

## Media Release

**Date: 22 December 2021**

### States to no longer offer pre-travel PCR tests

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The States of Guernsey will no longer offer pre-travel PCR tests, however anyone who has already booked a test will still be able to have it.

Pre-travel PCR tests had been offered by the States at a cost of £83 per test, however no further bookings will be taken as we need to focus our resources on delivering other priority operational needs such as on-island and arrival testing.

Pre-travel testing clinics have been run using the PEH testing team with back up from the Welcome Team staff. While the teams will meet the existing demands based on those tests already booked in, it is currently operating under significant staffing pressure so a decision has been taken to stop this service with advance notice to travellers.

Should anyone need a negative pre-travel PCR test result before travelling abroad, Primary Care colleagues have also been providing this service in their own practices and will continue to do so. Additionally, UK hub airports and other private providers offer pre-travel testing.

Richard Evans, senior officer supporting the Covid-19 response team, said:

‘We know this decision will disappoint those who are intending to travel to countries that require a pre-travel negative PCR result, but we simply must focus our resources on the absolute priority areas and there are other avenues for travellers to get a pre-travel test. The UK Government no longer provides this service either, but we are aware that some UK airports do, along with other private providers and our colleagues in Primary Care also.

‘Like many in Guernsey, our teams have been hit hard by staff absences and as we plan ahead for the New Year, where we’re expecting cases to increase as a result of the Omicron variant, we need to focus on key priorities such as on-island testing for our community and the Welcome Team’s primary function of supporting travellers arriving in the island.

‘However, when taking this decision we were conscious that about 150 pre-travel PCR tests are already booked in over the next week or so. As such we’ve decided to deliver those already booked in but not accept any further bookings with immediate effect.’

Ends

## Notes to Media

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