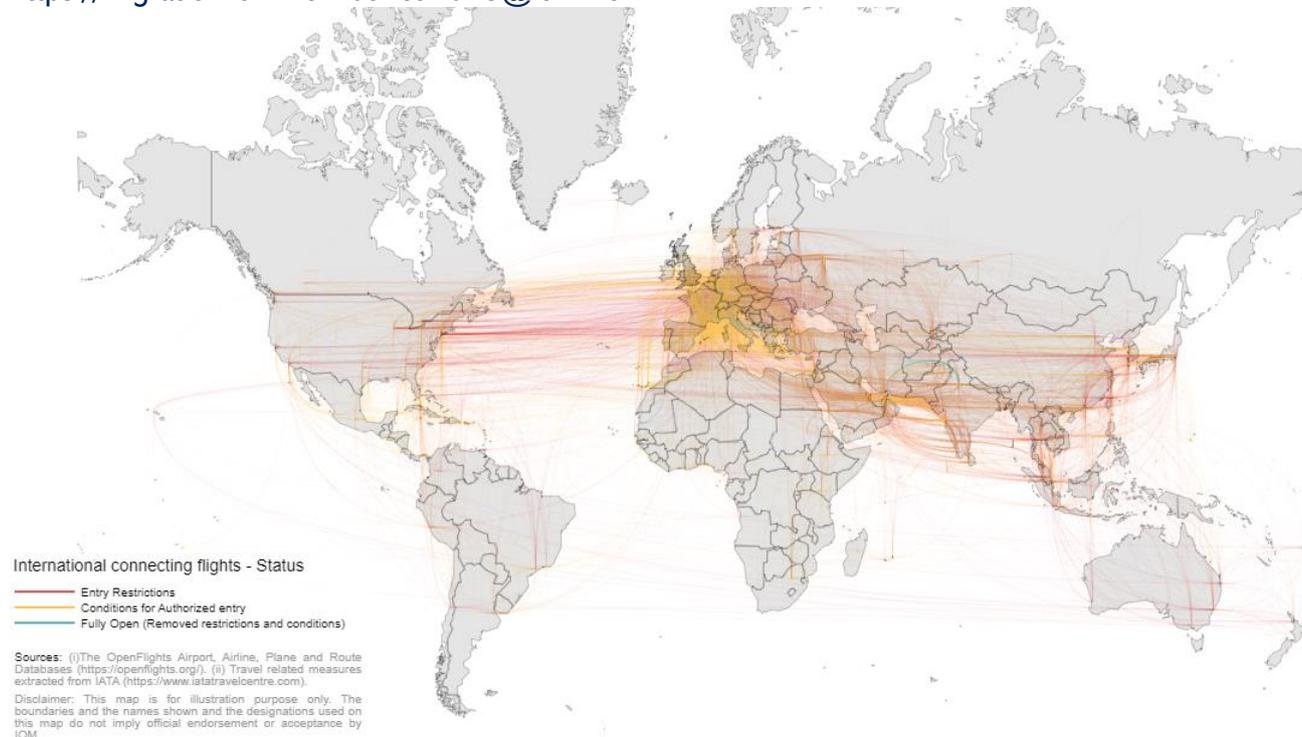


# Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Weekly Update • 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020



COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series  
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## 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](#).

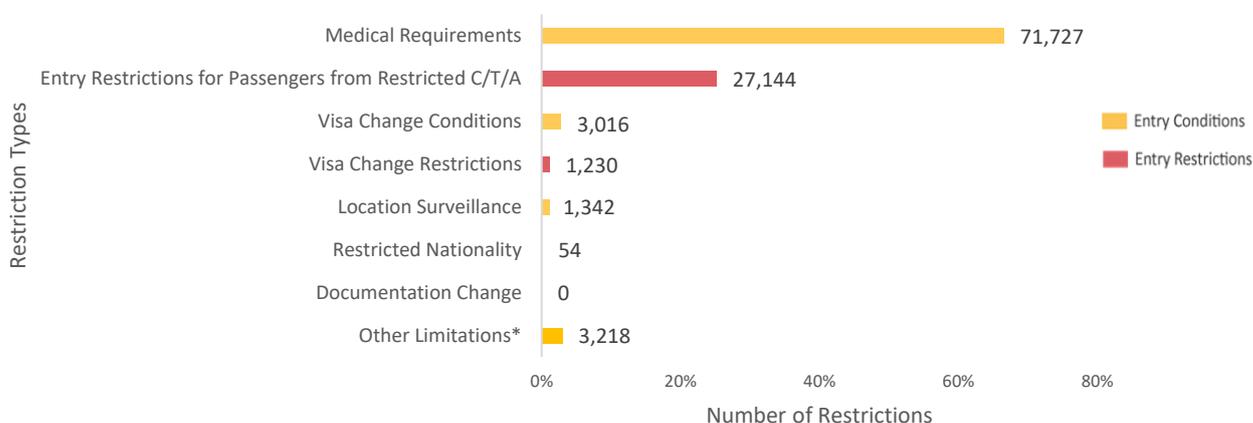
Disclaimer: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe mobility restrictions in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities 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](mailto:dtmccovid19@iom.int) to ensure consistency of information in the database repository.

## Overview

Over 66 million COVID-19 cases have been reported by the [World Health Organization](#) in 220 countries, territories or areas globally as of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.<sup>i</sup> Related air travel measures to limit the spread of new infection cases have had a considerable effect on global mobility and migration. As of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, a total of 225 countries, territories or areas, have issued 107,731 travel related measures indicating a decrease of 3 per cent from 110,974 travel related measures reported on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Of these, 28,428 were reported as entry restrictions and 79,303 were reported as conditions for entry. In the reporting period, there was a decrease in conditions for authorized entry of 3 per cent and a 2 per cent decrease in the entry restrictions. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a decrease of 25 per cent in location surveillance such as passenger locator forms. There was a decrease of 16 per cent in entry restrictions such as visa requirements between 30<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 167 countries, territories or areas have issued 713 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel related measures. Between 30<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, countries, 23 territories or areas issued 40 new exceptions whilst 38 countries, territories or areas removed 116 exceptions.

## Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

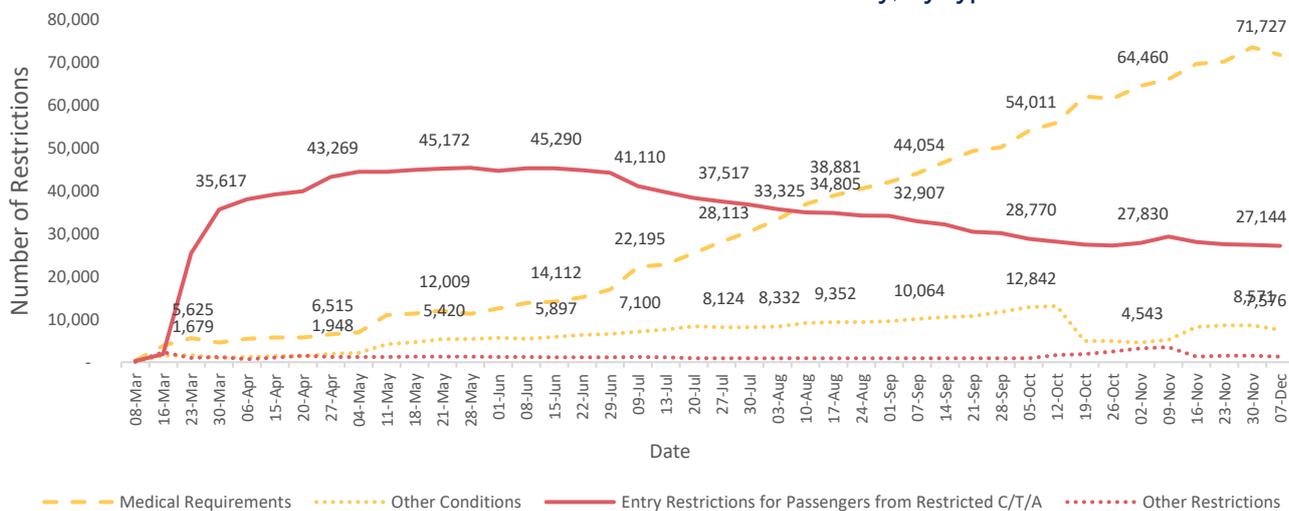
Most Commonly Imposed Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry



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

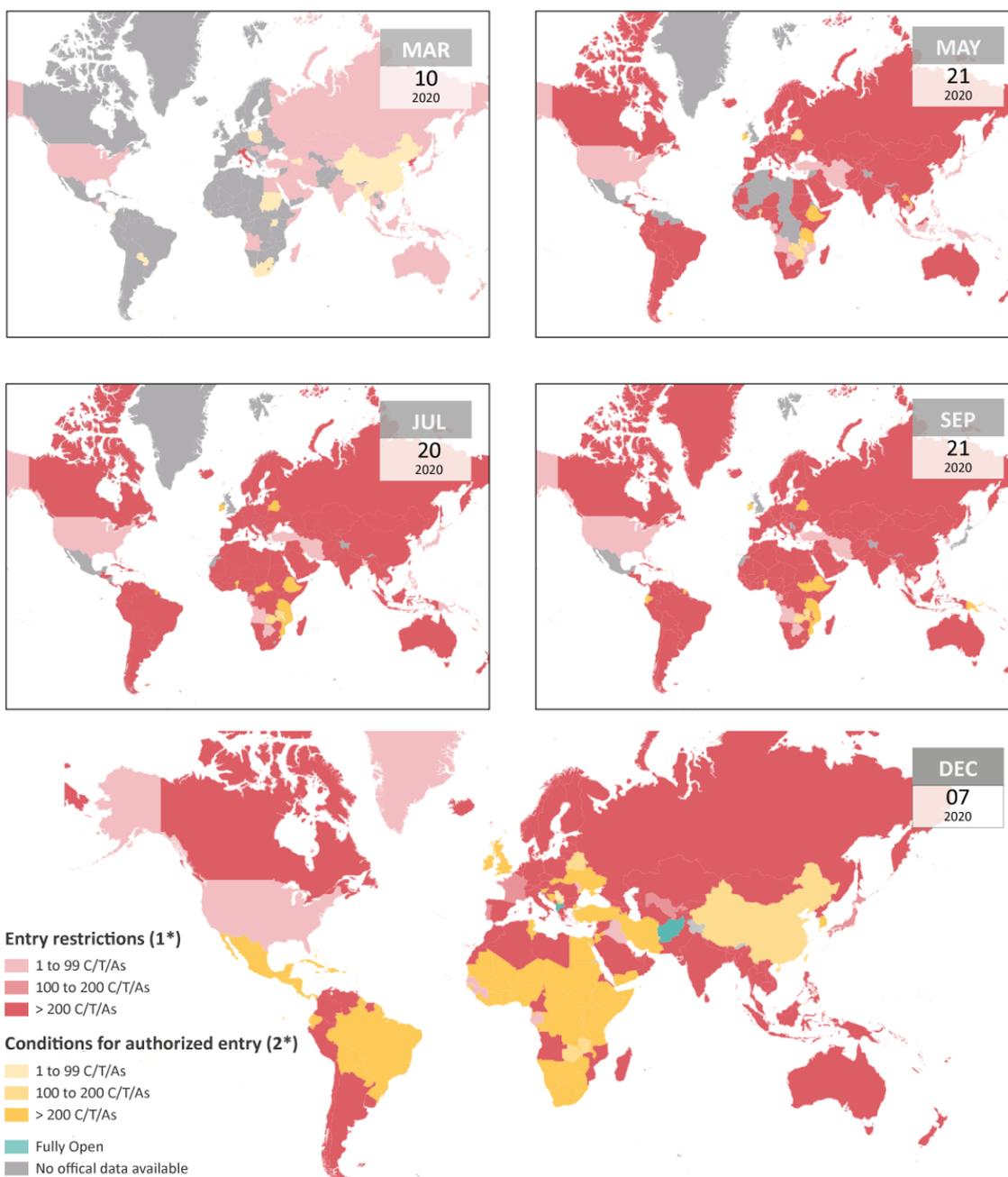
As of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 225 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 25 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition for authorized entry representing 67 per cent of conditions. In contrast, visa requirements represent 4 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

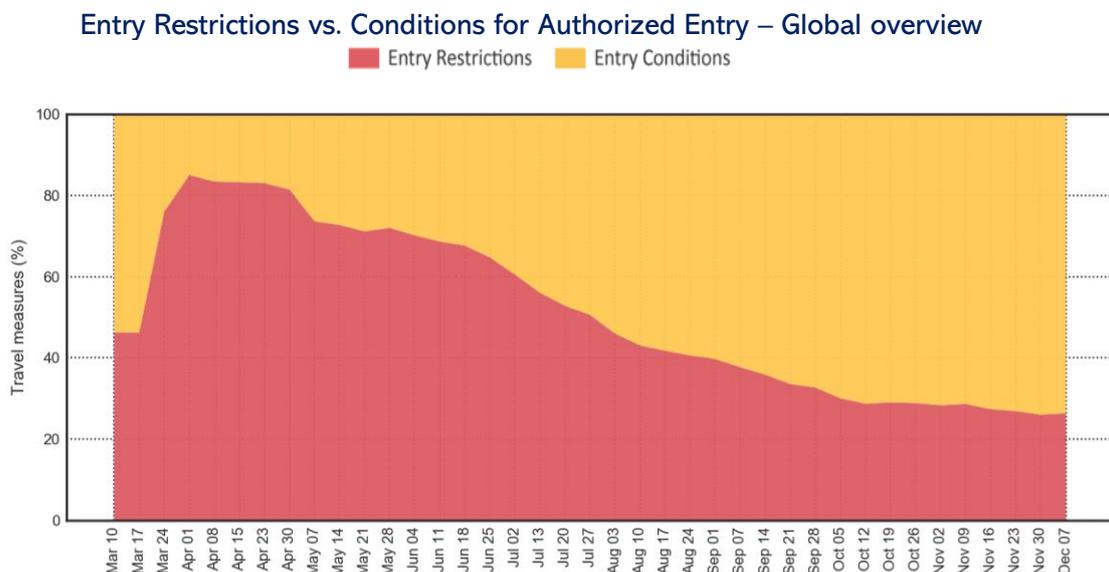
The map below provides a global overview on how C/T/As have gradually increased the issuance of 'entry restrictions' (e.g. total entry restrictions for passengers) and 'conditions for authorized entry' (e.g. medical requirements in the form of PCR test, quarantine, etc.). In March 2020, most of the Governments 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).

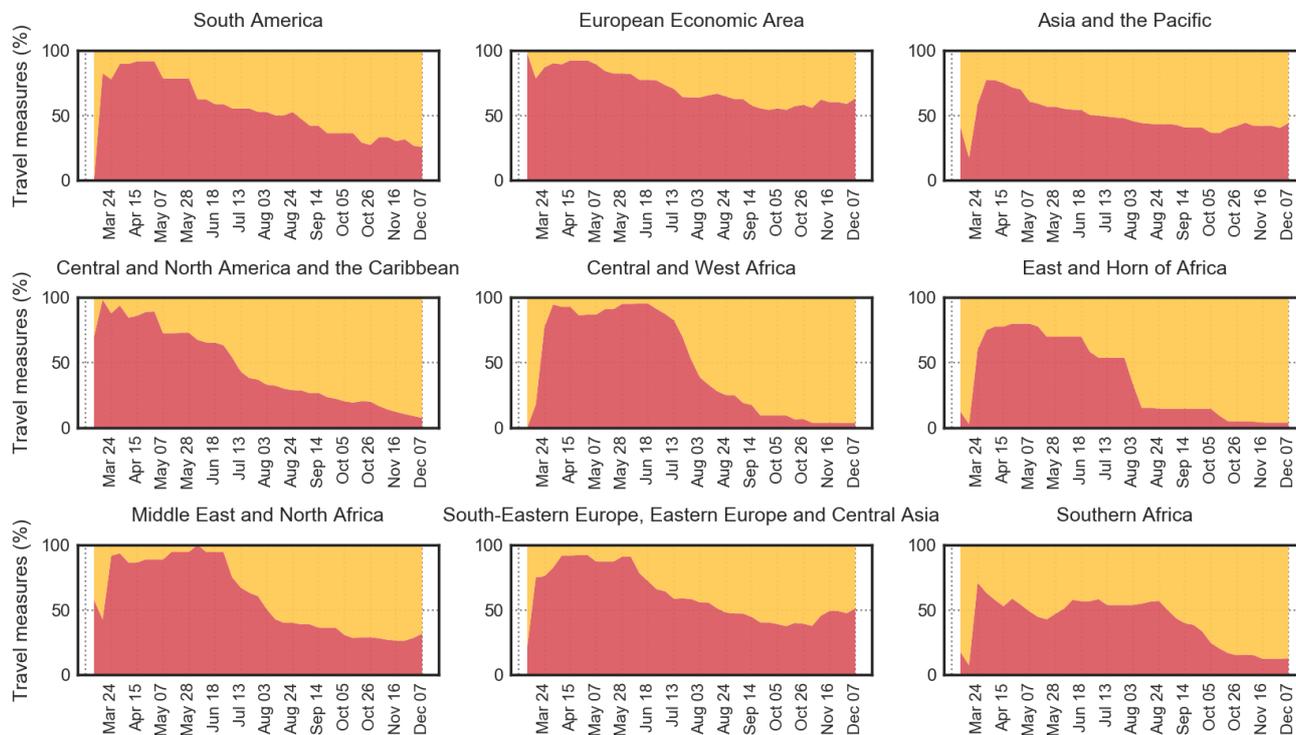
(2\*) C/T/As imposing medical measures, changes in Visa or ID or other measures on arrival.

The chart below shows the shift from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' over the 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 30th November 2020.



When disaggregating the data by IOM regions, similar trends can be observed but with differences in timing. For instance, IOM region Asia and the Pacific started to shift from 'entry restrictions' (coloured in red) to 'conditions for authorized entry' (coloured in yellow) earlier than any other region (April 2020). Whereas IOM region Southern Africa began easing total restrictions only in August 2020. These regional differences over time mirror the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in different geographical areas.

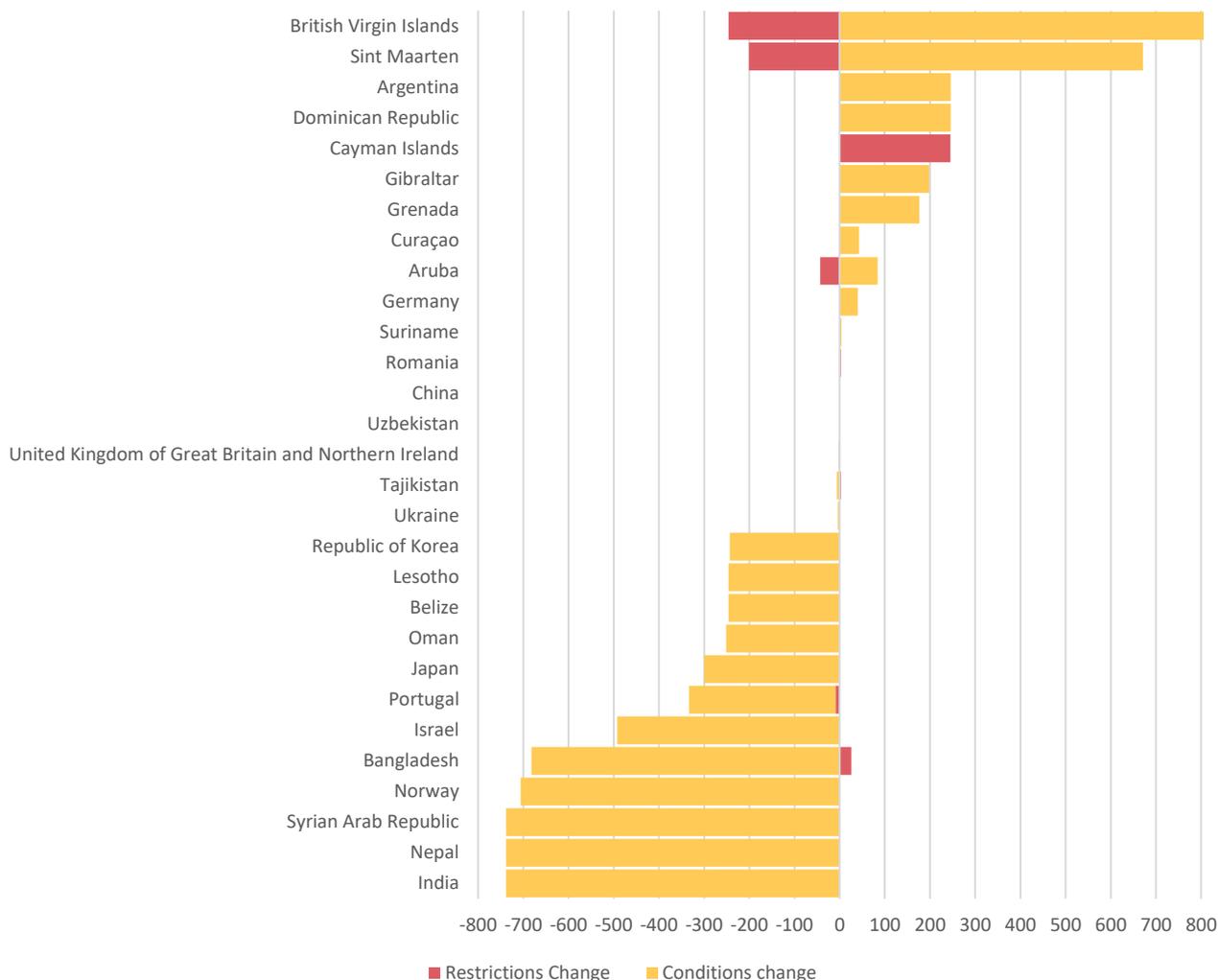
### Entry Restrictions vs. Conditions for authorized entry – Regional overview



## ■ 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 30<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 30 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, while 7 C/T/As made minor changes. While there were more C/T/As removing existing restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 11 C/T/As issued some existing restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry without removing any existing ones.

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

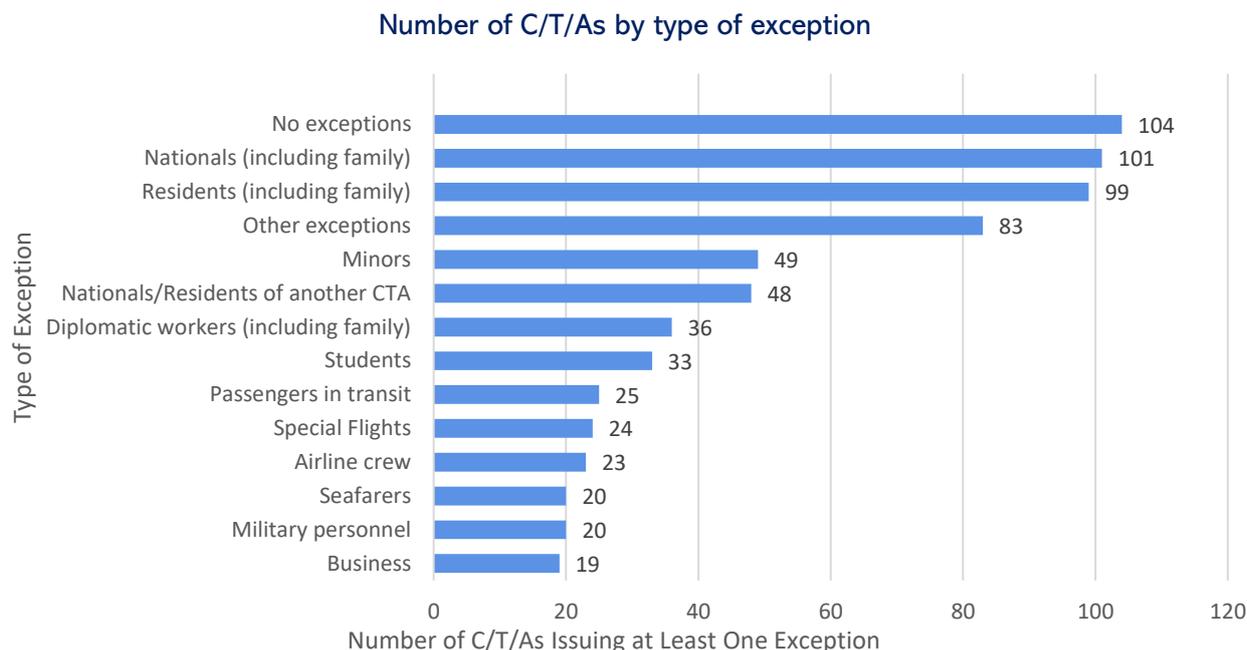


- As of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, airports in the British Virgin Islands have reopened. However, passengers must have an approved “BVI Gateway Traveler Authorization Certificate” obtained [online](#) at least 48 hours before departure. Passengers must have a negative COVID-19 Rapid Test – Polymerase Chain Reaction result issued at most five days before arrival from a low-risk country or at most three days before arrival from a medium or high-risk country. Passengers must also have medical travel insurance with COVID-19 coverage and are also subject to medical screening and COVID-19 PCR test upon arrival.
- As of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Sint Maarten reopened airports, all passengers must complete and submit a health declaration form at least 12 hours before departure and provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test issued at most 120 hours before departure.
- Curaçao and Dominican Republic issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring all passengers to subject to medical screening upon arrival.

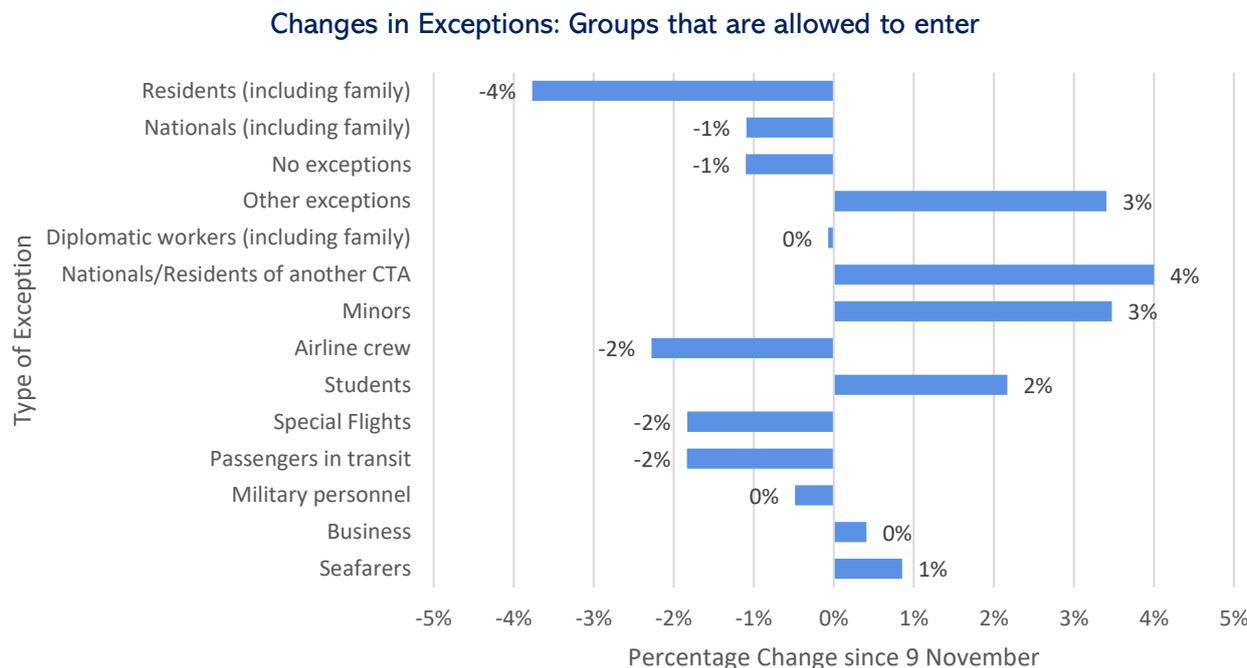
- Grenada issued new conditions for authorized entry, requiring all passengers present a printed "Pure Safe Travel Certificate" obtained [online](#), upon arrival.
- Aruba issued restrictions barring entry to both residents of, and passengers arriving from Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
- Romania issued entry bans for passengers arriving from Algeria, Canada, Georgia, Morocco until 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020. However, passengers arriving from Singapore and San Marino are now exempt, and can enter despite this restriction. Additionally, flights from Andorra to Romania are no longer suspended whereas flights from Georgia and the United States of America are suspended as of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.
- The People's Republic of China issued new conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving directly from Canada. They must have a green QR code with an 'HDC' mark issued by a Chinese embassy or consulate. The code can be obtained [online](#) with a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result issued at most 48 hours before departure and a negative IgM anti-body test result issued at most 48 hours before departure.
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland removed the passenger ban on passengers arriving from Denmark, as of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.
- Flight suspensions were extended by Tajikistan and Nepal until 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020, by Myanmar until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and by Israel until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- Ukraine issued new conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving from Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland or the United States of America without a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival, they are subject to self-isolation upon arrival.
- Lesotho changed conditions for authorized entry, passengers are no longer required to quarantine upon entry. However, all passengers, except nationals of Lesotho, are required to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival. Lesotho also issued new measures for nationals of Lesotho that plan to leave Lesotho and return within 14 days, they must have a negative COVID-19 test result prior to departure.
- Passengers arriving in Belize are no longer required to download the Belize Health travel app and present a QR code upon arrival, but previous conditions for entry i.e. medical screening upon arrival and medical certificate still apply.
- Portugal added a new condition for authorized entry requiring all passengers to submit a completed Passenger Locator Form upon entry.
- Israel issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring passengers to complete an "Entry Report" form [online](#) before departure. Additionally, all passengers must have an electronic approval obtained from the Ministry of Health at most 24 hours before departure [online](#). Previously only passengers arriving from 'Red Locations' needed the electronic approval.
- From 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020 flights arriving from Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Singapore are allowed to enter Bangladesh despite the general flight suspension. All passengers arriving to Bangladesh must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point.
- Canada extended its passenger ban on passengers arriving from any other country, territory or area except the United States of America from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- Existing passenger bans were extended by Thailand until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, Iceland until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and Curacao extended indefinitely.
- Greece extended the flights suspension for flights arriving from Turkey and Catalonia (Spain) from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Humanitarian, medical evacuation, military and return flights for nationals abroad remain exempt.

- In addition to existing conditions for authorized entry, the Philippines issued new conditions requiring that all passengers must install the app "TRAZE" on their personal devices before departure.
- Passengers arriving in Guyana that do not present a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) result issued 7 days before arrival will be subject to a mandatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test upon arrival. All passengers are still subject to 14 days of quarantine and must complete a passenger locator form.
- Australia issued new conditions for authorized entry for requiring passengers to complete a "Travel Declaration" form [online](#) before departure.
- Changes to the specification for the medical certificate were issued by Kenya, Ethiopia and Greenland. For Kenya, passengers entering or transiting through Kenya must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result at most 96 hours before departure at the embarkation point. Previously it was 96 hours before arrival. Authorities in Ethiopia changed the type of COVID-19 test required for the medical certificate from the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test to the Rapid Test- Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test. Passengers arriving in Greenland no longer need to provide medical certificates with negative COVID-19 test result from pre-approved laboratories to enter, results from all laboratories will be accepted.
- Solomon Islands issued new conditions for authorized entry, requiring all passengers and airline crew to provide details of their international travel history for the period of 14 days prior to arrival in Solomon Islands

## ■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions



C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (101) and for Residents (99). Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 49 different CTAs, continue to represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.



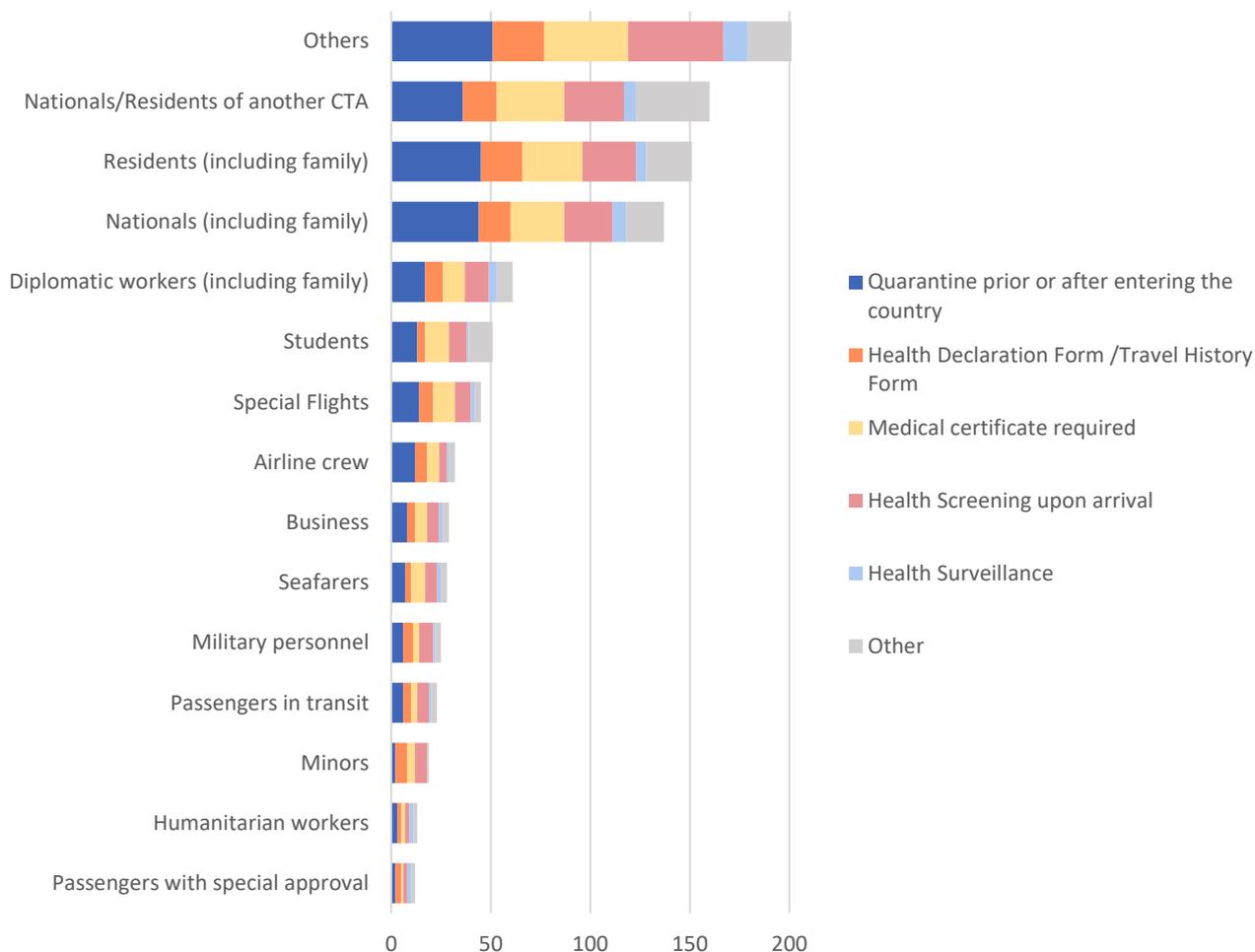
### Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- Of the 167 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 111 have issued 1001 conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of conditions for authorised entry for exempted groups were India (48), Singapore (37), Belgium (30), Hong Kong, Special Administrative, People's Republic of China (30), and the Philippines (28).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was quarantine prior or after entering the country, which was issued 266 times. This was followed by medical certificates (199) and health screening (197).

## ■ 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, 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 170 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 107 have issued 1,036 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 India (48), Japan (47), the United Arab Emirates (38), Norway (36), and Singapore (34).
- A total of 40 different CTAs issued at least three different conditions for authorized entry on specific exempted groups.
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was quarantine prior to or after entering the country, which was issued 281 times. This was followed by medical certificates (203) and health screening (201).

## ■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Bangladesh removed the exceptions for nationals of Bangladesh; passengers with Bangladeshi origins; passengers with a diplomatic or an official passport and their family members; passengers with a Laissez-Passer and their family members who did not require a medical certificate to enter. Additionally, Bangladesh added exceptions for seafarers to the visa on arrival suspension, they can apply for visa on arrival.
- Iceland issued a new exception to the requirement to complete the "preregistration for visiting Iceland" [online](#) before arrival, passengers below the age of 16 are not required to complete the form.
- Nepal issued exceptions to the passenger ban for foreign nationals of Nepali origin, they are now allowed to enter the country.
- Denmark issued exceptions to conditions for entry for residents of Ireland and Iceland who no longer require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 PCR or Antigen test taken at most 72 hours before arrival.
- Denmark issued exceptions to the passenger ban for residents of the Holy See, residents of Finland (regions of Åland, Central Ostrobothnia, Kainuu, Kanta-Häme, Lapland, North Savo, Ostrobothnia, Satakunta, South Karelia and South Savo); and residents of Norway (counties of More og Romsdal, Nordland, Rogaland, Troms og Finnmark and Trøndelag). However, these passengers are required to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 PCR or Antigen test taken at most 72 hours before arrival.
- Canada added an exception to the passenger ban for passengers who enter Canada for the purpose of an International Single Sport Event. However, they must be asymptomatic and have a letter issued by the Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage (PCH) to enter.
- New exceptions to the passenger ban were issued by Cayman Islands for students. Additional exceptions were issued for children below the age of five who are not required to undergo medical screening upon arrival. Additionally, all exempt passengers must obtain approval to "Travel to Cayman" [online](#).
- Singapore issued new exception for the passenger ban for residents of Germany under the following conditions for authorized entry. They must have a valid SafeTravel Pass approval letter issued by Singapore under the Singapore-Germany Reciprocal Green Lane; and have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point; passengers must have stayed in Germany in the last 14 days before departure; and finally, they must have a return ticket or proof of other transportation arrangements to depart from Singapore.
- Aruba added exceptions to the passenger ban for passengers arriving from Argentina, Belize, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay.