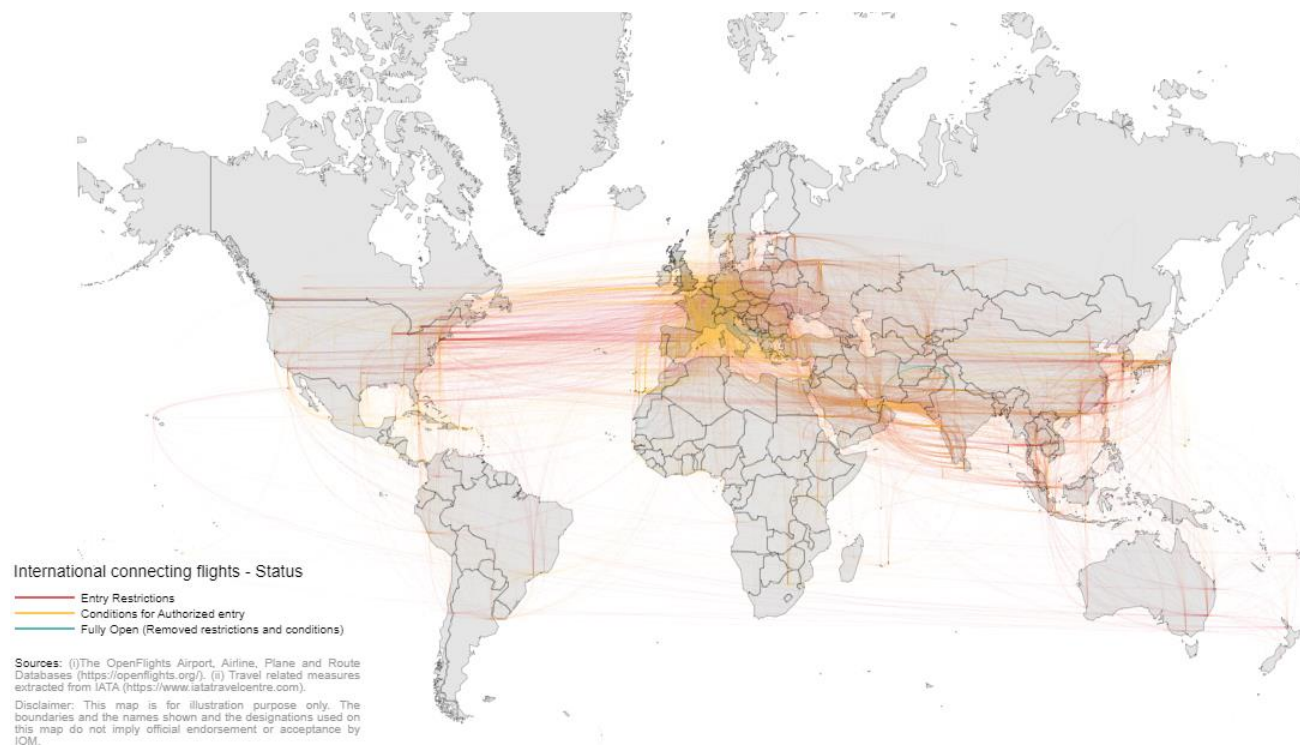


# Global Mobility Restriction Overview





Weekly Update • 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021



COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series  
<https://migration.iom.int> • [dtmccovid19@iom.int](mailto: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](#).

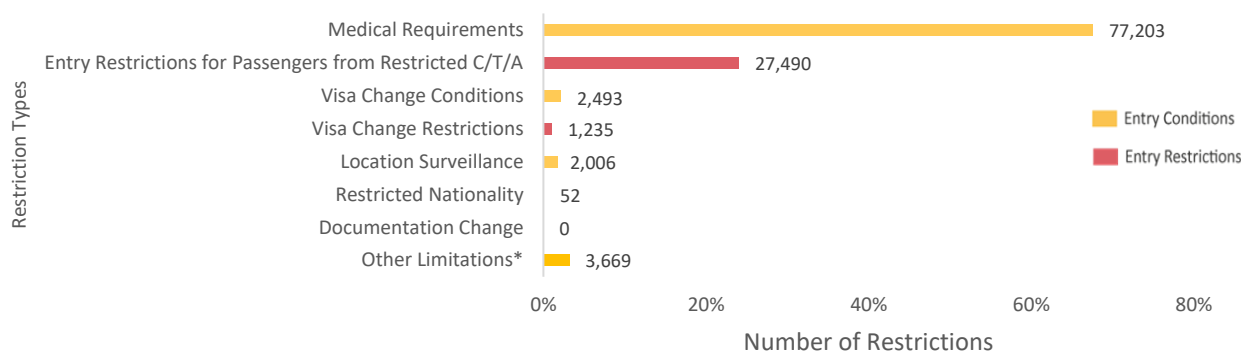
Disclaimer: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe mobility restrictions in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities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

## Overview

The global number of reported COVID-19 cases has exceeded 88 million as per the [World Health Organization](#) as of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Additionally, amidst concerns over the new strain of COVID-19 identified in several countries, global mobility and migration continues to be affected by stringent travel restrictions and measures. As of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, a total of 226 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 114,148 travel related measures indicating an increase of two per cent from 111,879 travel related measures reported on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Of these, 28,777 were reported as entry restrictions and 85,371 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was 1 per cent decrease in the entry restrictions and a 3 per cent increase in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was most notably an increase in the medical measures such as quarantine and medical certificates for entry. There was a 14 per cent decrease in entry restrictions on passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas between 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 180 countries, territories or areas have issued 755 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 16 countries, territories or areas issued 21 new exceptions whilst 11 countries, territories or areas removed 15 exceptions.

## Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

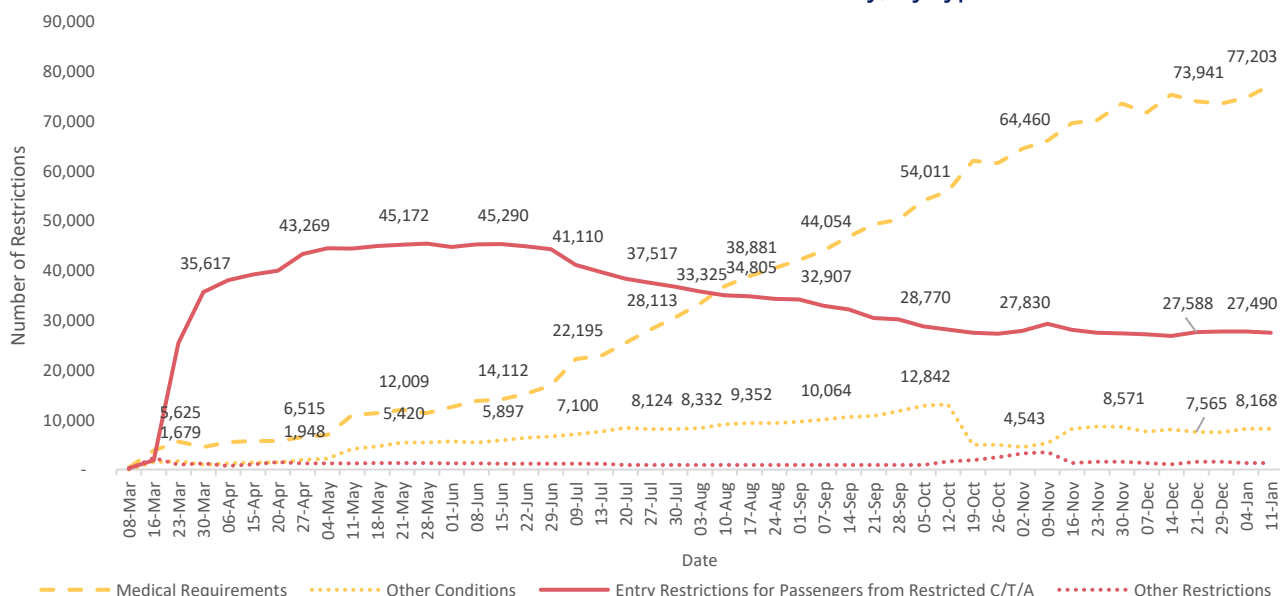
### Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry



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

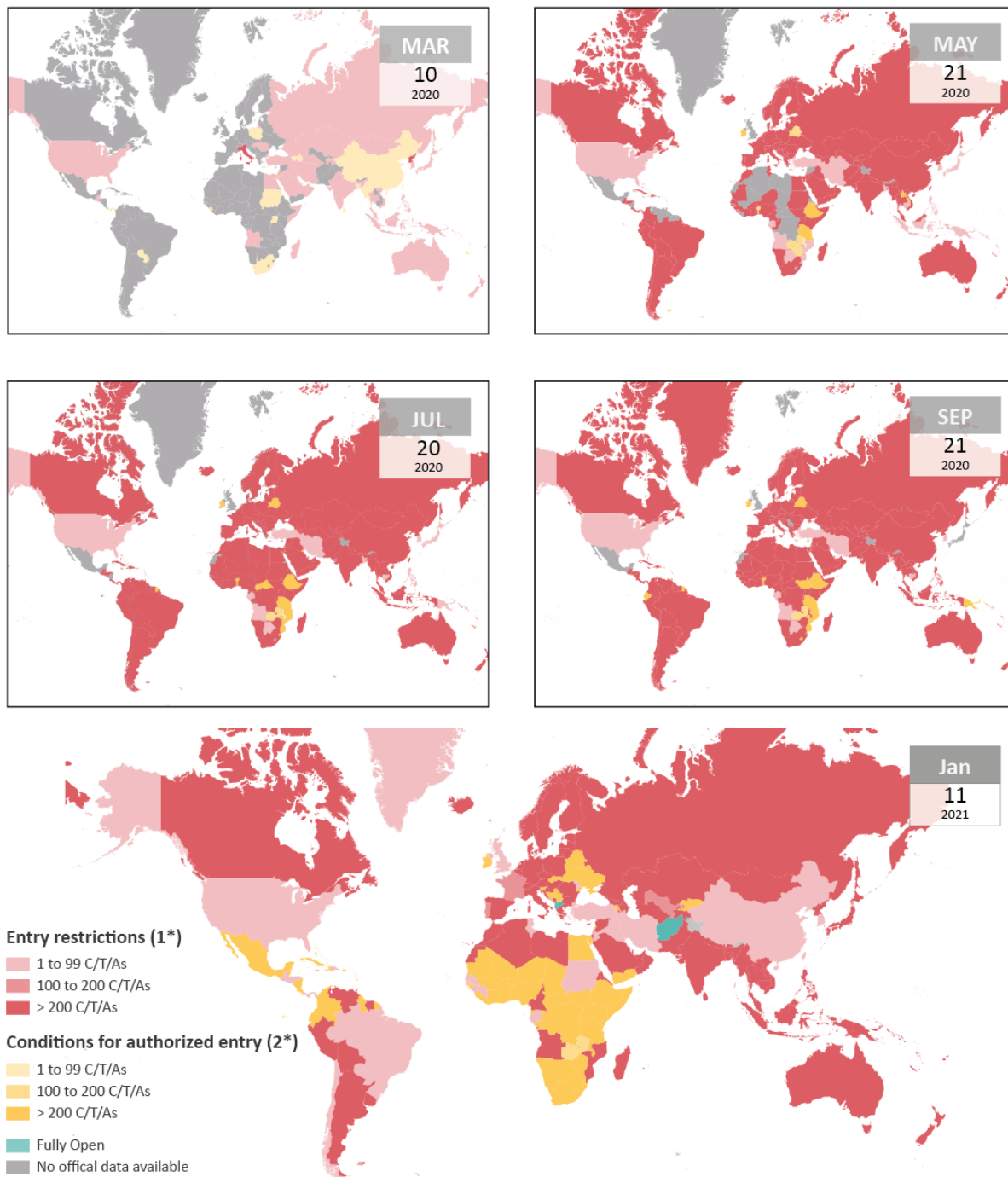
As of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 226 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 24 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition for authorized entry representing 68 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.

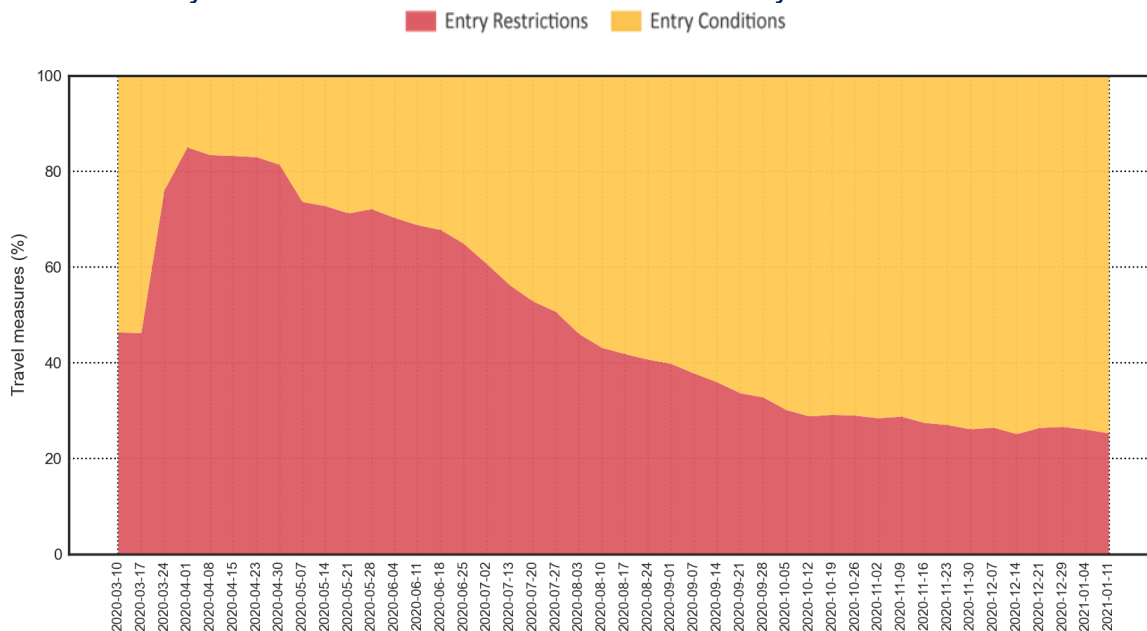


(1\*) Restricted entry on passengers coming from other countries, territories and areas (C/T/A).

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

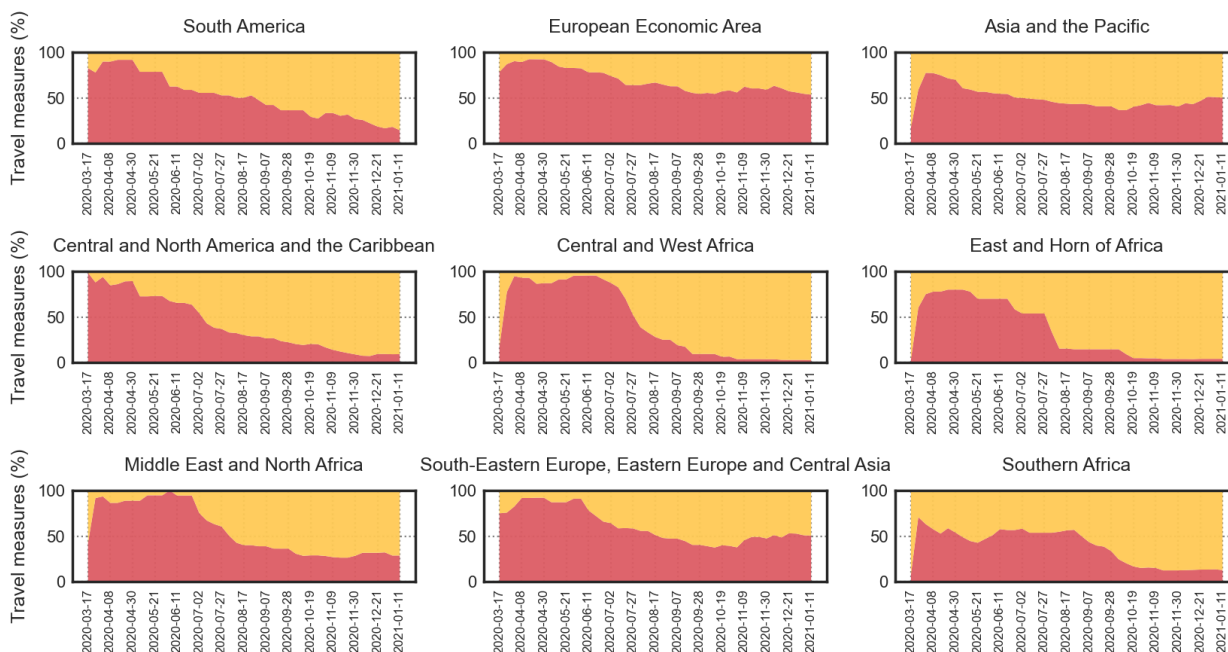
The chart below shows the shift from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' over time. In April 2020, entry restrictions constituted 80 per cent of all COVID-19 related measures (coloured in red), but this proportion has gradually decreased to 26 per cent, as of 11th January 2021.

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

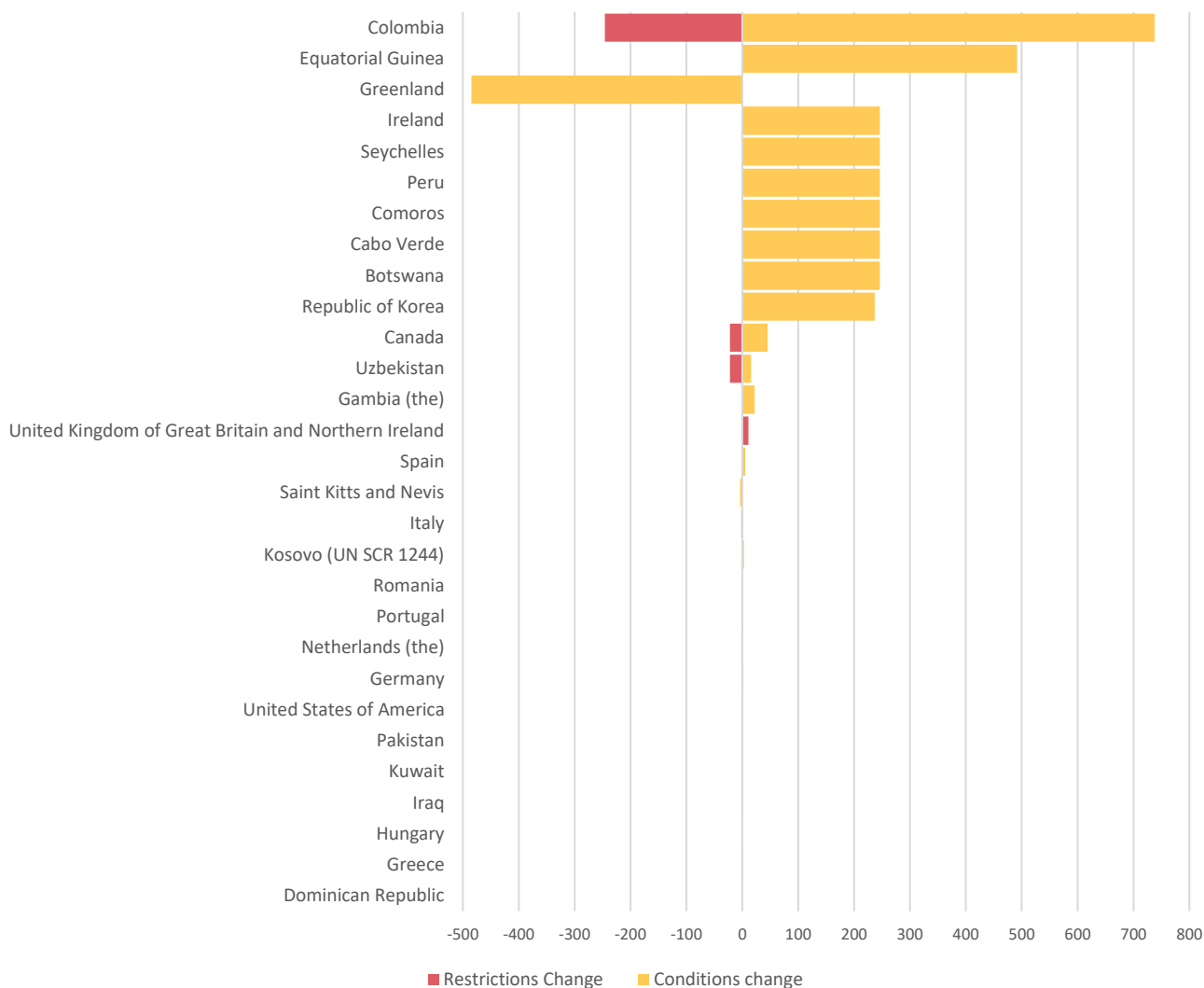
### Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Regional overview



## ■ 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 4<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 29 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 16 of them made minor changes. While 19 C/T/As issued new conditions for authorized entry, 7 C/T/As issued new total restrictions. There were 4 and 9 C/T/As removing conditions and restrictions respectively.

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



### <sup>1</sup> Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland<sup>2</sup>

With Brexit in effect as of 1st January 2021, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland status in relation to the European Union Member States has changed. This has also had a subsequent effect in terms of COVID-19 related travel measures. In parallel, reports of the new strain of the COVID-19 virus in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have led to various impacts on migrants as C/T/As responded with new measures to mitigate and prevent the spread of the new strain. As of 4th January 2021, a total of 92C/T/As have issued some measure or travel restriction in regards to travel/arrivals from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as a result of the newly identified strain of COVID-19. However, following recent reports, the situation seems to have stabilized as between 7th and 11th January 2021, no new C/T/As added new restrictions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

<sup>1</sup> 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.  
<sup>2</sup> This was last updated on 11th January 2021 at 15:00 GMT.

## Changes in Existing COVID-19 Measures

- Brazil issued exceptions to the existing passenger bans, for nationals of Brazil who have been or transited through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the past 14 days.
- Czechia updated its entry restrictions specifically for British nationals, stating that British nationals with a certificate of application for the status of UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiary issued by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden; and their family members are allowed to enter Czechia.
- Denmark and Portugal removed all nationals, residents, passengers, arrivals from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from all exemptions to existing restrictions.
- Dominican Republic extended both, the temporary flight suspension and the ban on travellers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 17th January 2021.
- Finland, Jordan and Islamic Republic of Iran extended the temporary suspension on flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 11th, 18th and 20th January 2021, respectively.
- Flights to Greenland from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are no longer suspended. Travellers are required to have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction or Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) test taken at most 120 hours before departure. The certificate must be in English or German, these passengers must also have a Personal Location Form (SUMUT) obtained before departure.
- Hungary lifted the flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 6th January 2021.
- From 9th January 2021, all passengers arriving at airports and ports in Ireland whose journey originates from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must provide evidence of a negative result from a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test taken no longer than 72 hours prior to arrival in Ireland. Seafarers are exempt from this measure.
- Jamaica's previous flight suspension which was due to expire on 4th January 2021, was extended until 31st January 2021.
- Kuwait suspended flights with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an indefinite period.
- As of 8th January 2021, all passengers arriving to Greece from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are subject to COVID-19 testing upon arrival.
- Nigeria added an exception for passengers below the age of ten who are arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, they do not require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter.
- Norway removed exceptions for nationals, residents and family of nationals/residents of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the passenger ban.
- Republic of Korea issued measures for nationals arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain without a printed 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. Such passengers are subject to quarantine for 14 days at their own expense.
- Romania removed British nationals from the exempted groups to the existing passenger ban which is in place until 13th January 2021. However, the temporary flight suspension has been lifted, all passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 SARS-CoV2 RT-PCR or SARS-CoV2 Rapid Antigen test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival.
- Spain extended the temporary flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 19th January 2021. Additionally, nationals and residents of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are no longer exempt from the passenger ban which is in place until at least 31st January 2021.

- The United States of America updated its requirements for passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In addition to a medical certificate with a negative Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) or a viral antigen test result taken no longer than three days before departure, all travellers must also complete a disclosure and attestation form before departure. The form can be obtained online or at the departure airport in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Uzbekistan lifted the temporary passenger ban and issued a measure on passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, all travellers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result. The test must have been taken at most 72 hours before departure of the flight to Uzbekistan. The certificate must be in English or Russian. Children below the age of 12 are exempt.

## Key Highlights

- Colombia issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring that passengers without a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test taken at most 96 hours before departure, must subject to a COVID-19 test upon arrival and quarantine until the result is issued, or subject to a 14-day quarantine.
- Equatorial Guinea issued a new medical measure subjecting all passengers to a mandatory COVID-19 IgM (Antibodies test) test upon arrival and quarantine for five days.
- From 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021, all passengers arriving at airports and ports in Ireland whose journey originates from South Africa must provide evidence of a negative result from a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test taken no longer than 72 hours prior to arrival in Ireland. Seafarers are exempt from this measure.
- All passengers entering Peru are subject to mandatory quarantine for 14 days from 6th January 2021.
- Comoros issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring all incoming passengers to complete a health form before departure.
- Republic of Korea issued measures for nationals arriving from South Africa without a printed 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; they are subject to quarantine for 14 days at their own expense.
- Canada eased restrictions allowing conditional entry for passengers arriving on direct flights from Argentina, Belize, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Suriname, Uruguay, United States of America or Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, however they must submit their travel information electronically before boarding through the ArriveCAN app or [online](#), and provide a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or RT-LAMP test result, taken at most 72 hours before the last direct flight.
- Uzbekistan issued a passenger ban on passengers who spent any time in the past 14 days in Australia, Austria, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands or South Africa, they are not allowed to enter and transit until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- The Gambia issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring that passengers arriving from Belgium, Chile, Denmark, France, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States of America or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to undergo a COVID-19 test upon arrival.
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland removed Botswana, Israel, Mauritius and Seychelles from the travel corridor list as of 4 am, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021 which means passengers arriving from these C/T/As are subject to mandatory quarantine upon arrival.
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland issued a new passenger ban on travellers who have been in or transited through Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia or Zimbabwe in the past 10 days. However, nationals and residents of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and nationals of Ireland are exempt.

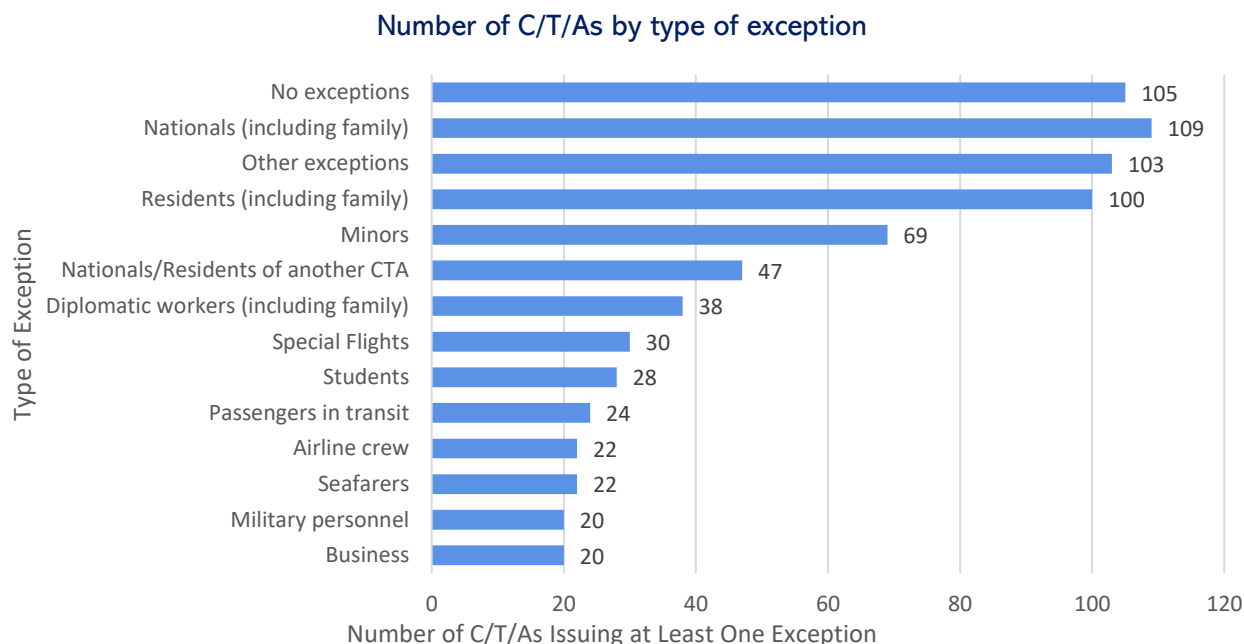
- Kosovo<sup>3</sup> issued a new requirement for passengers arriving from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stipulating they must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result, taken at most 72 hours before arrival.
- Iraq issued a measure for passengers arriving at Sulaymaniyah (ISU) who must have a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before arrival in Arabic or English. Previously, passengers without a certificate could be tested upon arrival.
- Saint Helena issued a new passenger ban, barring entry to all passengers except for residents of and passengers travelling on business.
- The Philippines issued a passenger ban on all passengers who have spent any time in the past 14 days in Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland or the United States of America.
- Guatemala issued a new condition for authorized entry for passengers who cannot provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued 96 hours before departure, they will be subject to a COVID-19 test upon arrival at their own expense.
- Slovenia extended the timeframe of the required medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result from 24 to 48 hours, issued before departure, whereas Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela extended the timeframe from 48 to 72 hours.
- As of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021, all passengers including residents and nationals that are entering Uruguay are subject to mandatory quarantine.
- As of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, passengers arriving to Argentina must present a medical certificate issued at most 72 hours before departure stating lack of Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and they are subject to Coronavirus COVID-19 test upon arrival. Moreover, airline crew must complete a "Declaración Jurada Electrónica para el ingreso al Territorio Nacional".
- On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Pakistan issued a passenger ban on travellers who have been in South Africa in the last ten days. Authorities issued exceptions to this ban for nationals of Pakistan and passengers with a National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis (NICOP) or a Pakistan Origin Card (POC) who must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test taken at most 72 hours before departure; and are subject to a COVID-19 PCR test upon arrival and must quarantine for 14 days.
- Iraq issued a passenger ban on travellers arriving from Lebanon.
- Israel issued new conditions for authorized entry for residents to be exempt from the general passenger ban. They must arrive from a country other than Denmark, South Africa or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or have a transit time through any of the three countries, of less than 12 hours.

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<sup>3</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood for IOM to be in the context of (United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244) (1999)

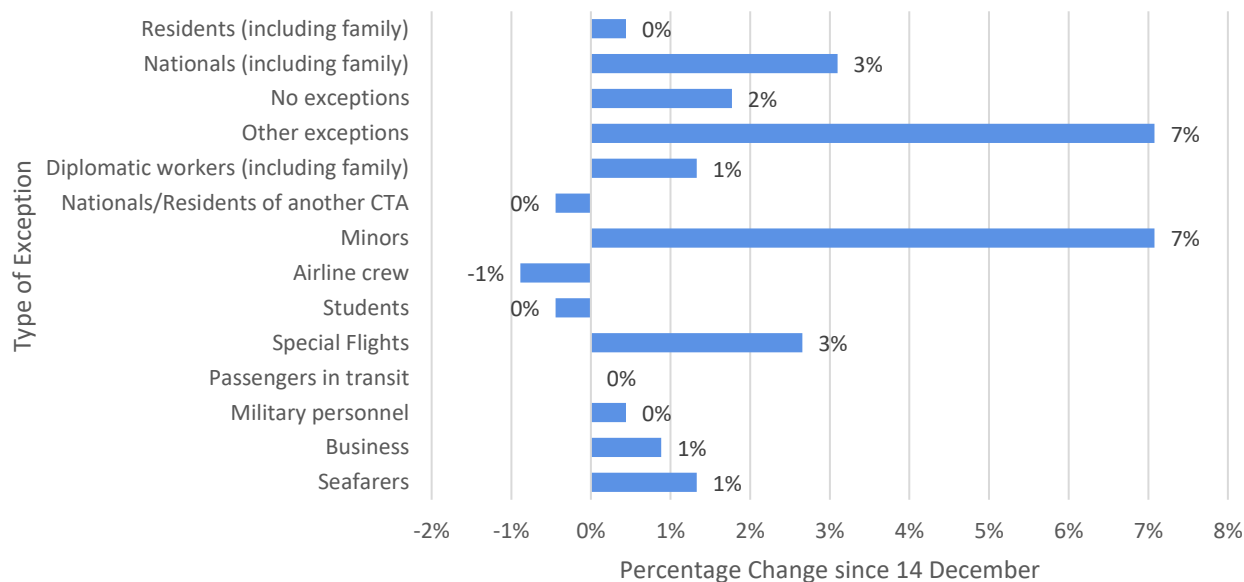


## ■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions



C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (109) and for Residents (103) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 69 different CTAs, continue to increase, and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

### Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter



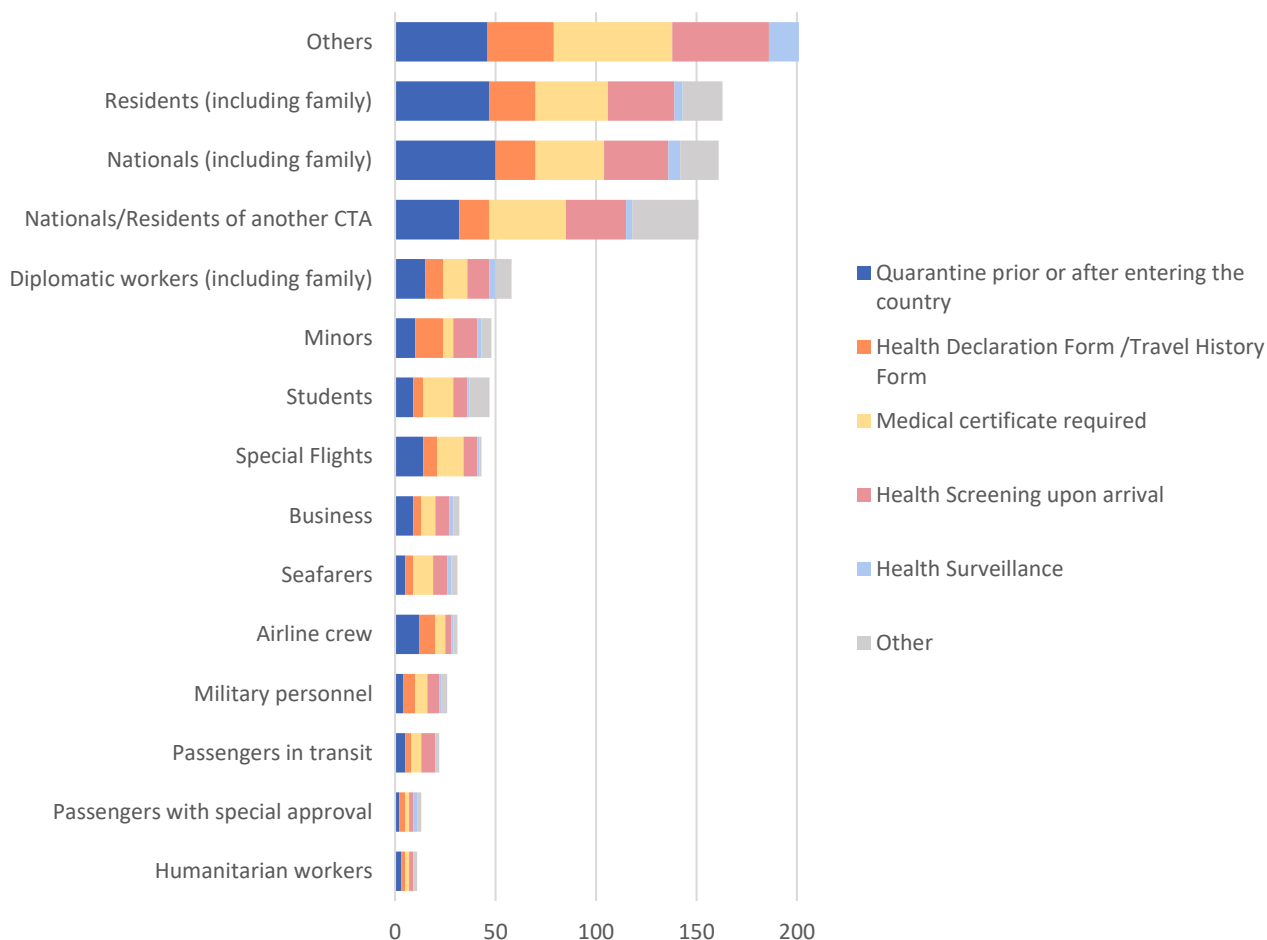
### Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 755 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 180 C/T/As.
- The top ten C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were the Netherlands (16), Singapore (15), Switzerland (14), Croatia (14), , Austria (12), Bulgaria (12), Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (12), Pakistan (12), and Uruguay (12).
- Between 4th and 11th January 2021, 16 countries, territories or areas issued 21 new exceptions whilst 11 countries, territories or areas removed 15 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 180 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 122 have issued 1,063 conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups.
- The top six C/T/As issuing the highest number of conditions for authorised entry for exempted groups were, Singapore (37), Philippines (36), Belgium (33), Norway (32), Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (30), India (30).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was quarantine prior or after entering the country, which was issued 263 times. This was followed by medical certificates (249) and health screening (214).

## ■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Cape Verde issued a new exception to its entry condition which requires passengers to present a medical certificate with a COVID-19 Antigen or Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point, exempting passengers younger than seven years old. A new condition for authorized entry was also issued requiring all passengers to subject to medical screening upon arrival.
- Portugal issued an exception for passengers under three years old, to the measure requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result.
- Indonesia removed exceptions to its passenger ban, such as the exceptions issued for passengers with a visitor's visa, an APEC Business Travel Card, nationals of the United Arab Emirates traveling under the Safe Travel Corridor program to Denpasar (DPS), Jakarta (CGK), Medan (KNO) or Surabaya (SUB) with a business visa.
- Yemen removed exceptions for nationals of Yemen, now requiring that as other arriving passengers they also provide a printed medical certificate with a negative Coronavirus Polymerase Chain Reaction test result, upon arrival.
- Micronesia issued new exceptions to the existing passenger ban, to allow conditional entry to passengers arriving on a humanitarian flight.
- The Marshall Islands removed exceptions for nationals and residents from their passenger entry ban, as such no passengers can enter until 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- Nigeria added an exception for passengers below the age of ten who are arriving from South Africa, they do not require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter.
- Aruba removed exceptions for residents of Aruba and Bonaire arriving from Bonaire, they no longer need to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result.
- The Netherlands issued new exceptions to its requirement to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued 72 hours before departure, exempting passengers from Aruba, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba and Sint Marteen, merchant seafarers and passengers with a NATO Travel Order or a NATO-2 visa.
- Chile issued new exceptions for children under the age of two, exempting them from having to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, taken at most 72 hours before the last direct flight to Chile.
- Medical certificate requirements shifted as Pakistan issued an exception for passengers from Ghana, Iraq, Madagascar, Myanmar, Qatar, South Sudan, Togo and Zambia, who don't have to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test taken at most 72 hours before departure and removed exceptions for passengers from Lao People's Democratic Republic, Japan, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Malawi, Nigeria and Senegal, who must now provide a certificate.