



Revised runway alternation programme

4 January to
30 May 2021*

As a result of ongoing tighter government COVID-19 restrictions and with a large number of countries now closed to UK air traffic, we have seen a significant reduction in passenger numbers at Heathrow, in addition to resourcing constraints. Consequently, we have consolidated our operations and returned to single runway operations.

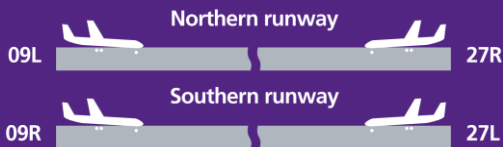
This means instead of operating one runway for departures and one runway for arrivals, we will see departures and arrivals on a single runway, alternating which runway we use on a weekly basis in order to ensure our local communities continue to get respite periods.

We will continue to review this situation and will look to revert to our usual operation when the number of daily aircraft movements significantly increases.

The direction planes fly at Heathrow depends on the direction of the wind. During westerly operations the wind usually blows from the west and aircraft arrive from the east over London. During easterly operations the wind blows from the east and aircraft arrive from the west over Berkshire.

Runway codes

The schedule uses the runway codes 09L, 27R, 09R and 27L.



09L = aircraft approaching the northern runway from the west
 27R = aircraft approaching the northern runway from the east
 09R = aircraft approaching the southern runway from the west
 27L = aircraft approaching the southern runway from the east

Runway alternation

Date (week commencing)	If on westerly operations	If on easterly operations
4 Jan	27L	09R
11 Jan	27R	09L
18 Jan	27L	09R
25 Jan	27R	09L
1 Feb	27L	09R
8 Feb	27R	09L
15 Feb	27L	09R
22 Feb	27R	09L
1 Mar	27L	09R
8 Mar	27R	09L
15 Mar	27L	09R
22 Mar	27R	09L
29 Mar	27L	09R
5 Apr	27R	09L
12 Apr	27L	09R
19 Apr	27R	09L
26 Apr	27L	09R
3 May	27R	09L
10 May	27L	09R
17 May	27R	09L
24 May	27L	09R

Please note: The weekly runway alternation will take place at 00:01 each Monday. However, in the event of a late running aircraft on a Sunday evening, alternation will be delayed. This temporary runway alternation pattern replaces both our regular daytime and night-time alternation schedules.

* This schedule runs to 30 May 2021 but this is not an indication of how long we expect to be on single runway operations. It is not possible for us to predict when operations will return to normal.