



Prof Jonathan Van Tam, MBE  
Deputy Chief Medical Officer,  
Department of Health & Social Care

Dr Nikki Kanani, Medical Director of Primary Care  
for NHS England and NHS Improvement

Ed Waller,  
Director for Primary Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement

Kate Bingham  
Kate Bingham, Chair of the Vaccine Taskforce

Ruth Robertson,  
Chair, Workforce education and training,  
Department of Health,  
Scottish Government,  
St Andrew's House,  
Edinburgh

Dear Jonathan, Nikki, Ed, Kate and Ruth,

We are the President of the British Global and Travel Health Association (GK) and a former Consultant in Infectious Diseases and the current Secretary-Treasurer of the International Society of Travel Medicine (MJ), an agency which maintains a brief for the worldwide practice of Travel Medicine.

Three COVID-19 vaccines are likely to become licensed for clinical use in the UK in the next few weeks, and rollout should achieve the greatest population coverage in the shortest possible time frame, if a prompt fall in mortality and morbidity is to be achieved and the UK epidemic is to be rapidly controlled. An unprecedented mobilisation of appropriately trained staff will be required to achieve this objective. Trained staff must have extensive experience of vaccination, understand potential adverse effects and apply high standards of record keeping and post-vaccination care.

The professionals staffing Travel Clinics comprise probably the only health care staffing group ready to start vaccinations for COVID-19 (after training which the DHSC will provide free). No other vaccinator workforce is available to do that, and in the context of low current international travel clinic referrals, travel clinic staff have the capacity and skills to make a huge contribution. The Faculty of Travel Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow has recently issued a statement on the operational delivery of travel medicine in the COVID era. <sup>i</sup>

We appeal to the Health Administrations of the four nations comprising the United Kingdom to include Travel Clinics as they plan their COVID-19 vaccine response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kassianos', with a stylized flourish above it.

George Kassianos, CBE, MD Hons, FRCGP, FISTM, FFTM RCPS Glasg  
President, British Global and Travel Health Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael E Jones', with a stylized flourish above it.

Michael E Jones, MB, FRCP(Edin, Glasg, Lond), FFTM RCPS(Glasg)  
Secretary-Treasurer, International Society of Travel Medicine

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<sup>i</sup> <https://rcpsg.ac.uk/documents/publications/covid-19/1412-covid-tm-guidance-statement-0720/file>