

Russia to Suspend Flights With UK Amid Mutated Virus Fears

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The one-week suspension of flights starts at midnight Tuesday. **Alexander Avilov / Moskva News Agency**

Russia will [halt](#) all flights with Britain from midnight Tuesday, joining the growing list of countries to suspend air travel with the country amid concerns of a more-infectious coronavirus strain found there.

Nearly 30 other countries have banned travel to and from Britain due to the mutation. Russia's travel ban will last for one week, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency [reported](#).

Related article: [Russia Plays Down Britain's Infectious Coronavirus Strain](#)

Russian health officials and experts have [downplayed](#) concerns about the mutated strain found in Britain, saying it is no deadlier than the original version and that coronavirus vaccines will still be [effective](#) at preventing it.

Britain announced a strict lockdown in several parts of the country just ahead of the Christmas holiday after the mutation, which is up to 70% more infectious than previous variants, was found to be spreading quickly throughout London as well as southeast and eastern England.

The World Health Organization has [said](#) that the mutation has also been spotted in the Netherlands, Denmark and Australia.

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