

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY K.F. MOREL OR ST. LAWRENCE
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 29th MARCH 2021
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON WEDNESDAY 7th APRIL 2021**

Question

Is the Minister aware of any situations in which Islanders travelling to Southampton for medical treatment have been unable to be seated socially distanced from other passengers on Blue Islands flights, due to the aircraft being full, with no seats left spare to enable proper social distancing?

Answer

There is no legal requirement in Jersey or the UK to socially distance on planes and whilst every attempt is made to space passengers during flights with low passenger numbers, it would be impractical to block book seats for patients to maintain 2 metre social distancing, particularly on increasingly busy flights. There are no longer lifeline patient-only flights to Southampton, so Health and Community Services has no control over the number of passengers booked on a flight. All passengers on the flights are required to wear masks at all times when travelling. Hand hygiene is also implemented at the airport.