

HMS Queen Elizabeth: Covid outbreak on Navy flagship

By Jonathan Beale & Hazel Shearing
BBC News

14 July 2021



PA MEDIA

An outbreak of Covid-19 has been confirmed on the Royal Navy's flagship, HMS Queen Elizabeth.

The BBC has been told there have been around 100 cases on the aircraft carrier, which is part way through a world tour.

Several other warships in the fleet accompanying it are also affected.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said all crew on the deployment had received two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine and the outbreak was being managed.

ADVERTISEMENT

HMS Queen Elizabeth is about a quarter of the way through a 28-week deployment leading the Carrier Strike Group (CSG).

It has now entered the Indian Ocean, and the Royal Navy says it is due to continue on its voyage to Japan later this year.

- [Why is a UK aircraft carrier on a world tour?](#)
- [Crowds gather to wave off Royal Navy flagship](#)

Around 3,700 personnel [are part of the CSG](#).

A spokeswoman said mitigation measures on board included masks, social distancing and a track and trace system.

"As part of routine testing, a small number of crew from the Carrier Strike Group have tested positive for Covid-19," she said.

"The Carrier Strike Group will continue to deliver their operational tasks and there are no effects on the deployment."

It is not the first Covid scare on board a Royal Navy ship.

Last year, [the crew of HMS Northumberland was forced to return](#) to shore and isolate over Christmas after "a number of suspected Covid cases" on board.

The world tour is HMS Queen Elizabeth's first operational deployment, and [will cover 26,000 miles](#).

The £3bn warship [departed from Portsmouth Naval Base in May](#).

The Queen and the prime minister both went onboard before it headed off for the Indo-Pacific region.

The ship began sea trials in 2017, having replaced HMS Illustrious which was scrapped in 2014.

It has eight RAF and 10 US Marine Corps F35B stealth fighter jets onboard and will be accompanied to Asia by six Royal Navy ships, a submarine, 14 naval helicopters and a company of Royal Marines.

Around the BBC



- "THEY'RE NOT FANS, THEY'RE RACISTS": [Football, Racism and Social Media](#)
- MAYANS MC: [Blood runs thicker than water in the cartels between the US and Mexico](#)

Related topics

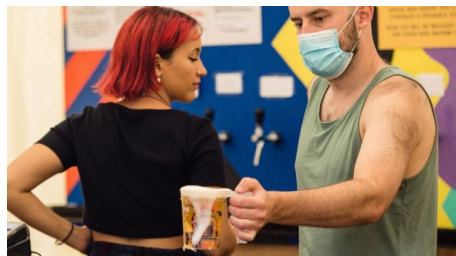
Top Stories

LIVE Kabul evacuations hit by 'severe' threat of attack

Attack could strike Kabul within hours - minister
1 hour ago

LIVE NHS England prepares jabs plan for 12 to 15-year-olds

Features & Analysis



Waning immunity and rising cases - time to worry?

26 August 2021



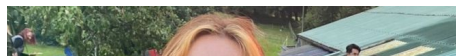
The story of Afghanistan's 'undefeated' valley

26 August 2021



The hard men removing squatters in Spain

26 August 2021



'Deferral packages are unfair to current students'

2 hours ago

BBC NEWS

Why you can trust the BBC

[Terms of Use](#)

[Cookies](#)

[AdChoices / Do Not Sell My Info](#)

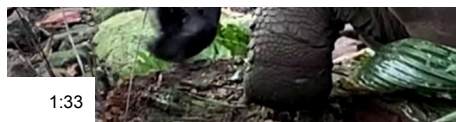
[About the BBC](#)

[Accessibility Help](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Contact the BBC](#)

© 2021 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. [Read about our approach to external linking.](#)



1:33



1:50

South Africa's Paralympic pioneer

26 August 2021



The real victims of mass crypto-hacks

26 August 2021



Can Frozen stage musical recreate the film's magic?

5 hours ago



The English Riviera during the 2021 UK staycation

26 August 2021

