

'Holiday in Wales' to defeat Covid urges health minister

The Health Minister, Eluned Morgan is encouraging people to holiday in Wales this summer, as the fight against the Covid-19 virus continues.

International travel for people in Wales restarted on Monday, May 17 and a traffic lights system, aligned with England and Scotland, is in place with countries, depending on their rates of Covid-19.

Mandatory quarantine is in place for all people returning to the UK from countries on the amber and red lists. All people returning from overseas travel must have a PCR test. People travelling overseas must also follow the rules of the countries they plan to visit.

Health minister Eluned Morgan said: "I know people are looking forward to a holiday after the year we have all had, but this is the year to holiday at home and enjoy everything Wales has to offer.

"I would encourage people to support local businesses in particular in the tourism and hospitality sector which have been hard hit by the pandemic.

"Travelling overseas is definitely not going to be the same as it was before the pandemic - everyone will need to take a test before they leave and when they return and some people will need to quarantine on their return to the UK."

She added: "We've all worked really hard to bring coronavirus under control in Wales; we need to do everything we can to prevent coronavirus from being re-imported into Wales from travel. Our strong advice to the public is to only travel overseas if it is essential."

The Welsh Government has announced residents of Wales can apply for a certificate of vacci-



The Health Minister, Eluned Morgan (inset), is encouraging people to holiday in Wales this summer as the fight against Covid-19 virus continues. Cardiganshire, Pembrokeshire and the west Wales coast is set for a bumper tourist season, with attractive locations such as Mwnt (pictured) set to become popular destinations for visitors in the 'year of the staycation.'

nation for urgent international travel, which allows them to prove they have received both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine.

People living in Wales can request a certificate only if:

- They have had both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine (they should wait five days after their second dose before requesting it)
- They urgently need to travel to a country which requires vaccine certification
- They are not able to either quarantine or provide tests to meet country entry requirements.

People can call 0300 303 5667 to request a vaccination certificate for urgent international travel only.

The minister added: "We have

put a system in place to receive a certificate of vaccination status for those who need to travel urgently. There is only a very limited number of countries you can travel to without quarantining and not many countries currently ask for vaccine status as proof to travel.

"If you really have to travel, please check if your destination requires proof of vaccination. A certificate will take seven to ten working days to arrive so please plan ahead but again we are asking everyone to please think carefully about travelling overseas."

The Welsh Government is working with the UK Government to enable citizens to use the NHS App to show their vaccination status.

A "paper-based vaccination status" is now available for people in Wales who have had two doses of vaccination and need to urgently travel to a country that requires proof of vaccination.

The Welsh government said residents must consult the requirements for visitors for any country they plan to travel to as restrictions may be in place - including proof of vaccination, tests, quarantine and reasons for entry.

First Minister Mark Drakeford said: Mr Drakeford said: "This is the year to take your holiday in Wales and foreign travel is best avoided." He has urged caution against "importing" coronavirus from other parts of the world.