

SEPTEMBER 2021



British Embassy
Paris

VOISINS VOICES

A BRITISH EMBASSY PARIS NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to the September edition of Voisins Voices! In this edition, we welcome Menna Rawlings, new British Ambassador to France – do watch her video embedded below. We also cover the 30 September deadline for applying for residency in France under the Withdrawal Agreement, updates to our Travel Advice, travel to the UK with an ID card, and our next online outreach meeting. As always, our online Living in France Guide has the most up to date information - please click on this [link to see](#) more detail and register to be notified of updates.

Do please forward this to any friends, family, or new acquaintances living in France. To get added to the distribution list, simply email France.Enquiries@fcdo.gov.uk or follow this [link and fill](#) in the form with your email address and name.

Menna Rawlings is the new British Ambassador to France

Welcome to Menna Rawlings, our new British Ambassador to France! She says: "I want to assure you that we at the Embassy will always represent you and your interests in this country."

Menna's two most recent roles before Paris were Director-General for Economic and Global Issues and British High Commissioner to Australia. Overseas, she has served in Washington DC, Accra, Tel Aviv, Nairobi and Brussels – you can read her full CV [here](#).



[Check out her video on our Facebook page](#) to hear more about her, what sparked her love for France and her message to UK Nationals living in France. Do also follow her on Twitter (@MennaRawlings) and Instagram (@mennarawlings). Menna will be joining our next Online Outreach on 7 September – see details further on.

Applying for Residency in France

The Withdrawal Agreement residency application portal is open until 30 September.

Don't delay - get your application in as soon as you can to protect your rights in France. You can add further information or supporting documents to your file if necessary at a later date – the key thing is to make the initial application in time. The earlier you apply, the better.



Do you have outstanding questions on residency? Here's our top three for this month:

I have applied but still not heard from the prefecture, or received my card. What should I do?

- Prefectures are working as hard as they can to process all applications. There are a lot to get through so please do be patient with them.
- The French Interior Ministry has assured us that everyone who has a reference number from their initial online application will get processed.
- If you applied several months ago, you can contact your Prefecture for an update, or indeed the [Interior Ministry directly](#) if you believe there could be a problem.
- However, please avoid changing your Prefecture appointment at all costs, and try to respond to Prefecture requests as soon as possible, and keep checking your spam. We know that individuals not responding and/or skipping appointments only slows down the process.

Will the date when cards become compulsory (1 October) change?

- We are seeking an answer from the French authorities on this point. As long as you have applied, it is the Prefecture's responsibility to process your file and discuss timings with the Interior Ministry.
- The key thing is to get in your application by 30 September 2021 at the latest. Do not delay.

What if I need support with my application?

- Get in contact with the UK Nationals' Support Fund partners now – their support will soon be starting to wind down, so get in touch before it's too late.
- As of 31 July 2021, the Support Fund project had reached just over 400,000 people across the board, with 20,000 having had their applications directly supported by a caseworker.
- UK nationals should consult the Living in France Guide on gov.uk. You can also access support and guidance available from the French government.

You will find contact details for all the UK Nationals' Support Fund organisations at the end of this newsletter, and you can also check out our past newsletters for a profile on each of them.

Travel Update



As of 8 July, **the FCDO no longer advises against non-essential travel to France**. France remains on the UK's amber list, but the recommendation for people to not travel to amber countries has now been removed. You should continue to check [FCDO travel advice](#) before booking travel. See below for details on travelling between the UK and France.

Current French Anti-Covid Measures

A “pass sanitaire” (or recent evidence of a negative test or recovery from Covid) is necessary for all adults to access a range of leisure facilities (bars, restaurants, museums, cinemas), hospitals, retirement homes and modes of transport such as long distance train and bus journeys and planes. From 30 September this will also apply to all over-12s. Facemasks remain obligatory in all public indoor areas. You can find more information on how to access the “pass sanitaire” (for those resident in France) or (for those visiting France) how to demonstrate that you are fully vaccinated in our [Travel Advice](#).

Travel to the UK from France

The UK Government confirmed that from 4am on 8 August, fully vaccinated travellers from France to England, Scotland and Northern Ireland will no longer need to self-isolate on arrival or take a day 8 test. [You can find all details here](#).

To benefit from this exemption, travellers will need to show proof of being fully vaccinated with one of the authorised vaccines before travel.

This proof could be:

- an EU Digital COVID Certificate (EU DCC) for Europe
- a CDC card for the USA – you'll also need to show proof of USA residency, such as your USA passport, visa or Green Card
- an NHS vaccine certificate

You must have had your final dose of the vaccine at least 14 days before you arrive in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Children under 18 who are resident in France (or the US or other EU countries) do not need to self-isolate or take a day 8 test if travelling from France to England, Scotland or Northern Ireland. They must follow the same rules as children and young people from the UK [which are available here](#).

If you cannot show proof of vaccination, you must follow the rules for those who are not fully vaccinated, including self-isolating for 10 days and taking a test on day 2 and day 8. [You can find more information about the rules for unvaccinated arrivals here](#). In England, you can use the [Test and Release scheme](#) to end quarantine early, if you take a test after 5 days.

All adult travellers (regardless of vaccination status) must:

- [Complete a passenger locator form](#)
- [Have proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 3 days of departure \(if 11 years or over\)](#)
- [Have booked a COVID-19 day 2 test](#)

Children 11 years or older need to complete a pre-departure test. All children over the age of 5 [need to complete a day 2 test](#).

Travellers also need to complete an attestation to justify leaving France. Returning to your country of residence or origin is permitted. [Full details here](#).

You may be denied boarding if you do not comply with these requirements, or fined if found to have broken the rules.

If you entered France from a red-listed country less than ten days before you arrive in England, then you will need to use [managed quarantine](#).

There are a small number of exemptions to these rules, which you can find [here](#).

In England, you can still use the Test and Release scheme to end quarantine early, [if you test negative after 5 days](#).

If you are travelling to Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, you can find specific information [here](#).

Travel to France from the UK

The UK is currently on the French amber list. [You can read more about what this means here.](#)

Travellers who are fully vaccinated do not need an essential reason to travel to France and do not need to self-isolate on arrival. Fully vaccinated adults no longer need to present evidence of a negative test result before travel, but do need the following documents:

- proof of vaccination status. If you live in England, France will accept the NHS app or your NHS letter to demonstrate your COVID-19 vaccination status. If you live in Scotland or Wales, France will accept your respective NHS letter to demonstrate your COVID-19 vaccination status. Your NHS appointment card from vaccination centres is not designed to be used as proof of vaccination and should not be used to demonstrate your vaccine status;
- a completed 'sworn statement' (déclaration sur l'honneur) form self-certifying they are not suffering from symptoms associated with coronavirus and have not been in contact with confirmed cases in the preceding fortnight. [This can be found on the French government's website.](#)

Children aged 12 years old or over who are travelling with a fully vaccinated adult are required to present a negative test result (PCR or antigen). However, they do not need to provide an essential reason for travel, nor do they need to self-isolate on arrival. Children aged 12 years old or over who are unvaccinated and travelling alone are subject to the same conditions adults who are not fully vaccinated. Children aged 11 years old or younger do not need to present a negative test result to travel.

Those travelling to France from the UK who are not fully vaccinated will only be permitted to travel for essential reasons (further explanations [here](#)).

They will also need:

- [a completed International Travel Certificate to confirm their essential reason for travel.](#) In exceptional circumstances, the French Consulate in London may be able to assist with travel for an essential reason not listed on the International Travel Certificate.
- a completed 'sworn statement' (déclaration sur l'honneur) form self-certifying they are not suffering from symptoms associated with coronavirus and have not been in contact with confirmed cases in the preceding fortnight, and that they will self-isolate for seven days after arrival. [This can be found on the French government's website.](#)
- (for those aged 11 or over) evidence of a negative test taken within 24 hours of departure.

And they will need to self-isolate for 7 days after arrival, then take another PCR test following this period of self-isolation. You can find general advice on travelling abroad from the UK [here](#).

Children under 18 travelling unaccompanied must also follow the above requirements for travellers who are not fully vaccinated.

Travel with an ID card

The rules for travelling to the UK are changing!

From 1 October 2021 most EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will need a valid passport to enter the UK.

ID cards will no longer be accepted as a valid travel document. If you do not have a passport, you are liable to be refused entry. For more information and exceptions visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).



Survey

RIFT has launched a new survey for all UK passport holders and their families living in France by 31 December 2020, regardless of whether they have made their application, received their card or are still waiting for a rendez-vous having applied some months ago.

Once collated, the aim is to analyse the data to identify any issues and pass them to us at the British Embassy and to the Ministère de l'intérieur.

If you want to let us know about your experience applying (or not) to the Withdrawal Agreement Residence Permit, [you can complete the survey here](#).



Journées du Patrimoine



Come celebrate les Journées du Patrimoine with us on the 18th September and visit the virtual residence. Learn more about the work of the UK Government in France, discover where you can buy your British products in France, and listen to artistic showings of the British Council in France. We look forward to seeing you!

- [Register to the virtual event here](#)



Les Journées du Patrimoine

Patrimoine pour Tous

Venez découvrir la culture britannique à l'occasion des Journées du Patrimoine. Connectez-vous pour assister à la célébration partout en France.

 18 septembre 2021

 La Résidence virtuelle



Next online Outreach Event

Our online event for British citizens on Microsoft Teams is open for registration! A chance to ask all your questions on residency, healthcare, pensions, or other Withdrawal Agreement rights before 30 September.

Tuesday 7 September from 6PM to 7.30PM: [Register now.](#)

If you have a question but can't make it on the 7th, we will also be running our usual Facebook Q&A through September, with the first one opening for questions at 6pm on Monday 13th.



**SETTLED
IN FRANCE?**

**ONLINE OUTREACH MEETING
FOR UK NATIONALS IN FRANCE**

7 September 6PM-7.30PM
Register at →
<http://bit.ly/OnlineOutreach0709>

 **ITS TIME TO TAKE ACTION, FIND OUT MORE
AT GOV.UK/LIVING IN FRANCE**

- ✓ Check
- ✓ Change
- ✓ Go

Healthcare surgery sessions

We're delighted with the success of our latest healthcare surgeries, our ten minutes sessions where you can chat to one of our policy experts if you are having issues registering for local healthcare. We know that last time spaces have filled up fast, and are looking to release some more appointments soon!



PARTNERSHIP PACKS

We have printed a set of Partnership Packs - handy booklets explaining what UK nationals living in France need to do to protect their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement. If you know of an organisation that would find these useful, please contact France.Enquiries@fcdo.gov.uk, giving the name of the organisation and its address, and stating whether you could best use a pack of 20 or of 50.

UK NATIONALS SUPPORT FUND

In France, [four British Government funded organisations](#) can help UK nationals secure their residency rights. They provide practical support to individuals finding it harder to complete applications, including pensioners, disabled people, those living in remote areas or who have mobility difficulties, and those who face language barriers or barriers in accessing technology.

IOM - The International Organisation for Migration (Brittany, Normandy, Ile de France, Hauts-de-France, and Pays de la Loire)

Visit the [IOM website](#)

Email: UKnationalsFR@iom.int

Hotline: 08 09 54 98 32

FBN - The Franco-British Network (Dordogne, Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)

Visit the [FBN website](#)

Email: [The Franco-British Network](#)

Hotline: 05 19 88 01 09

Church of England - Diocese in Europe (Nouvelle Aquitaine, Occitanie, Grand Est, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Centre-Val de Loire, Corsica)

Visit the [Diocese in Europe Residency Support Project website](#)

Hotline: 05 32 80 00 05

SSAFA, The Armed Forces Charity (veterans across France)

Visit the [SSAFA website](#)

Email: ukvie.support@ssafa.org.uk

Hotline: 08 05 11 96 17

USEFUL LINKS TO ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE OR SUPPORT

Please visit the webpages below for more information. The links and contact details can signpost you in the right direction and also connect you to those who can provide support or offer help with technical matters if you need it.

Key websites:

- Living in France Guide: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-france>
- France Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/france>
- Sign up to the Business Newsflash: bit.ly/WeeklyNewsflash
- French government website: www.brexit.gouv.fr
- Healthcare in France: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-in-france-including-martinique-and-guadeloupe>
- NHS advice on planning healthcare abroad: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/moving-abroad/planning-your-healthcare/>
- If you use social media, do also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ukinfrance> and on [Twitter](#) @BritishinFrance

If you use social media, do also consider following us on [Facebook](#) @ukinfrance and on [Twitter](#) @BritishinFrance.

