

News Release

April 27, 2021

OFWs exempt from UK's travel ban, advised to observe health protocol

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has advised Filipino workers traveling to the United Kingdom and Ireland to abide by the travel restrictions and health protocols of both countries.

Holders of work permit or work visa such as OFWs are permitted to enter UK even as it has included the Philippines to its Red List or the list of countries where entry of travellers who have been in the country in the previous 10 days is prohibited.

Before traveling to UK, OFWs must have a COVID-19 negative test result, taken 3 days before the travel and have a confirmed booking in a hotel approved by the UK government as quarantine facility.

The booking of the hotel can be made through the <https://quarantinehotelbookings.ctmportal.co.uk/>. The quarantine package cost around £1,750 per head, which covers transport from airport to the booked hotel, food, accommodation, and COVID-19 tests on the second and eighth day of the required quarantine.

OFWs must also accomplish a Passenger Locator Form, where details of the date of arrival, hotel where the OFW is staying, and booking reference, must be indicated.

Upon arrival to UK, OFWs are required to undergo a 10-day mandatory hotel quarantine and can only leave the facility with a negative test result from the eighth-day test and after he/she completed the full 10-day quarantine.

OFWs who tested positive or develop symptoms on the Day 9 or 10, despite having a negative test results, will need further testing and extended quarantine for 10 days.

Violators of the said protocols will be fined of £4,000 if anyone fail to arrange a quarantine package, while a fine of £10,000 or 10 years in prison will be imposed to violators who provide inaccurate details about the countries he/she visited in 10 days prior to arrival in UK.

Also, a penalty of £10,000 fine will be imposed to violators who will break the quarantine protocols.

On the other hand, OFWs traveling to Ireland are required to pre-book advance accommodation for mandatory hotel quarantine for at least 48 hours before the travel, even with a negative COVID-19 test results.

The list of approved designated facilities for mandatory hotel quarantine in Ireland can be accessed through this link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a6975-mandatory-hotel-quarantine/>.

The costs of quarantine that cover the accommodation, food, and COVID-19 tests, must be shouldered by the OFWs' respective deploying licensed Philippine recruitment agencies or principals/employers as provided in the POEA Memorandum Circular No. 1. Series of 2021. ###