Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Weekly Update • 19th October 2020
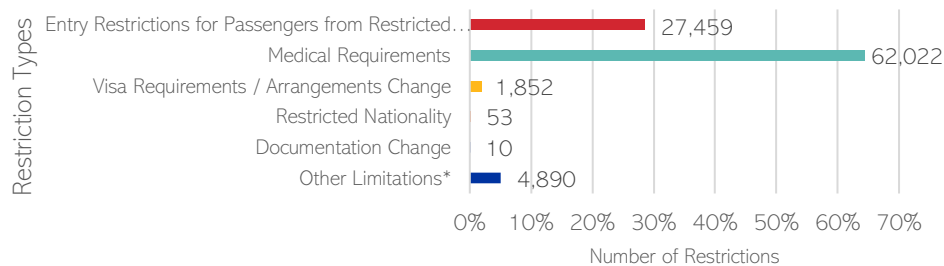
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
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■ Overview

The World Health Organization has reported more nearly 40 million COVID-19 cases (39,801,612 confirmed cases and 1,110,908 deaths) globally on 19th October 2020. The high increase in number of cases globally continues to affect global mobility and migration as measures to control internal and international mobility are tightened or maintained. As of 19th October 2020, a total of 218 countries, territories or areas have issued 96,322 travel restrictions indicating a decrease of two per cent from 98,717 travel restrictions reported on 19th October 2020. There has been an increase of 11 per cent in medical requirements and a 36 per cent increase in visa restrictions. There has been a simultaneous decrease of 81 per cent in restrictions on specific nationalities and 68 per cent in other limitations like new documents needed for travel. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 165 countries, territories or areas have issued 787 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions.

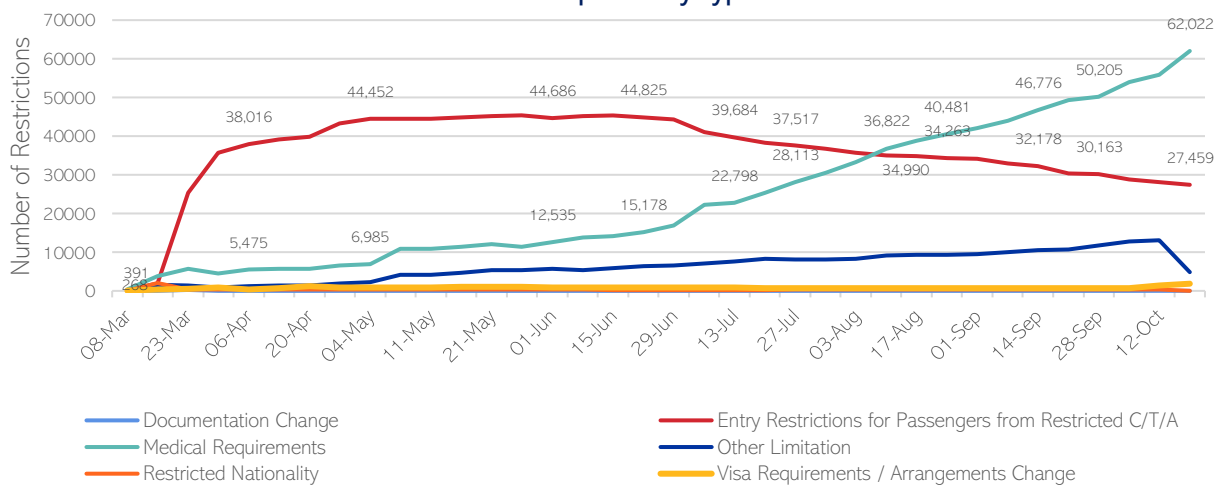**Data Source:** IATA and official government websites.

Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type

*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.
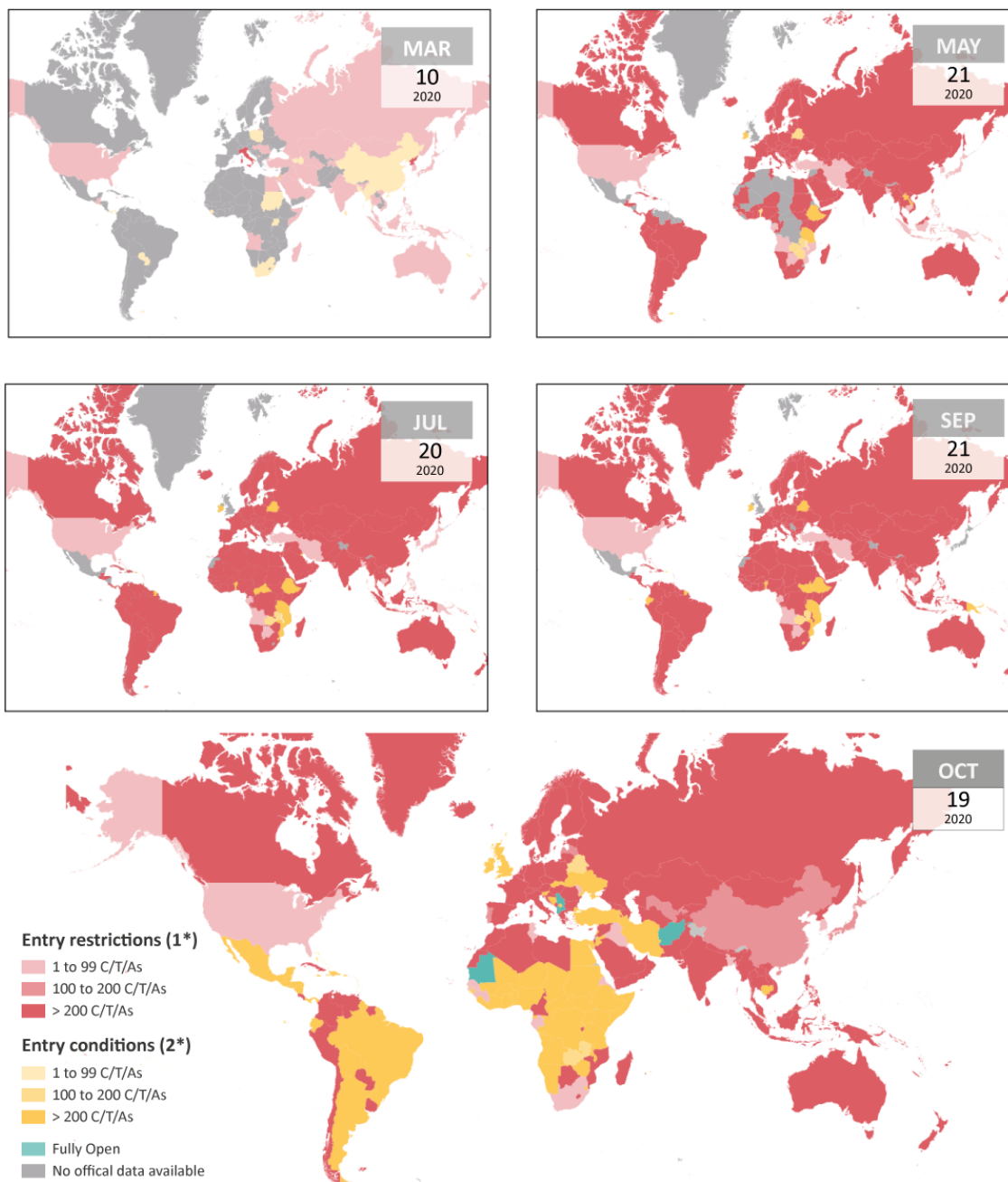
As of 19th October 2020, 218 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As have been following a decreasing trend and no longer have the highest share of total restrictions (29%). Medical measures are the most common restriction type representing 64 per cent of restrictions. Visa requirements have doubled since the previous update on 12th October, now representing 2 per cent of total restrictions.

Restrictions Imposed by type

Important: This analysis does not capture pre-COVID-19 related travel restrictions, rather it draws attention to various travel restrictions issued as a result of COVID-19. This report focuses on the changes to pre-existing measures affecting passengers travelling through specific routes or with specific travel documentation and nationalities. The number of restrictions recorded in this report is indicative of the total number of COVID-19 related travel restrictions since 8th March 2020, when IOM began monitoring the impact of travel restrictions on global mobility as a result of COVID-19. More specifically, this analysis highlights emerging changes as a result of COVID-19 travel requirements to support identifying border management practices. This analysis does not aim to provide information on exact travel requirements. For specific and updated travel information, kindly refer to respective Consular authorities of the destination country. International Air Transport Association (IATA) and relevant airline companies may be a valid alternative to explore.

Changes in Restrictions on Arrival since 10th March 2020

Entry restrictions (1*)
- 1 to 99 C/T/As
- 100 to 200 C/T/As
- > 200 C/T/As

Entry conditions (2*)
- 1 to 99 C/T/As
- 100 to 200 C/T/As
- > 200 C/T/As

- Fully Open
- No offical data available

(1*) Restricted entry on passengers coming from other
      countries, territories and areas (C/T/A).

(2*) C/T/As imposing medical measures, changes in Visa or ID or other
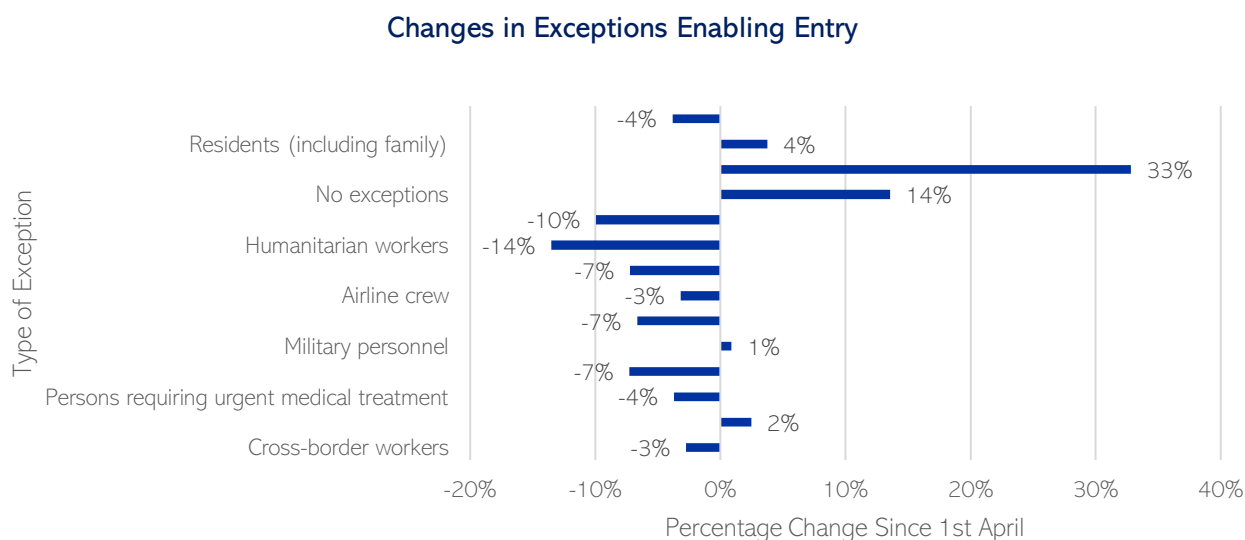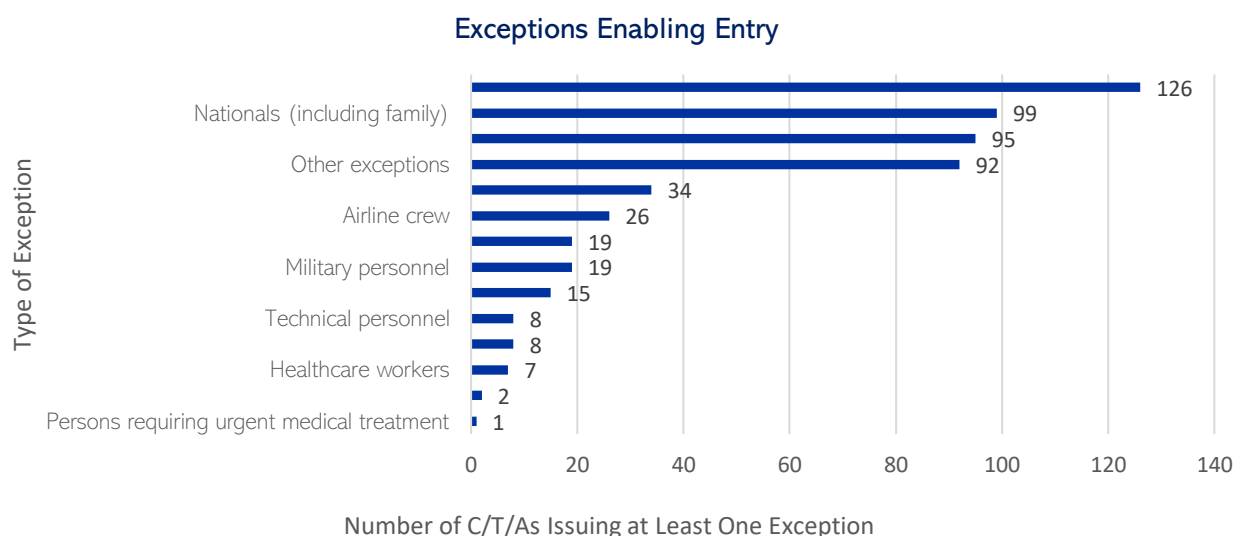   measures on arrival.

■ Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

- As of 15th and 16th October 2020, airports in the Gambia and Guyana reopened respectively, all passengers are required to provide a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued no longer than 72 hours prior to departure
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- Flights to Jordan – which were suspended until 15th October 2020 - have restarted, passengers can enter only if they present a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued no longer than 5 days prior to departure.

- Poland issued new flight suspensions for flights coming to Poland from Armenia, Georgia, Guyana, Jordan and Tunisia.

- Bahamas issued new restrictions requiring passengers arriving to the Bahamas to subject to quarantine in a hotel for 14 days and to a COVID-19 antigen test upon arrival.

- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland added restrictions on passengers arriving from Italy who were previously exempt from mandatory self-isolation; they will now require to self-isolate from 17th October 2020 onwards. Similarly, Pakistan removed Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, Fiji, Italy, Lithuania, Myanmar, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and Uganda, from the list of exempted countries not required a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result upon arrival.

- Peru removed exceptions for passengers in transit, from the measure requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result.

- Passenger bans were extended by Greece and Bulgaria until 25th October 2020, by Chile until 29th October 2020, by Canada until 31st October 2020 and by Croatia until 2nd November 2020.

- Morocco, Panama and Sudan altered measures that require passengers to have a mandatory certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, stipulating the certificate must be translated to Arabic, French or English, to English or Spanish, and to English, respectively.

- Poland removed suspensions for flights arriving from Ecuador, India, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

- Indonesia suspended all visa exemptions and visa on arrival facilities.

- Argentina issued a new condition for entry for passengers and airline crew who must install CuidAR application on their personal device.

- Barbados issued a new condition for entry requiring that passengers arriving from 46 countries, territories or areas without a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival, subject to a Polymerase Chain Reaction test (PCR) upon arrival.

- Additional conditions for entry were issued by Somalia for passengers and airline crew without a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 96 hours before arrival. Such individuals

- Djibouti removed conditions for entry requiring Airline crew to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival.

- Grenada removed the health surveillance condition for entry stipulating that all passengers install the Grenada's Contact Tracing App.

- New conditions for entry were issued by Sint Maarten, requiring that a Health Declaration form must be provided for passengers arriving from 46 countries, territories or areas.

- Latvia issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring that passengers present a QR code for contact tracing before departure and fill out a COVID-19 health questionnaire.

- The period of validity accepted for a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result required for authorized passenger entry was extended from 72 to 96 hours before departure, by the Maldives.

- New conditions for entry were issued by Canada for students, who will be allowed entry if they provide a study permit or written approval notice.

■ Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions

Exceptions Enabling Entry

Number of C/T/As Issuing at Least One Exception

Type of Exception

	Value
Nationals (including family)	126
	99
Other exceptions	95
	92
Airline crew	34
	26
Military personnel	19
	19
Technical personnel	15
	8
Healthcare workers	8
	7
Persons requiring urgent medical treatment	2
	1

Changes in Exceptions Enabling Entry

Percentage Change Since 1st April

Type of Exception

	Value
Residents (including family)	-4%
	4%
No exceptions	33%
	14%
Humanitarian workers	-10%
	-14%
Airline crew	-7%
	-3%
Military personnel	-7%
	1%
Persons requiring urgent medical treatment	-7%
	-4%
Cross-border workers	2%
	-3%

Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 787 exceptions enabling mobility, have been issued by 165 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Italy (14), South Africa (14), Canada (13), the United Arab Emirates (13), and in joint 5th with 11 were Belgium, Bulgaria, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States of America.

◼ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Peru removed exceptions for passengers in transit, from the measure requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result.

- New exceptions were issued by Paraguay for nationals or residents of Paraguay who do not need to have an international medical insurance with coverage for COVID-19 treatment costs to return.

- Estonia issued a new exception to suspension of passenger entry, to allow passengers with a written confirmation of being an unmarried partner of a national or a resident of Estonia, issued by the national or resident of Estonia, to enter.

- New exceptions were issued by South Africa for children under 5 years old who are not required to quarantine if they do not present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result issued at most 72 hours before departure.

- New exceptions were issued by Thailand allowing entry to nationals of Australia, People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore with an APEC Business Travel Card arriving from their country of nationality, and to residents of Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China with an APEC Business Travel Card arriving from Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China.

- A new exception allowing the entry of nationals of Nigeria was issued by the United Arab Emirates, specifying nationals of Nigeria are allowed entry but must have a return ticket and a hotel booking or proof of accommodation address for the period of intended stay. This does not apply to passengers with a resident visa.

- Austria issued new exceptions allowing entry to nationals of Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, to British nationals, to residents of Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and the Holy See. They also added exceptions for all persons living in the same household of the abovementioned individuals, and for students.

- From 15th October until late November, a total of 8 flights operated by Qantas Airlines to Australia from India, South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to facilitate the return of 1,315 Australian nationals have been scheduled

- On 14th October 2020, 200 Bangladeshi nationals returned to Dhaka on a special flight from the Maldives.

- The United Arab of Emirates sent 12 metric tonnes of medical supplies on 14th October 2020 to help Costa Rica in their COVID-19 efforts.

- Through the European Union (EU) Humanitarian Air Bridge, the Government of Germany sent 1.4 million testing kits and supplies to The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), through the African Union