Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Bi-Weekly Update • 27th July 2020
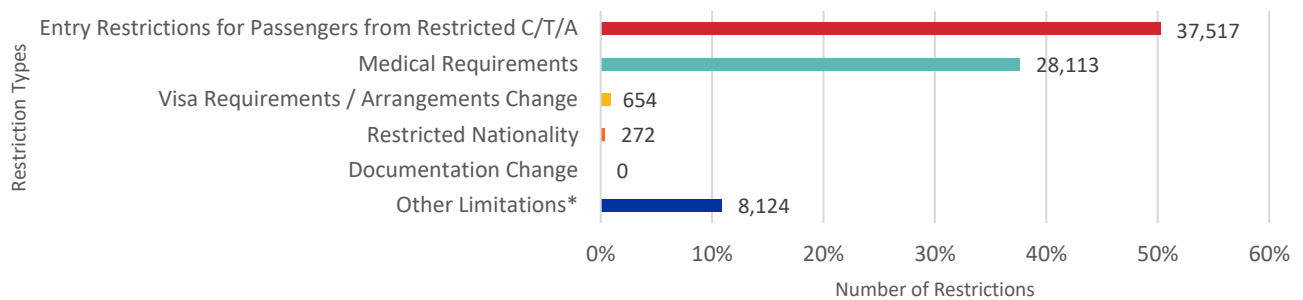
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
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■ Overview

The global number of COVID-19 cases has surpassed 15 million (15,785,641 cases and 640,016 deaths) as of 26th July 2020, as per the World Health Organization. This continued surge in infection numbers across the world continues to generate stringent and varied travel restrictions. As of 27th July 2020, a total of **219** countries, territories or areas (C/T/As) have issued **74,680** travel restrictions indicating a two per cent decrease from **75,852** restrictions recorded as of 23rd July 2020.[1] There has been a **decrease** of **three per cent** in other restrictions such new documents for travel and a **decrease** of **two per cent** in **medical restrictions**. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 176 countries, territories or areas have issued 648 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 23rd and 27th July 2020, 7 countries, territories or areas have issued 8 new exceptions whilst 7 countries, territories or areas have removed 16 exceptions.
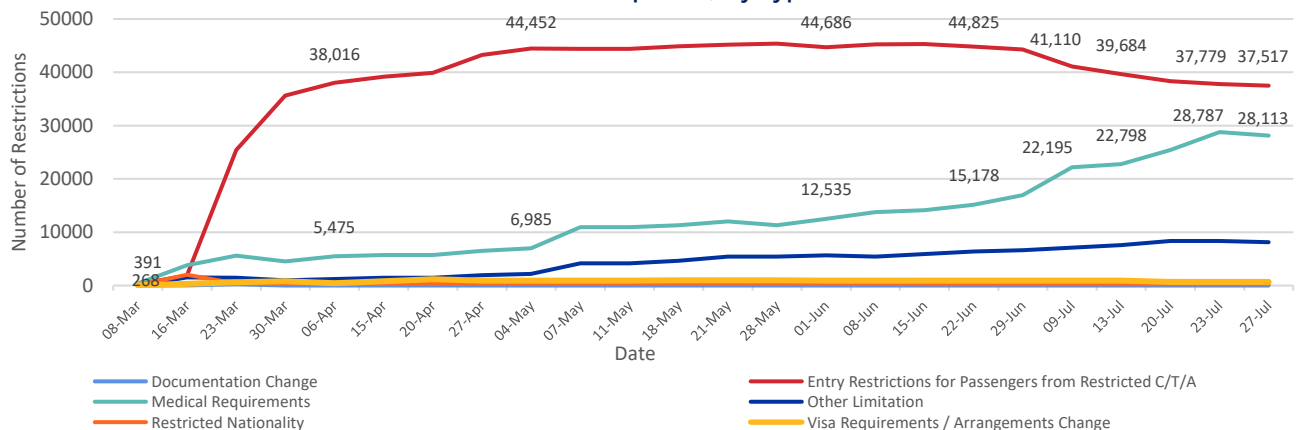Data Source: IATA and official government websites.

Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type

*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.
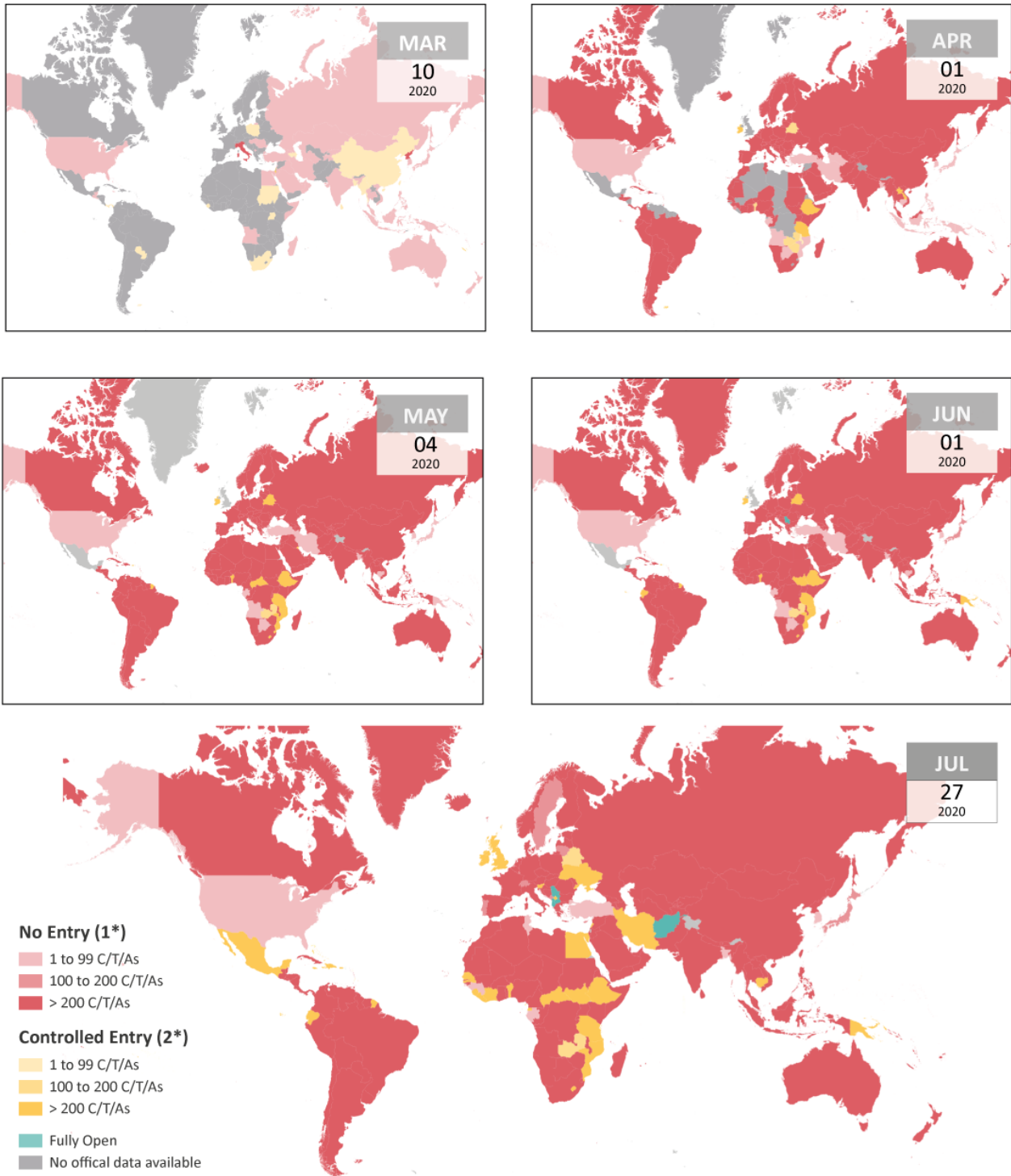
As of 27th July 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Although entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As still had the highest share of the total restrictions (50%), they have been following a decreasing trend. In contrast, medical measures making up 38 per cent of the restrictions have been increasing. Changes in visa requirements have also followed a stable trend, continuing to represent a small share (<1%) in 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

No Entry (1*)
- 1 to 99 C/T/As
- 100 to 200 C/T/As
- > 200 C/T/As

Controlled Entry (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.

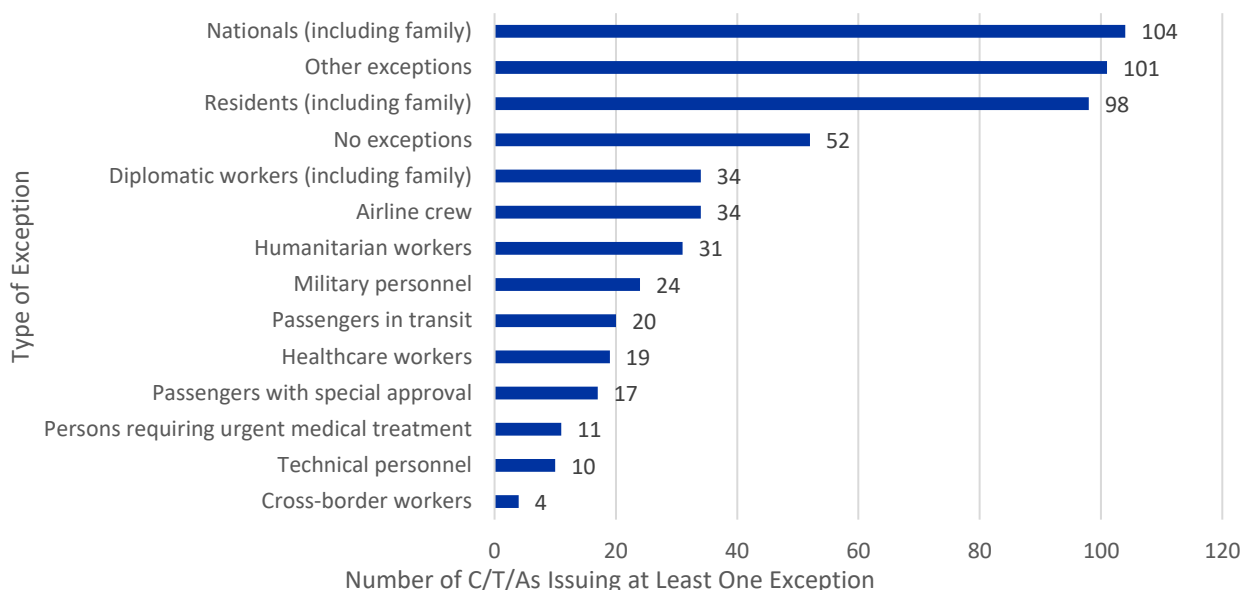The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.
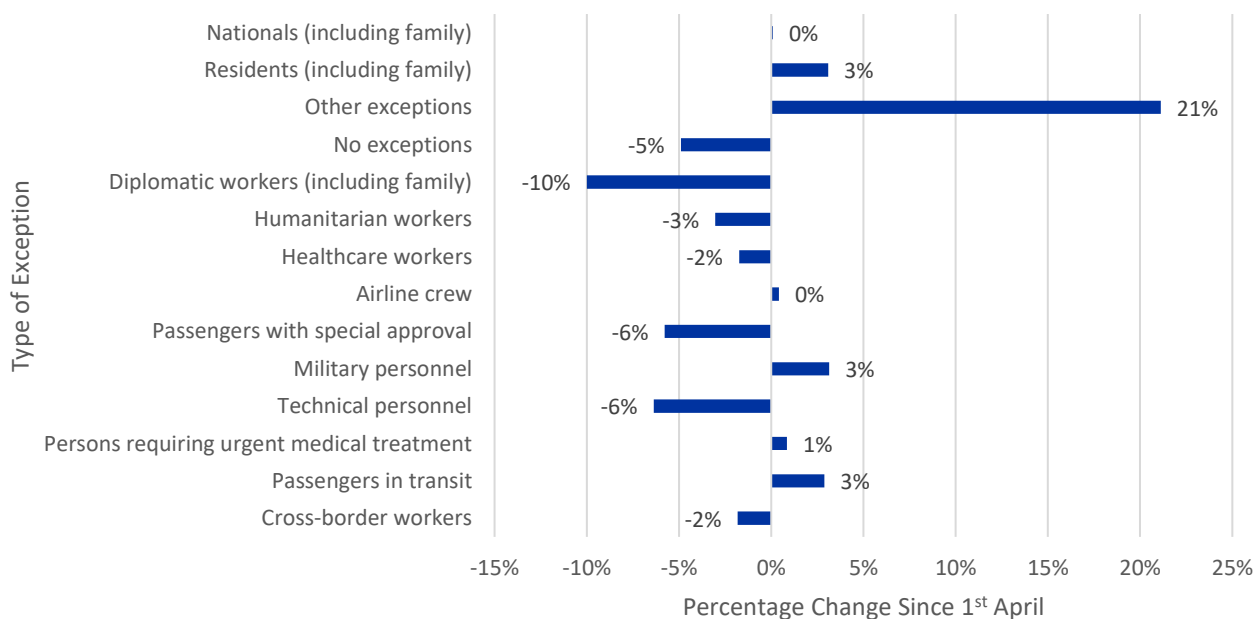
■ Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

- Extensions of travel bans for passengers and airline crew were issued by **Thailand** until 31st August 2020.

- **Passenger restrictions** were **reissued** by **Turkey** barring passengers arriving Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

- As of 24th July 2020, **Japan** re-issued **restrictions for passengers** who have transited through or have been in Botswana, Comoros, Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Uzbekistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the past 14 days. However, nationals of Japan; - spouses or children of nationals of Japan, residents of Japan with "Permanent Resident", "Spouse or Child of Japanese National", "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident" or "Long Term Resident", who have departed Japan with Re-entry Permission by 2nd April 2020; residents of Japan with "Permanent Resident", "Spouse or Child of Japanese National", "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident" or "Long Term Resident", who have departed Japan with Re-entry Permission between 1st July and 23rd July 2020 are exempted from this restriction.

- **Republic of Korea** added **new measures** requiring merchant sailors with a visa to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 2 days before departure. The certificate must be in English and the passengers must have two copies of the certificate.

- **Medical measures** were amended by **Malaysia.** Previously passengers were required to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 3 days before departure, however, authorities now require mandatory quarantine upon arrival at a designated government facility at their own expense.

- **New restrictions on airline crew** were issued by **Thailand requiring airline crew** to self-isolate until their next flight. Additionally, airline crew that are staying overnight must have a guarantee letter from the airline or a health insurance certificate with a coverage cost of at least USD 100,000.

- New restrictions were added by **Spain** for passengers who have been in the following countries, territories or areas in the past 14 days who are subject to quarantine for 10 days to include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Suriname and the United Arab Emirates. **Spain** also removed the medical measure requiring passengers who have been in Belarus in the past 14 days to quarantine for 10 days.

- **Medical measures were updated by St Vincent and the Grenadines** for passengers arriving from countries, territories or areas excluding the United States of America. Passengers must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival and present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result at most 5 days prior to arrival. They must also present a completed "Pre-Arrival Form' upon arrival. Passengers arriving from the United States of America must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result at most 5 days prior to arrival and are subject to medical screening and quarantine for 5 days for which they must have a hotel reservation. **St Vincent and the Grenadines also eased medical restrictions** for passengers arriving from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname or Trinidad and Tobago are not required to have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result from 1st August 2020.

- After a reported increase in the number of new cases in Spain, [the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#) reissued 14-day quarantine measures for passengers arriving from Spain as of 24th July 2020.

- As of 23rd July 2020, **Lebanon** resumed international flights, however, passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 4 days before arrival. Those passengers without this certificate will be subject to medical screening upon arrival. Additionally, a health declaration form must be provided.

- **Ukraine** added 158 countries, territories or areas to the 'green list' from which passengers arriving are not subject to mandatory quarantine upon arrival.

■ Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions

Exceptions Enabling Entry

Type of Exception	Number
Nationals (including family)	104
Other exceptions	101
Residents (including family)	98
No exceptions	52
Diplomatic workers (including family)	34
Airline crew	34
Humanitarian workers	31
Military personnel	24
Passengers in transit	20
Healthcare workers	19
Passengers with special approval	17
Persons requiring urgent medical treatment	11
Technical personnel	10
Cross-border workers	4

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

Change in Exceptions Enabling Entry

Type of Exception	Percentage Change Since 1st April
Nationals (including family)	0%
Residents (including family)	3%
Other exceptions	21%
No exceptions	-5%
Diplomatic workers (including family)	-10%
Humanitarian workers	-3%
Healthcare workers	-2%
Airline crew	0%
Passengers with special approval	-6%
Military personnel	3%
Technical personnel	-6%
Persons requiring urgent medical treatment	1%
Passengers in transit	3%
Cross-border workers	-2%

Percentage Change Since 1st April

Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 648 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 176 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Thailand (12), Greece (11), Sweden (11), the Republic of Korea (11), and then joint 5th with 10 were Bulgaria, Finland, Iceland, Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China, and the United States of America.
- Since the last update on 23rd July 2020, 8 new exceptions were added by Romania (2), Guam (1), Norway (1), the Republic of Korea (1), Samoa (1), Thailand (1), and the United States of America (1).
- Since the last update on 23rd July 2020, 16 exceptions were removed by Norway (5), Romania (4), the Netherlands (3), French Polynesia (1), Guam (1), New Zealand (1), and Spain (1).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- **The United States of America** added a **new exception** allowing the entry of students with a valid F-1 or M-1 visa and their F-2 and M-2 dependents if they arrive from or have been in Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Schengen Member States in the past 14 days.

- **Romania** and **Guam** also added a list of countries, territories or areas that are exempt from the mandatory quarantine requirement upon arrival. For **Romania,** this includes Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Republic of Korea, Japan, Morocco, Rwanda, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, Member States of the European Union and European Economic Area countries. For **Guam,** this includes 27 countries, territories, or areas and 6 states of the United States of America.

- **The Philippines** added exceptions allowing the entry of passengers with the following visa categories of foreign Nationals who are now residents and have long term visas go under the names of 13 (a) to (g) and Native-born visa issued by the Philippines in effect 1st August 2020.

- **Bulgaria** added new exceptions to travel ban allowing passengers with a residence permit issued by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and their family members.

- **Mauritania** added **exceptions** for flights returning nationals and residents of Mauritania. Additionally, only airline crew of Mauritania Airlines are exempt from this restriction.

- Authorities in **France** and **the Netherlands** have organised six new return flights in August for nationals of France and the Netherlands who are stranded in South Africa.

- Thai Airways has announced special flights to and from Germany on 11th and 21st August 2020 for stranded nationals of **Thailand** and Germany that wish to return home.

- A total of 12 flights returned 1,895 nationals of **Egypt** amid the COVID-19 travel restrictions on 26th July 2020.

- **India** has expanded its efforts to return nationals from abroad further, adding new flights from Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates for six days from 1st August 2020.

- **The United Arab Emirates** sent a plane carrying 12.5 tons of medical supplies and 500,000 rapid testing kits for 14 Caribbean countries, territories or areas, including: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, in cooperation with Barbados as a hub for distribution and through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency.