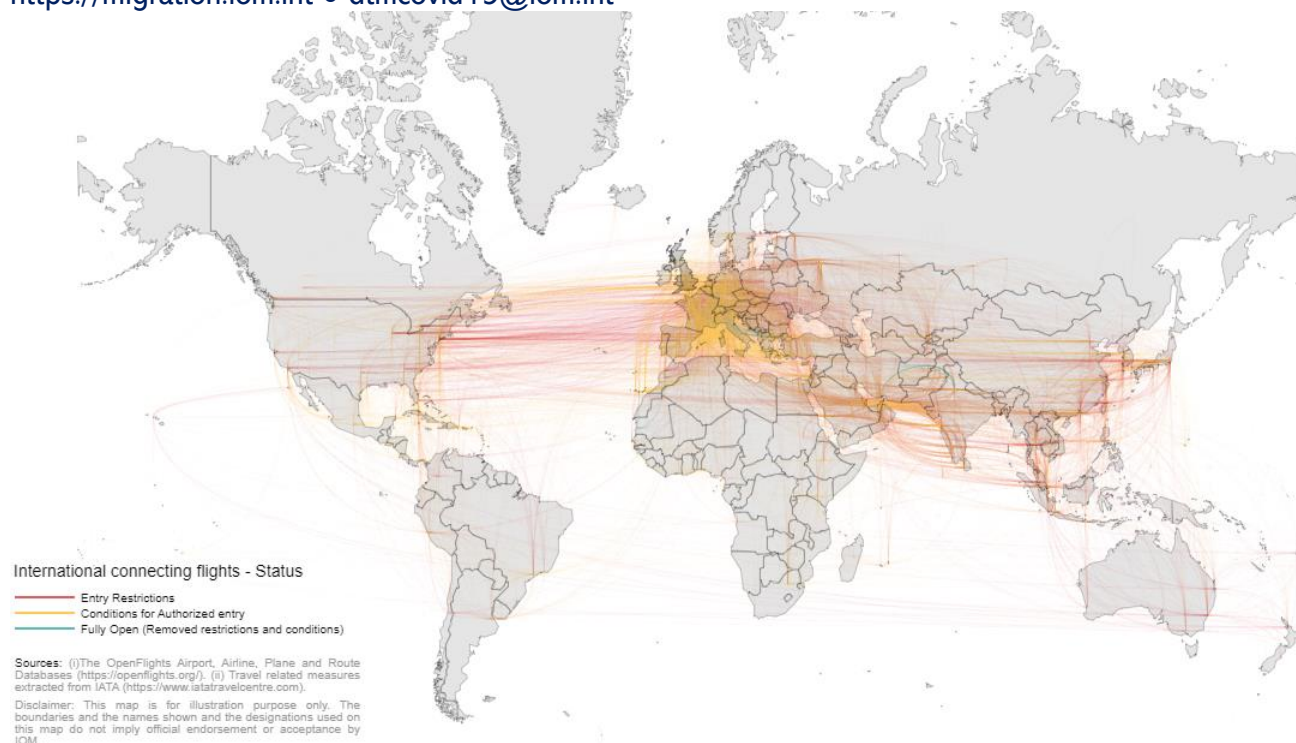


Global Mobility Restriction Overview





Weekly Update • 21st December 2020



COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
<https://migration.iom.int> • dtmccovid19@iom.int



Key Definitions

-  **Entry restrictions:** These are total restrictions which do not allow the entry of passengers of a given country, territory, or area (C/T/A). These include a complete border closure, nationality ban, suspension of visa issuances, and suspension of flights, etc.
-  **Conditions for authorized entry:** These are partial restrictions in the form of specific requirements upon which entry is incumbent. These conditions include medical measures, new requirements on visa/travel documents or other specific requirements for entry. Partial restrictions may be applicable to all passengers or exempt groups such as specific nationalities or immigration status.
-  **No Restriction:** This refers to the removal of COVID-19 related international air travel restrictions that were issued after 10th March 2020 on IATA's website
-  **Exceptions:** Refers to specific individuals, nationalities, or immigration status to whom the specific COVID-19 related travel restriction issued by a C/T/A do not apply. Conditions for authorized entry may also apply to specific exception groups to enable their mobility.

Please note: This output represents the implementation of the third phase of Air Travel Restriction Methodology. In this phase, previous categories of Medical and Visa Restrictions have been recategorized as conditions for authorized entry under partial restrictions. For more information please see [here](#).

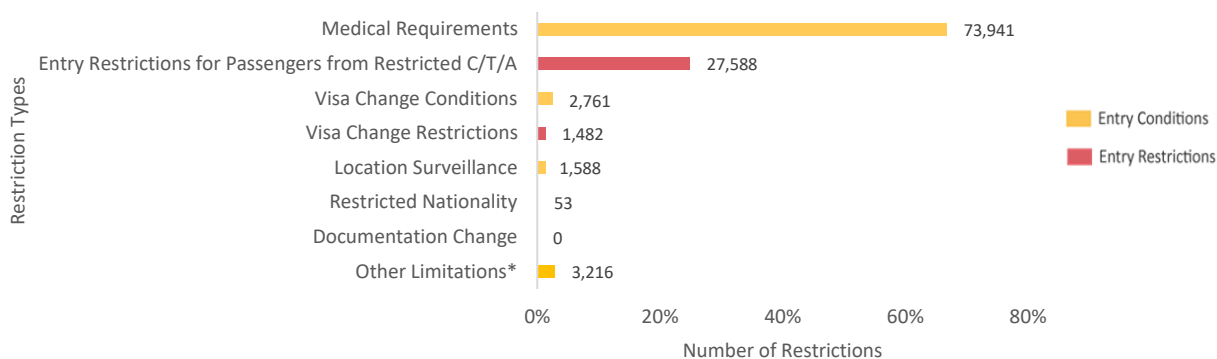
Disclaimer: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe mobility restrictions in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities to confirm political correctness while producing a timely update. This analysis does not aim to provide exact information on 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. Corrections are very welcomed and should be submitted to DTM COVID-19 dtmccovid19@iom.int to ensure consistency of information in the database repository.

Overview

The emergence of a new strain of the COVID-19 virus has caused new border closures and passenger bans. Such measures continue to have an immense impact on global mobility and migration. As per the [World Health Organization](#), the total number of COVID-19 cases reported as of 21st December 2020, has exceeded 75 million including more than 1.6 million (1,686,267) deaths globally.ⁱ As of 21st December 2020, a total of 226 countries, territories, or areas, have issued **110,629** travel related measures indicating a slight decrease of almost one per cent from **111,204** travel related measures reported on 14th December 2020. Of these, **29,123** were reported as entry restrictions and **81,506** were reported as conditions for entry. In the reporting period, there was a **5 per cent increase** in the entry restrictions and a **decrease of 2 per cent** in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a decrease of 3 per cent in medical requirements such as quarantine or medical certificates. There was a 50 per cent increase in entry restrictions such as visa requirements and 3 per cent increase in restrictions on passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas between 14th and 21st December 2020. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 172 countries, territories or areas have issued 707 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 14th and 21st December 2020, countries, territories or areas issued 30 new exceptions whilst 9 countries, territories or areas removed 20 exceptions.

Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

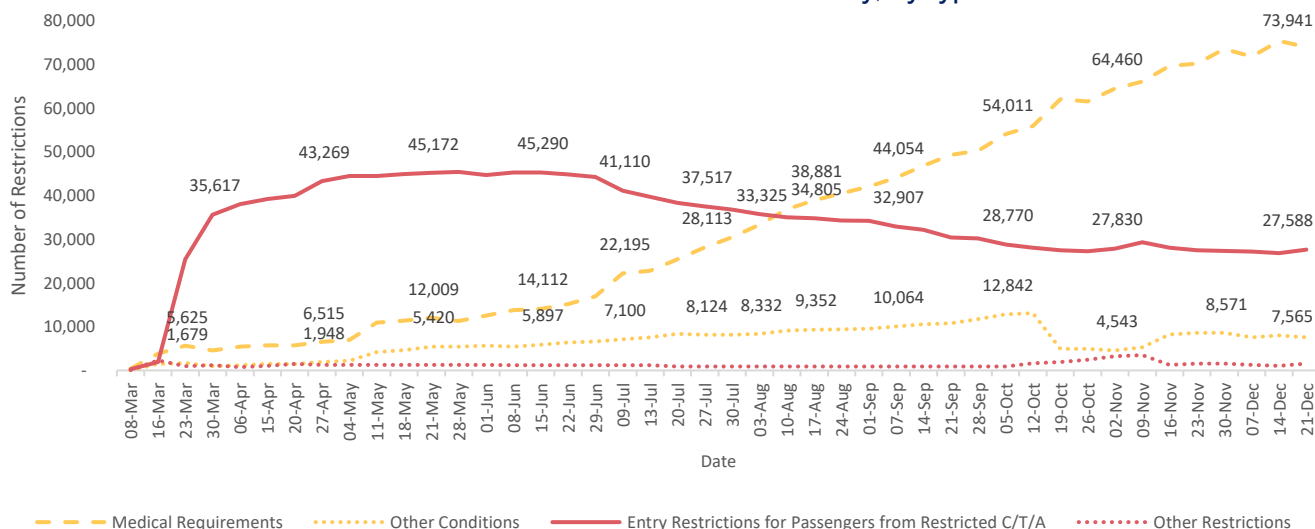
Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry



*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.

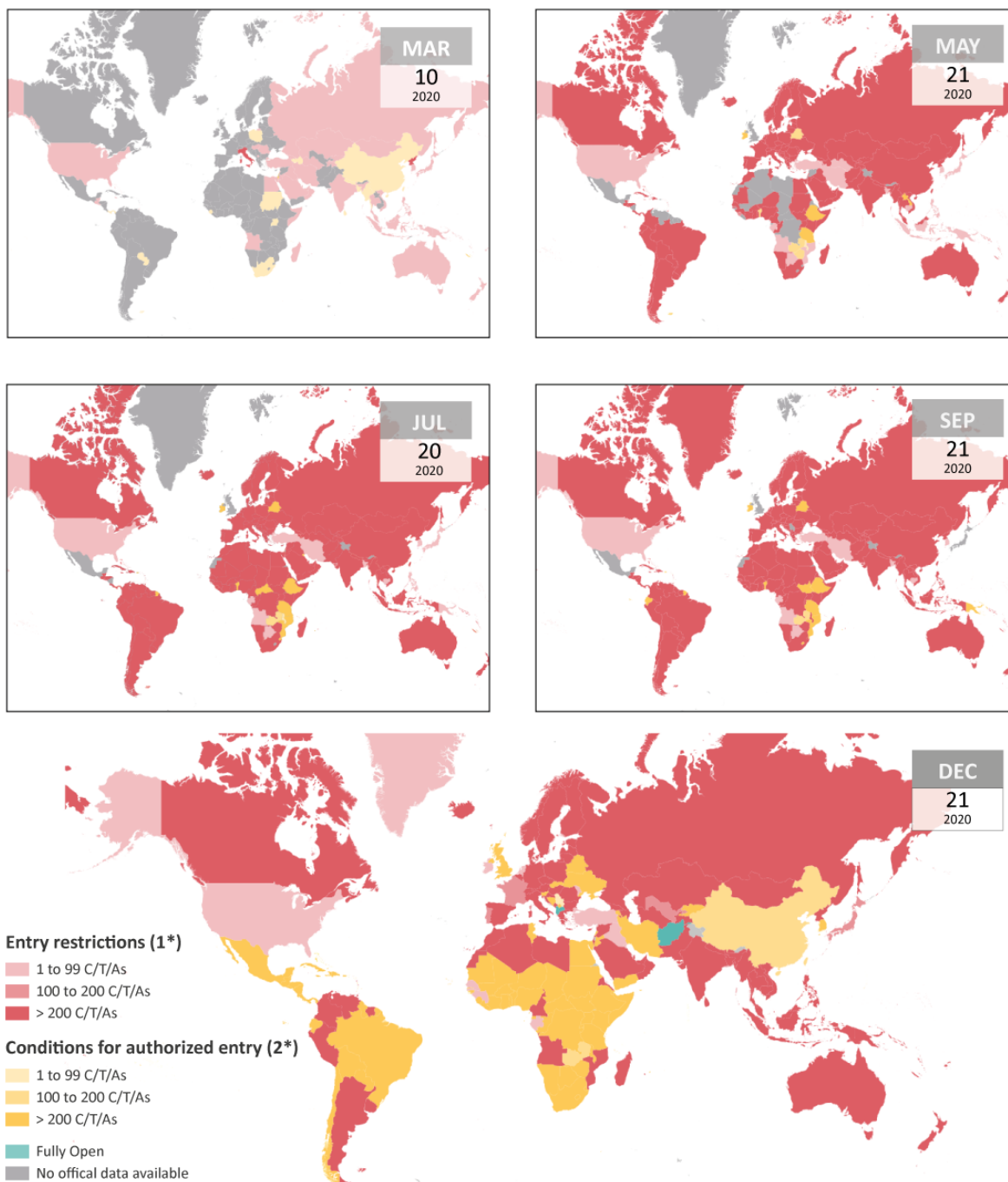
As of 21st December 2020, 226 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 25 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition for authorized entry representing 67 per cent of conditions. In contrast, visa requirements represent 3 per cent of total restrictions and conditions.

Restrictions and conditions for authorized entry, by type



■ Changes in Entry Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry, Over Time

The map below provides a global overview on how C/T/As have gradually increased the issuance of 'entry restrictions' (e.g. total entry restrictions for passengers) and 'conditions for authorized entry' (e.g. medical requirements in the form of PCR test, quarantine, etc.). In March 2020, most of the Governments and authorities across the world had not officially announced any COVID-19 related travel measures (coloured in grey), whereas as of December 2020, almost all the C/T/As have issued some form of entry restrictions or conditions for authorized entry at international airports.

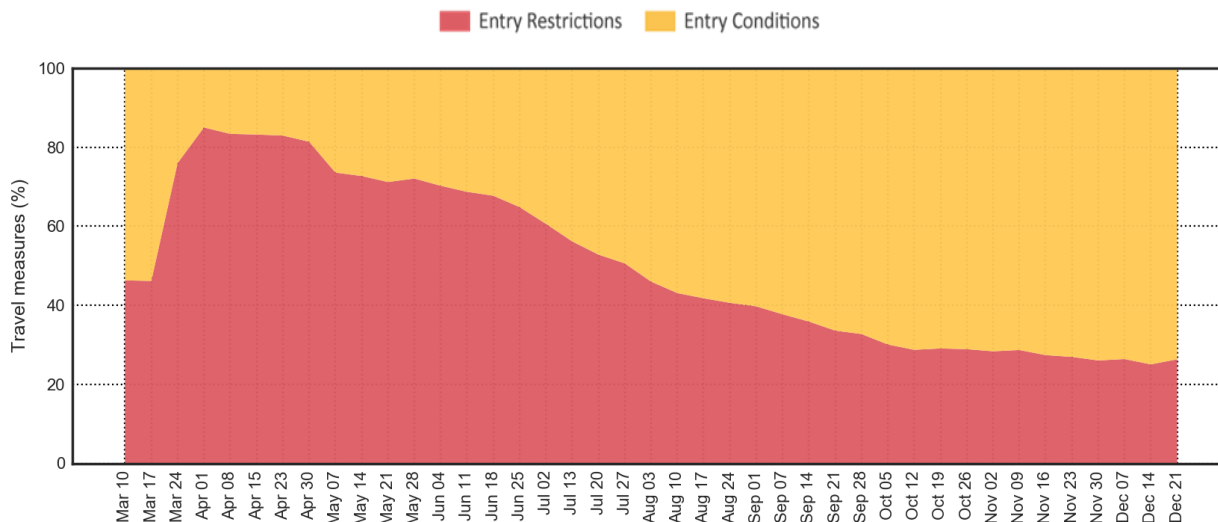


(1*) Restricted entry on passengers coming from other countries, territories and areas (C/T/A).

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

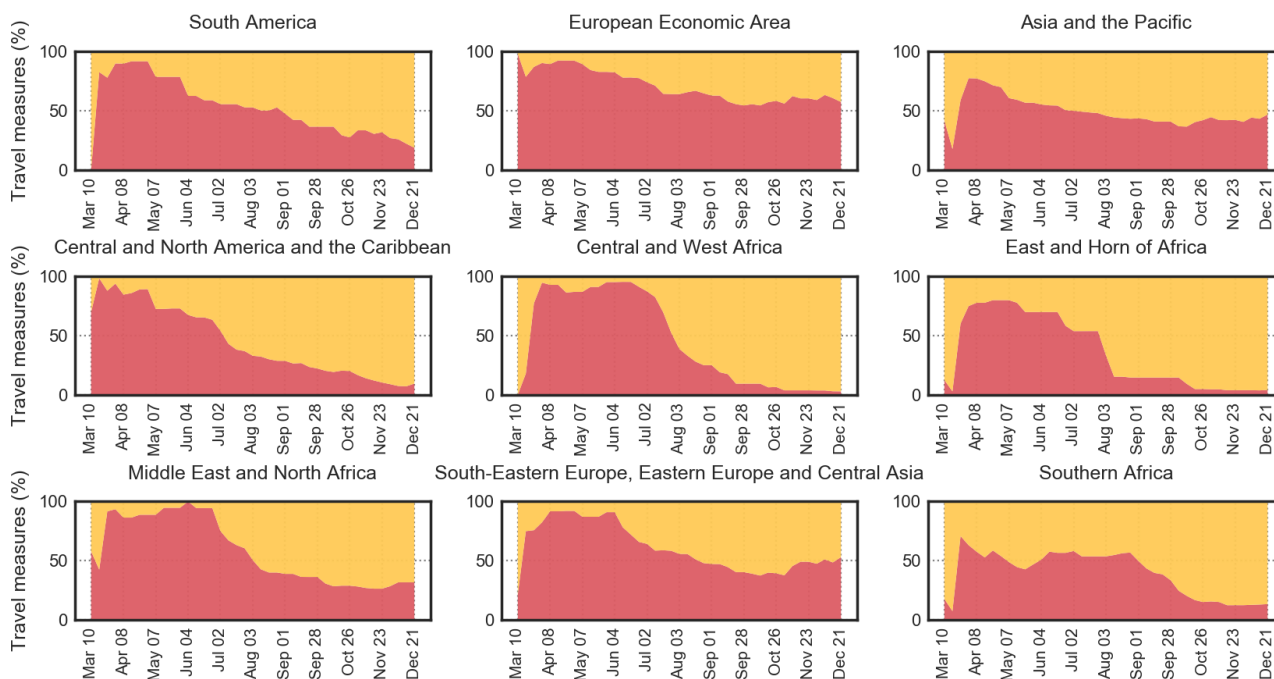
The chart below shows the shift from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' over time. In April 2020, entry restrictions constituted 80 per cent of all COVID-19 related measures (coloured in red), but this proportion has gradually decreased to 26 per cent, as of 21st December 2020.

Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Global overview



Although most of the IOM regions have gradually shifted from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' there are important differences in terms of timing and shift intensity. For instance, the IOM regions of *Central and West Africa* and *East and Horn of Africa* have seen the sharpest shift from restrictions to conditions, with restrictions representing less than 5 per cent of the total travel related measures as of December 21st, 2020. On the other hand, since October 2020 IOM regions of *European Economic Area*, *Asia and the Pacific* and *South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia* have backed out of the previous trends observed (shift from restrictions to conditions) and started to increase restrictions again. These regional differences over time mirror the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in different geographical areas.

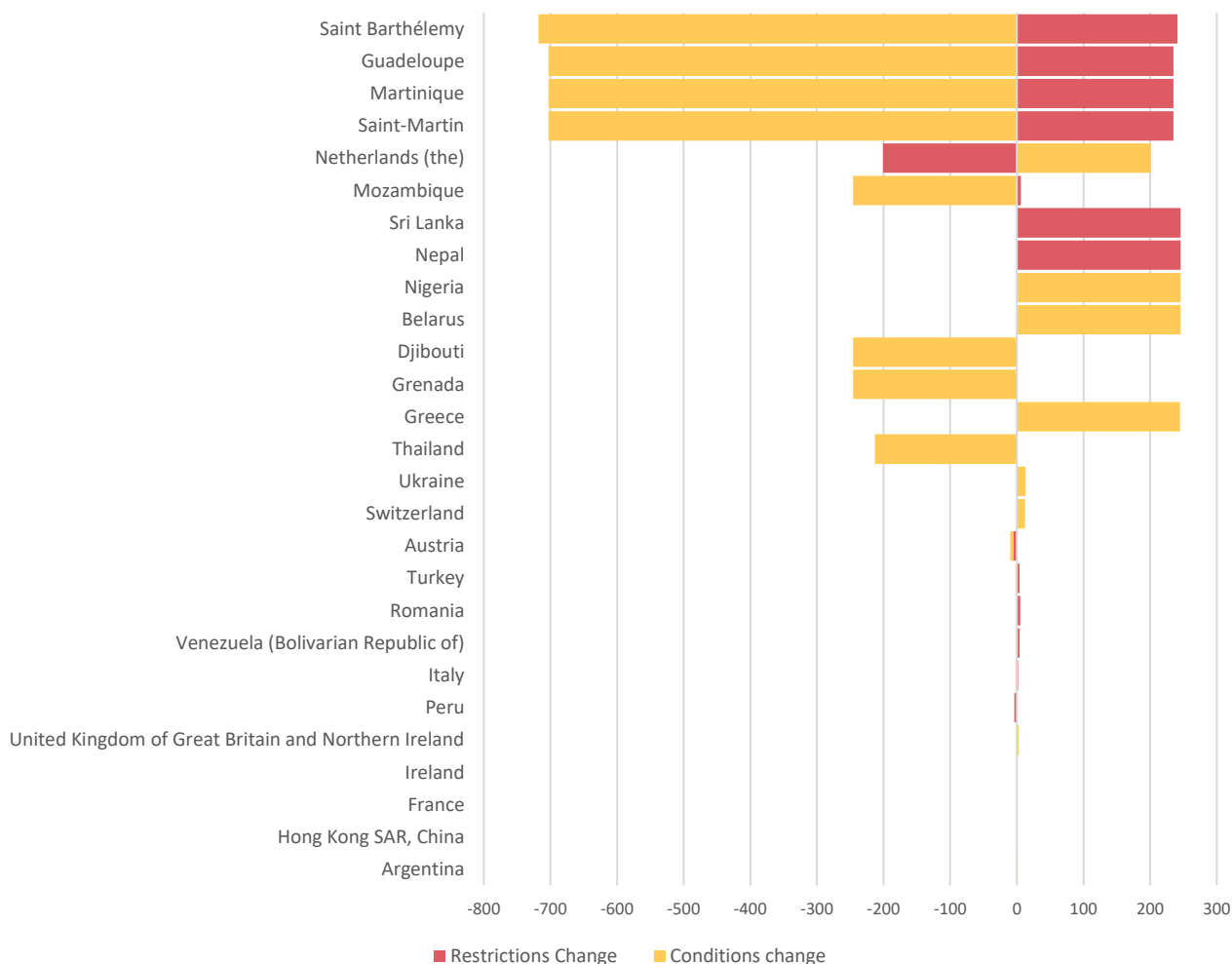
Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Regional overview



■ Key Highlights on Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

This section illustrates a comparison between total restrictions such as passenger bans, airport closures, flight suspensions and partial restrictions comprising of conditions for authorized entry. Between 14th December and 21st December 2020, 27 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 10 of them made minor changes. While most of the C/T/As with a change removed existing conditions for authorized entry, some of them replaced existing conditions with new total restrictions. There were 6 C/T/As issuing new total restrictions without removing any existing conditions.

Weekly changes in number of restrictions and conditions for authorized entry issued by C/T/As



¹ The new variant of the COVID-19 virus has directly affected travel restrictions as several countries, territories or areas have issued new stringent measures and restrictions in response.

Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland²

As a result of the new variant of COVID-19 several C/T/As have implemented more stringent mobility restrictions for individuals and cargo arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

As of 20th December 2020:

- Argentina and Chile announced a flight ban on all flights arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

¹ Please note that changes in the chart only reflect actual timely shifts in measures, and not additional changes that are resultant of internal quality control.

² This was last updated on 21st December 2020 at 15:00 GMT)

As of 21st December 2020:

- Denmark issued a flight suspension for flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for 48 hours in effect 9 am.
- Canada has issued a temporary measure, announcing a ban on all flights arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 72 hours after which authorities will reevaluate the policy.
- France imposed a passenger ban and closure of all travel links, land, sea and air with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for at least 48 hours. Authorities suggest that flights are likely to resume from 22nd December 2020, but entry will remain conditional upon passengers providing medical certificate with a negative Rapid Test Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (RT-PCR) test result upon arrival and a completed passenger locator form.
- The Netherlands issued a ban and a restriction on passengers arriving via the ferry, train and flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 1st January 2021.
- Other C/T/As have issued flight suspensions for varying durations: Belgium (until 22nd December 2020), Croatia (until 23rd December 2020) Finland (for two weeks), Jordan (until 3rd January 2021), Germany (until 31st December 2020), Latvia (until 1st January 2021, Islamic Republic of Iran (for two weeks), Italy until 6th January 2020, and the Russian Federation (for two weeks). The longest duration, thus far, has been issued by Bulgaria from 21st December 2020 to 31st January 2021.
- Temporary bans on flights have been issued for an unspecified period by Colombia, Czechia, Ecuador, Estonia, Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China, Grenada, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Tunisia, and Turkey on all flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- While India will halt flights to and from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 22nd to 31st December 2020, all passengers arriving until 22nd December 2020 will be subject to mandatory Rapid-Test Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) upon arrival.
- From 22nd December 2020, Spain will ban all flights from United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, however, nationals and residents of Spain will be exempt.

Key Highlights

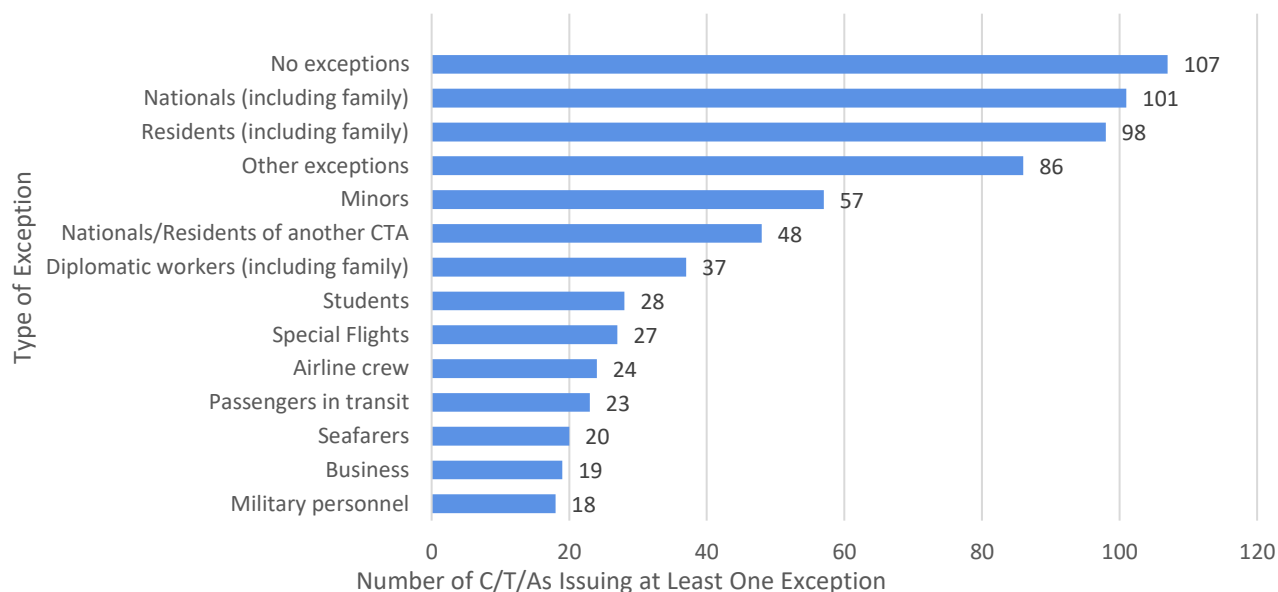
- Total flight suspensions were issued by Grenada, Martinique, Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin, barring all incoming flights except for those arriving from Dominica, France, French Guiana, Saint Lucia and Sint Maarten.
- The Netherlands issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring that passengers must have a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result 72 hours before arrival in Dutch, English, French, German or Spanish. Exceptions to this condition include students with a letter of notification from the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, sea farers, corridor passengers from Atlanta to Amsterdam, passengers with diplomatic visas, passengers with a "D" Visa issued by the Netherlands, and passengers, family members and residents of 39 countries, territories or areas.
- Mozambique suspended visa on arrival facilities for nationals of Bangladesh, Eritrea, India, Pakistan, Somalia, and Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka suspended visa on arrival and online visa services.
- Nigeria issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring that passengers fill out a travel history form and present the respective QR code upon arrival. The form and QR code can be obtained online.
- Belarus issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring that passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most three days before arrival. The certificate must be in Belarusian, English or Russian. Nationals and residents of Belarus, as well as passengers with a diplomatic or service passport are exempt.

- Existing passenger bans were extended by Portugal until 31st December 2020, by Greece until 7th January 2021, Croatia until 15th January 2021, and by Sweden until 31st March 2021.
- Flight suspensions were extended by Tajikistan until 31st December 2020, by Greece for flights from Turkey and Catalonia, Spain, until 7th January 2021, and by Georgia until 31st January 2021.
- Greece issued a new quarantine measure requiring that all passengers arriving to Greece must self-isolate for up to 3 days upon arrival.
- Thailand reissued visa suspensions for nationals of Cambodia and Myanmar.
- Ukraine issued conditions for authorized entry whereby passengers arriving from Azerbaijan, Belize, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, the Netherlands, Panama, and Turkey are no longer exempt from self-isolating for 10 days and must provide a medical certificate to enter, however, passengers from Belgium, France and Poland are no longer subject to these conditions for entry.
- Switzerland imposed retroactive quarantine for passengers that arrived from South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 14th December 2020 onwards, such passengers must undergo 10 days of self-isolation.ⁱⁱ
- Austria added Australia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Uruguay and Holy See, to the list of countries, territories or areas that are exempt from the existing passenger ban and allowed to enter without any conditions for entry. All other passengers granted authorized entry still must quarantine for 10 days upon arrival.
- As of 20th December 2020, Turkey suspended flights from Denmark, the Netherlands and South Africa.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Romania added new flight suspensions for flights arriving from Belize, Republic of Moldova, Panama and Puerto Rico.
- The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela removed flight suspension for flights from Dominican Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Panama and the Russian Federation. However, flight suspensions for the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mexico and Turkey remain in place.
- On 19th December 2020, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland removed Namibia, Uruguay and United States Virgin Islands from the travel corridor list. Passengers arriving from these destinations are no longer exempt from self-isolation.
- Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China added Ukraine to the list of countries, territories or areas required to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result, as a condition for authorized entry. The test must have been taken at most 72 hours before departure of the last direct flight.
- Argentina issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring all arriving passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. Nationals and residents of Argentina, as well as children under the age of 6, are exempt.
- Guatemala issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result based on a nasal swab. The test must have been taken at most 96 hours before departure. Previously, it could be a nasal swab or antigen test result.
- Chile changed conditions for authorized entry from medical certificate to mandatory COVID-19 testing upon arrival.
- Croatia issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring that all passengers arriving to Croatia must present an "Enter Croatia Form" upon arrival. The form can be submitted online before departure. This does not apply to nationals and residents of Croatia.

- Spain issued new conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving from 65 countries, territories or areas. They must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 molecular nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) test, taken at most 72 hours before arrival. The certificate must be in English or Spanish.
- Lithuania issued additional conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving without an English medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 48 hours before arrival. They are subject to either a PCR test upon arrival and isolation until negative test results are ready or self-isolation for 10 days.
- Spain reissued passenger restrictions barring entry to passengers arriving from Ireland and Iceland. Nationals and residents of Spain are exempt.
- South Africa changed conditions for entry for airline crew, who are now subjected to COVID-19 test on arrival. Previously, they required a COVID-19 certificate issued at most 72 hours before arrival to enter.
- Uruguay issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring all passengers and airline crew to undergo medical screening upon arrival and submit a completed "Declaracion de Salud" which must be presented to upon arrival. The form can be submitted online before departure at or at the "Coronavirus UY" app. A completed "Formulario de Frontera" must be presented to upon arrival.
- Authorities in Oman announced the closure of land, air and sea borders on 22nd December 2020 for one week.^{iv}
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have also announced the closure of all airports in response to the new variant.
- Israel will close its borders to flights from South Africa, Denmark and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 23rd December 2020.^v
- Authorities in Tunisia announced a passenger ban on arrivals from Australia and South Africa.^{vi}
- El Salvador issued a ban on the entry of passengers who have been in South Africa in the last 30 days, or for flights that transited through there.^{vii}

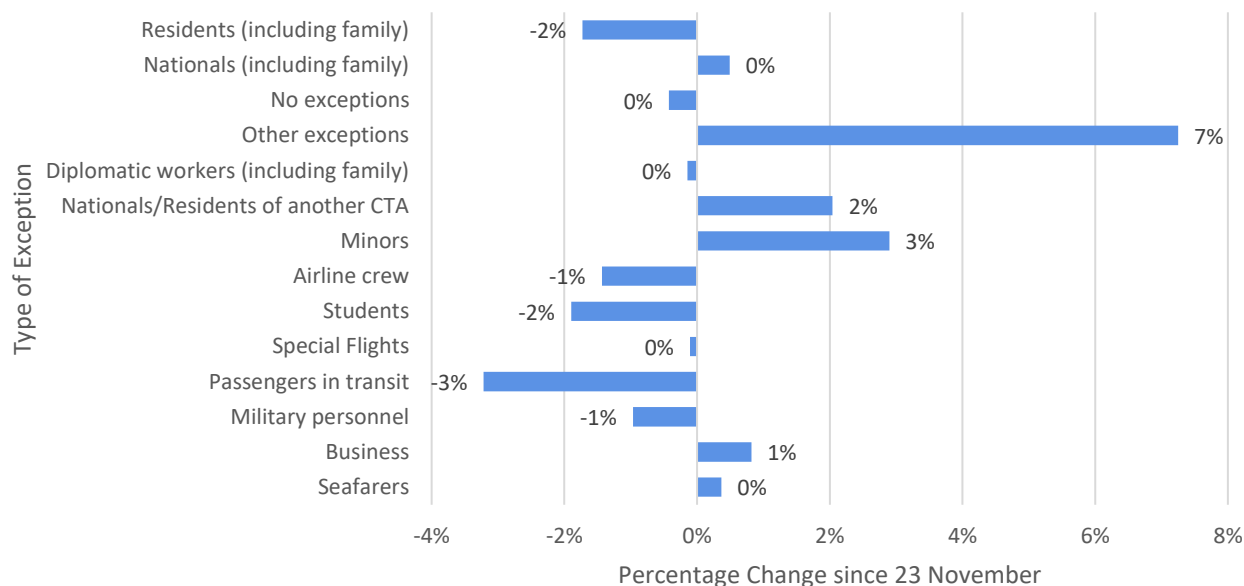
■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions

Number of C/T/As by type of exception



C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (101) and for Residents (98) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 57 different CTAs, continue to increase and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter



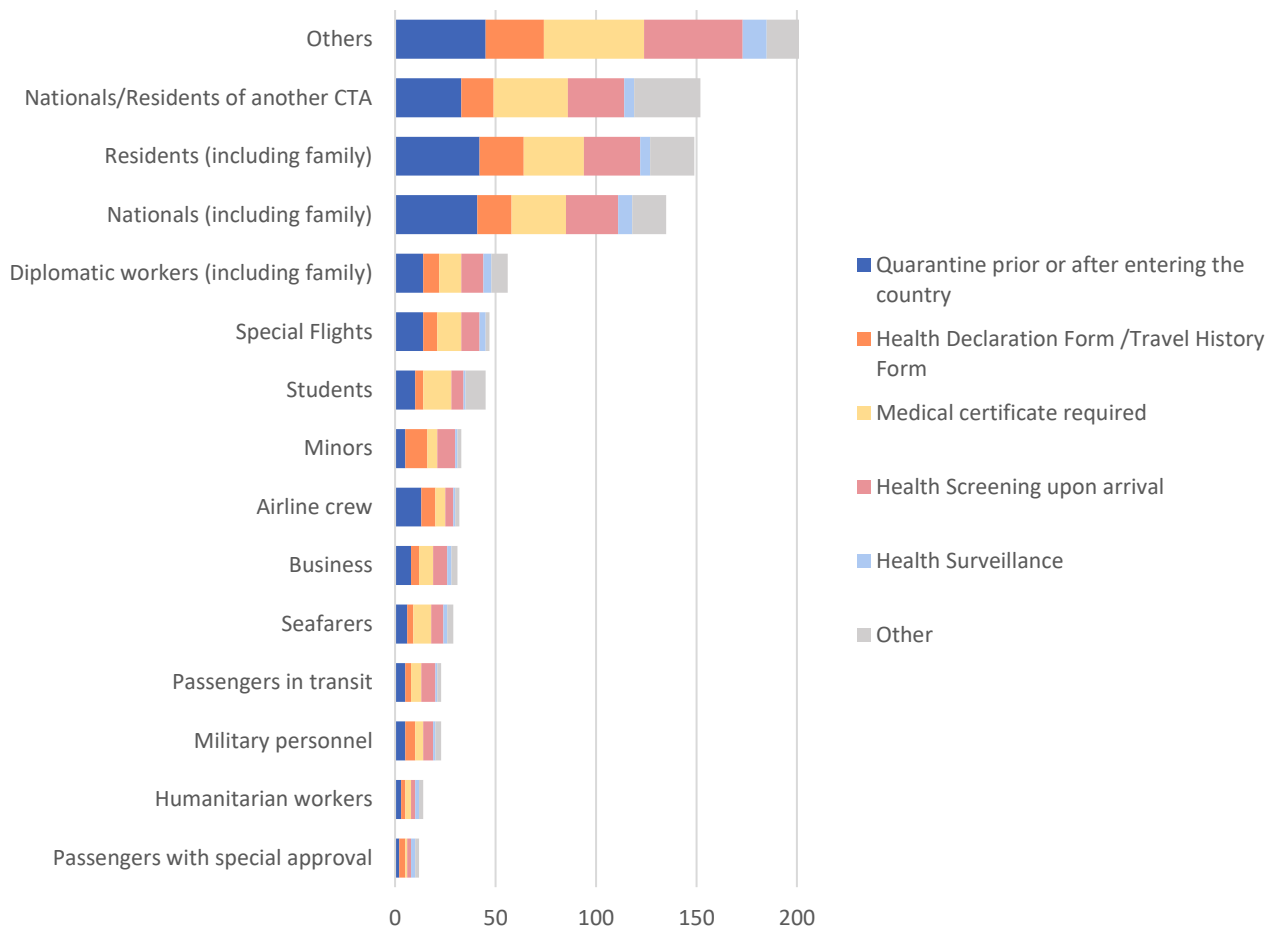
Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 707 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 172 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Singapore (15), Croatia (14), Bulgaria (12), Austria (11), and then Belgium, Monaco, Spain, Switzerland and Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region, People’s Republic of China with 10.
- Between 14th and 21st December 2020, 16 countries, territories or areas issued 30 new exceptions whilst 9 countries, territories or areas removed 20 exceptions.

■ Exceptions and Corresponding Conditions for Authorized Entry

The conditions for authorized entry refer to additional requirements or measures that specific exempt individuals or groups need to fulfil to enter a given C/T/A. The below chart demonstrates the most commonly imposed conditions for authorized entry such as quarantine, health declaration forms, and medical certificates, that are applicable to specific exceptional groups.

Exception groups and associated conditions for authorized entry



Noticeable Trends for Conditions for Authorized Entry for Exempted Groups

- Of the 172 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 118 have issued 1,007 conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups were, Singapore (37), Philippines (36), India (32), Belgium (30), and Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China (30).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was quarantine prior or after entering the country, which was issued 246 times. This was followed by medical certificates (220) and health screening (199).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Cambodia removed exceptions for nationals and passengers with a diplomatic passport (Visa A) or an official visa (Visa B). They are now required to provide a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. The certificate must be in English.
- Pakistan issued exceptions for passengers arriving from Australia, People's Republic of China, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Fiji, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, the Maldives, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Rwanda, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka or Viet Nam who are not required to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter.
- Aruba issued an exception for nationals of Aruba for its restriction barring all passengers from Peru or Venezuela.

ⁱ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.thelocal.ch/20201221/switzerland-imposes-retroactive-quarantine-on-arrivals-from-uk>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://twitter.com/shgm?lang=en>

^{iv} <https://news.trust.org/item/20201221101022-frlgc/>

^v <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/21/which-countries-have-banned-uk-flights-over-new-covid-19-concerns>

^{vi} <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/dec/21/coronavirus-live-news-european-countries-ban-uk-travellers-congress-leaders-agree-900bn-aid-deal>

^{vii} <https://www.forbes.com.mx/internacional-colombia-salvador-prohiben-vuelos-reino-unido/>