

From: [Details supplied] on behalf of Chief Minister
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Dear Honourable Members

During my oral answer to Urgent Question 2 during the House of Keys Sitting on the 3rd November I committed to providing Honourable Members with information regarding two different points.

1. What are the rules for the Steam Packet regarding wearing masks

Hansard Ref 310

Ms Edge:

I am just really going to push the Chief Minister for an answer on my previous question with regard to masks and the Steam Packet. The response I got was that you would hope the Steam Packet are following the processes.

Is it not a responsibility of this Government to ensure that the Steam Packet and anybody who is operating services to the Island to protect our people, that we are checking what they are doing? Could the Chief Minister commit to making sure he checks what the process is on the UK side before anybody travels to the Isle of Man?

The Chief Minister:

I am more than happy to look into the rules and regulations on travel for the Steam Packet and ask for them to be circulated to Hon. Members. But it is not for Government, it is not for me to go around every individual business on the Isle of Man, or operating on the Isle of Man, to say you must wear masks if you are on the planes, etc. I expect them to follow the rules.

But obviously I will find out through our colleagues in either DOI or Treasury what the rules are for the Isle of Man Steam Packet on wearing masks. I am sure they are following the rules and regulations, but I will circulate what is expected of them.

I can confirm that the Steam Packet do have a face covering policy.

This is detailed on their website as below and can be accessed via the link:

https://www.steam-packet.com/information/coronavirus/FAQs? _SPCoWinID=46ece307-0816-4bfc-afe1-fb94f8586b98

DO I NEED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING OR MASK WHEN I TRAVEL WITH THE STEAM PACKET COMPANY?

From Monday the 15th of June all passengers* will be required to wear face masks or face coverings whilst in our UK Terminals or on board our vessels when travelling with us. The safety of our passengers and crew is our number one priority, and we ask that all customers arrive at our ports prepared and with their own face mask or face covering.

** Children under the age of 11 and individuals with a breathing condition, illness or disability that prevents or hinders them from wearing a face covering are exempt from this requirement.*

Here is some guidance from Public Health England on [how to wear and make a cloth face covering](#).

Additionally, all Crew working at the 'front of house' will be required to wear;

- Face Masks;
- Gloves (Recommended – Change at regular intervals).

I can confirm Steam Packet have not had many instances of passengers refusing to wear a facemask and were it is observed one of the crew will approach the passenger to politely enquire if they are aware of the requirement to wear a mask.

It has been their experience that people will do what others do, so when passengers see others wearing masks they will do so to. Also given the numbers of passengers that are currently travelling, there have plenty of room to be socially distanced from each other.

2. Are the travel notification documents open-ended or is there any date at which they are no use?

Hansard Ref 335

Mr Moorhouse:

Do we have the number of travel notification documents that are open? Are they open-ended or is there any date at which they simply are no use?

I have received a message this morning from an individual who has gone across, she has completed the documentation and she wonders if it is open-ended. It does not appear to be the case on the document that there is a final date when it has got to be used and they have got to apply for the return date.

The Chief Minister:

I am happy to seek advice on that. My belief is that it is open-ended once you have got the right, but there may be a time limit that I am not aware of. They are details I do not have, but I am more than happy to circulate all Hon. Members with confirmation of that.

In respect of entry certificates, I can confirm they are not time limited. However, the team do expect travel to be undertaken within 2-3 weeks of application, as by the nature of a compassionate application we would expect there to be a level of urgency.

I trust this information answers the question but if you have any questions or would like further information please let me know.

Kind regards
Howard

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