# Global Mobility Restriction Overview

## Bi-Weekly Update • 3rd August 2020

**COVID-19 Mobility Impacts** Update Series
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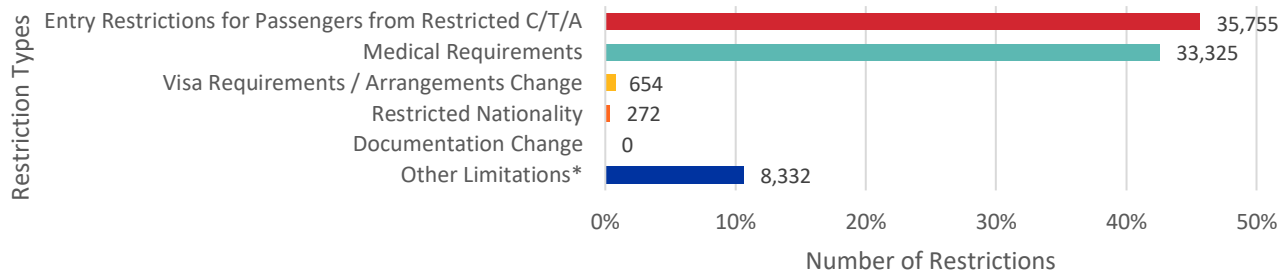
## Overview

As the total number of COVID-19 cases continues to steadily climb, reaching 17,660,523 cases globally according to the World Health Organization, global mobility remains significantly impacted. Governments and authorities continue to respond in varied ways to the changes in differing public health situations, resulting in a diverse mobility context. As of 3rd August 2020, a total of **219** countries, territories or areas have issued **78,338 travel restrictions** indicating an **increase** of almost **3 per cent** from 76,262 travel restrictions reported on 30th July 2020. There has been an **increase** of **9 per cent** in **medical restrictions** and an **increase** of **2 per cent** in **other limitations**. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 176 countries, territories or areas have issued 666 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 30th July 2020 and 3rd August 2020, 12 countries, territories or areas have issued 26 new exceptions whilst 6 countries, territories or areas have removed 12 exceptions.

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

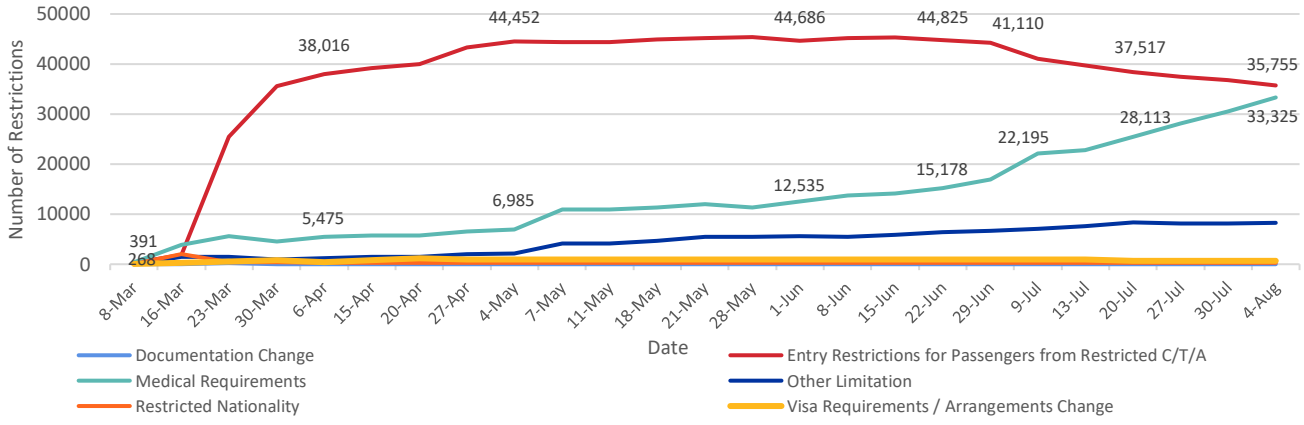
### Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type




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

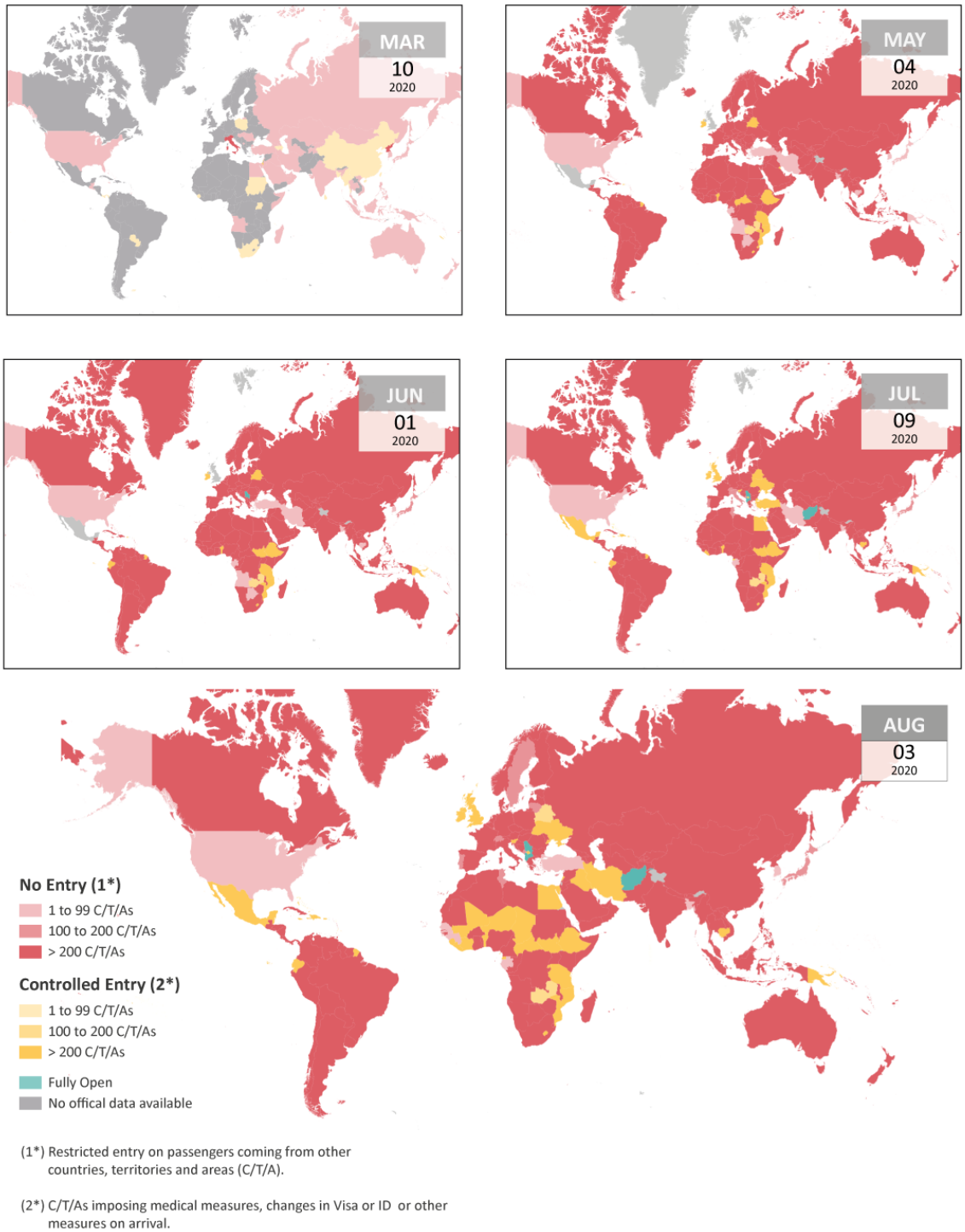
As of 3rd August 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Although entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As still had the highest share of the total restrictions (46%), they have been following a decreasing trend. In contrast, medical measures making up 43 per cent of the restrictions 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




(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.

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## Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

- **Flight suspensions** were extended by **Tajikistan** until 15th of August 2020 and by **India** until the 31st of August 2020.

- Blanket entry bans for passengers arriving by air from certain countries, territories and areas, were extended indefinitely by **Italy**, and by **Azerbaijan**, **Mongolia**, and the **Republic of Moldova** until 31st August 2020.

- **The Netherlands tightened conditions** around an exception that allows entry to partners of residents of the Netherlands with European Economic Area member state or Swiss nationality, requiring that they provide a completed "Declaration of relationship for COVID-19 entry ban exemption" form, a return ticket and proof that they have been in a relationship for at least three months, upon arrival.

- **Tunisia** issued **restrictions**, barring entry to passengers arriving from Bahrain, Bulgaria, Djibouti, Gabon, the Gambia, Indonesia, Lebanon, and Nicaragua and in parallel, eased restrictions to allow entry to passengers arriving from Central African Republic, Cayman Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

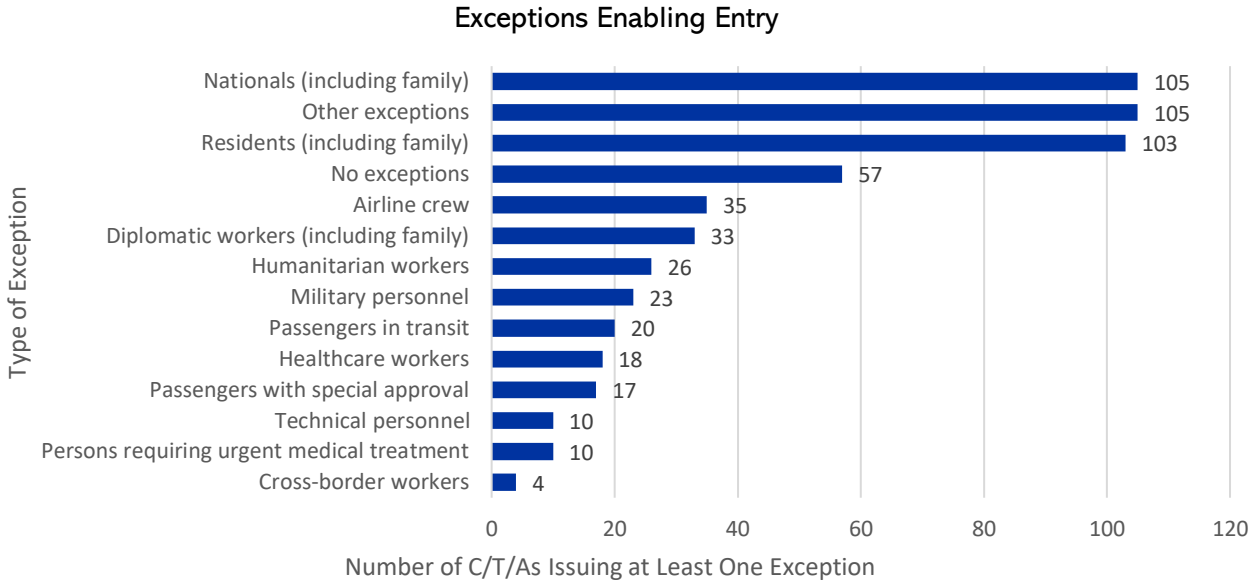
- **New medical measures** were issued by **United Republic of Tanzania**, requiring passengers to subject to medical screening upon arrival, provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure, and provide a completed "Travellers Surveillance Form," upon arrival.

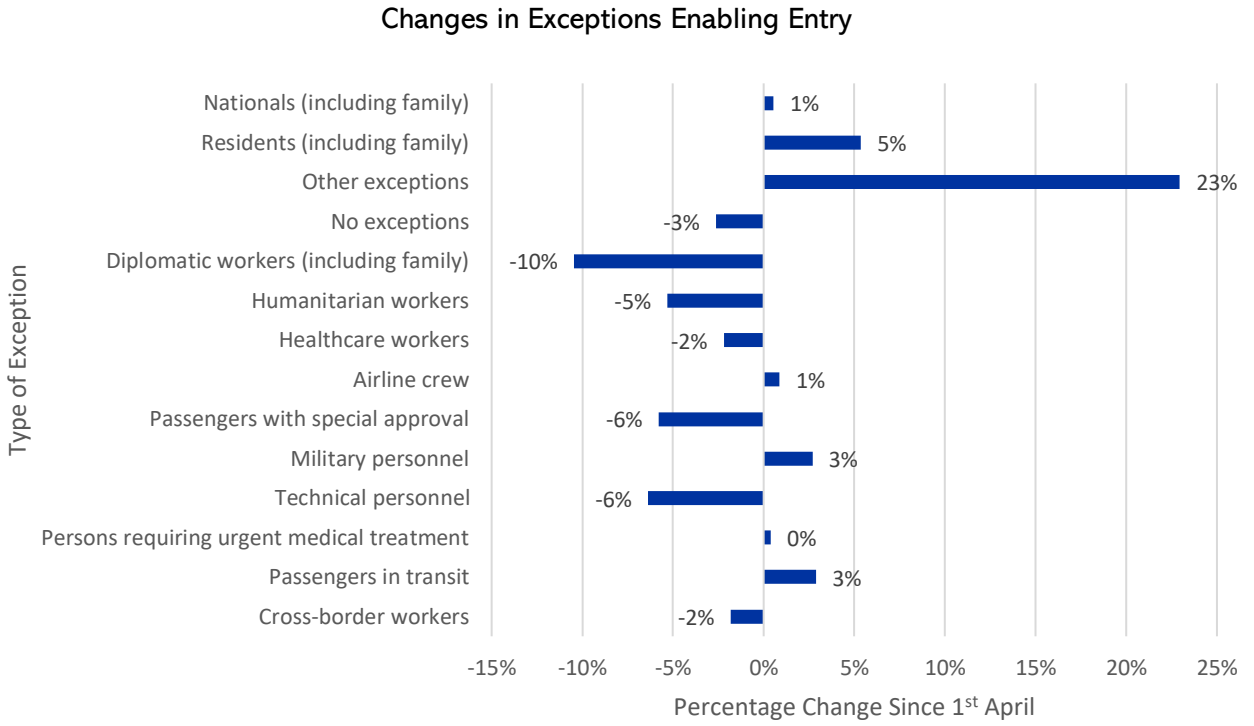
- **Russian Federation** issued a **new medical requirement** for passengers to provide a medical certificate upon arrival, with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival. Nationals and residents of the Russian Federation are exempt from this requirement.

- **Lebanon** tightened **medical restrictions** for entry, stipulating that Passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 96 hours before departure and must undergo another COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, upon arrival.

- **Medical measures** were issued by **France**, requiring that passengers arriving from Bahrain, Panama, United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Brazil, India, Israel, Kuwait, Madagascar, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Serbia, South Africa or Turkey must provide a medical certificate upon arrival, with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) result, issued at most 72 hours before departure.

# Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions




## Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 666 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), the Republic of Korea (11), the United States of America (11), and then joint 5th with 10 were Bulgaria, Finland, Iceland, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China.
- Since the last update on 30th July 2020, 26 new exceptions were added by the United Arab Emirates (7), Tunisia (4), Guinea (3), the Philippines (2), the Russian Federation (2), the United Republic of Tanzania (2), Guinea-Bissau (1), Italy (1), Kuwait (1), Montserrat (1), Spain (1), and the United States of America (1).
- Since the last update on 30th July 2020, 12 exceptions were removed by Niger (3), Rwanda (3), Iraq (2), Mongolia (2), Guinea (1), and Sweden (1).

## Key Exceptions Highlights

- **Chad reopened airports**, as of 1st August 2020, however passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival and undergo a 14-day quarantine upon arrival.

- **Rwanda** and **Iraq resumed flights** as of 1st August 2020 and 31st July 2020, respectively. Passengers arriving to either country must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 48 hours before departure and 72 hours before arrival, respectively, as well as undergo medical screening and a 14-day quarantine upon arrival.

- **Flights recommenced in Niger** as of 1st August 2020, and passengers must provide a medical certificate upon arrival, with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours prior to arrival.

- **Restrictions were eased** by **Grenada**, to allow entry to passengers arriving from Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montserrat, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- **Italy extended** the **validity period** of previously **expired resident permits** until 31st August 2020, for permits that expired between 31st January and 31st July 2020.

- **Guinea** issued **new exceptions** to the ban on nationals from Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, to allow entry to passengers with a long-term visa issued by Guinea as well as spouses, partners, parents or children of nationals of Guinea.

- **Spain** opened **exceptional entry** to residents of Andorra, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Monaco, New Zealand, Rwanda, San Marino, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and the Holy See, if arriving from the country, territory or area of residence.

- **The Philippines** issued **exceptions** to their ban of passengers, to allow entry to both nationals of India with a Temporary Resident Visa, and to nationals of the People's Republic of China with a Permanent Resident Visa and a spouse who is a national of the Philippines.

***Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** issued **exceptions** for **medical measures** requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a **negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result upon arrival for passengers arriving from Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.***

- The Indian national airline carrier started the fifth phase of the 'Vande Bharat Mission' as of 1st August 2020 to facilitate the return Indian nationals from different countries, territories and areas. As of 30th July 2020, the national carrier has operated a total of 1,461 flights from 53 countries since 7th May 2020, when the first flight departed.

- Two international flights with Thai Airways International have been scheduled to Copenhagen, Denmark, and two to Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China, to facilitate the return of migrants stranded in Thailand and bring home Thai nationals stranded abroad. The flights are scheduled for 5th and 14th August 2020 and 16th and 30th August 2020, respectively.

- As of 31st July 2020, the United Arab Emirates sent 60 metric tons of critical medical supplies and testing kits to Turkmenistan to help approximately 90,000 medical professionals, curb the spread of COVID-19.

- A team of seven technicians from the People's Republic of China, who specialize in nucleic acid testing arrived on 8th August 2020, to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China, to help halt community transmission and the surge of COVID-19 cases.