vaccinated means 7 days after your second injection of a two-dose vaccine such as the AstraZeneca or Pfizer or Moderna vaccine) you must:**

- Provide proof of your Covid Vaccination Status. This can be obtained from the NHS App or via the following link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/>
- complete a Sworn Statement, a template for which can be found at <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/content/download/128267/1023690/file/09-06-2021-engagement-sur-l-honneur-orange-version-anglaise.docx>

**If you are not vaccinated (including if you only have had one injection or less than 7 days since your second injection):**

- you can only travel to France if you have pressing grounds for travel. The list of pressing grounds is set out in the certificate of international travel drawn up by the Ministry of the Interior.
- each traveller aged 12 years or older must present a negative PCR or rapid antigen test (Lateral Flow Test) taken less than 24 hours before departure. This test cannot be a self-test or NHS Test
- complete a Sworn Statement, a template for which can be found at <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/content/download/128267/1023690/file/09-06-2021-engagement-sur-l-honneur-orange-version-anglaise.docx>
- you may be subject to a random test when you arrive in France.
- you must pledge to self-isolate for 7 days.

### 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:**

5. Your intended date of riding, the race and the name of the horse(s) you intend to ride.
6. A copy of your Sworn Statement
7. A copy of your negative PCR Test / Fit to Fly certificate or Vaccination Status (Covid Pass).
8. A copy of your BHA Clearance. This involves:



Contacting [BHA licensing](#) in advance of the jockey declaration deadline so a clearance can be sent to France Galop on the first occasion you travel that season (please do this in good time)  
AND

Obtain a racecourse clearance after your last ride here from Clerk of the Scales and present to French Clerk of the Scales on arrival.

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**

UK Government Rules change regularly and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england#amber-list-rules>

BHA guidance and forms can be accessed here

[https://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/covid19/BHA\\_Covid\\_19\\_Participant\\_International\\_Travel\\_Requirements.pdf](https://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/covid19/BHA_Covid_19_Participant_International_Travel_Requirements.pdf)

- Apply for a [BHA Elite Athlete Exemption](#) at least 3 days before you travel. The BHA will notify you of acceptance and provide written evidence to this effect.
- There are two layers of testing required which then permit unvaccinated jockeys returning from Amber countries like France to return to sport specific training and competition without any isolation period.
  - UK Government requires you to quarantine for 10 days and testing is as follows:
    1. a negative test taken within three days of your return to England. (The service on which you will arrive back in the UK must set off for the UK within 3 days of when you took the test); and
    2. Two tests to be taken on or before Day 2 and on or after Day 8. These must be booked through accredited providers.
    3. To end 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.
  - 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.

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



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.

- Unvaccinated jockeys travelling using Elite Athlete Exemption must also complete a [Passenger Locator Form](#). (your form should state that you exempt from isolation as you are using Elite Sporting Exemption but that you are using government testing for your journey).
- 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 an [Overseas Racing Notification](#) form before they will be allowed back on course:

**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.