

Italy reimposes quarantine on British travellers

Tom Kington Rome

Italy has reimposed a five-day quarantine on visitors from the UK, citing the spread of the Delta variant in Britain as the reason.

The new restrictions, which will take effect on Monday, come as Italy opens up to visitors from the US, Canada and Japan in an effort to boost its ailing tourism industry.

Visitors from the UK will need to isolate for five days at an address given to the authorities on arrival in Italy. A neg-

ative test will be required to end quarantine with a €450 fine (about £385) for anyone caught violating the rules.

Other European countries including France and Germany have already imposed restrictions on visitors from the UK. Italy dropped its quarantine rule for travellers from Britain on May 15 but changed tack as new daily cases in the UK rose above 10,000 because of the Delta variant, just as new infections in Italy have fallen to about 1,000.

The country is lifting restrictions on movement imposed during its post-

Christmas third Covid wave and is considering ending its outdoor mask rule.

Officials are alarmed by the new variant, first detected in India. Last week it was reported that only 1 per cent of new cases since December were the Delta variant. But when the Ceinge research institute in Naples took a more recent sample, covering the period from May 15 to June 17, it found that 3.5 per cent of cases were the Delta variant.

The introduction of the quarantine rule on Monday has spared Welsh football fans who are travelling to Rome to

watch Wales play Italy in the Euro 2020 contest tomorrow. "We took the game into consideration when we made the decision," a government source said.

Britain quarantines arrivals from Italy for ten days.

Roberto Speranza, the Italian health minister, said that Italy was lifting restrictions on visitors from the US, Canada, Japan and the EU if they have a "green pass" showing they have been vaccinated or have tested negative. A ban on arrivals from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will remain in place.

ED JONES/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

