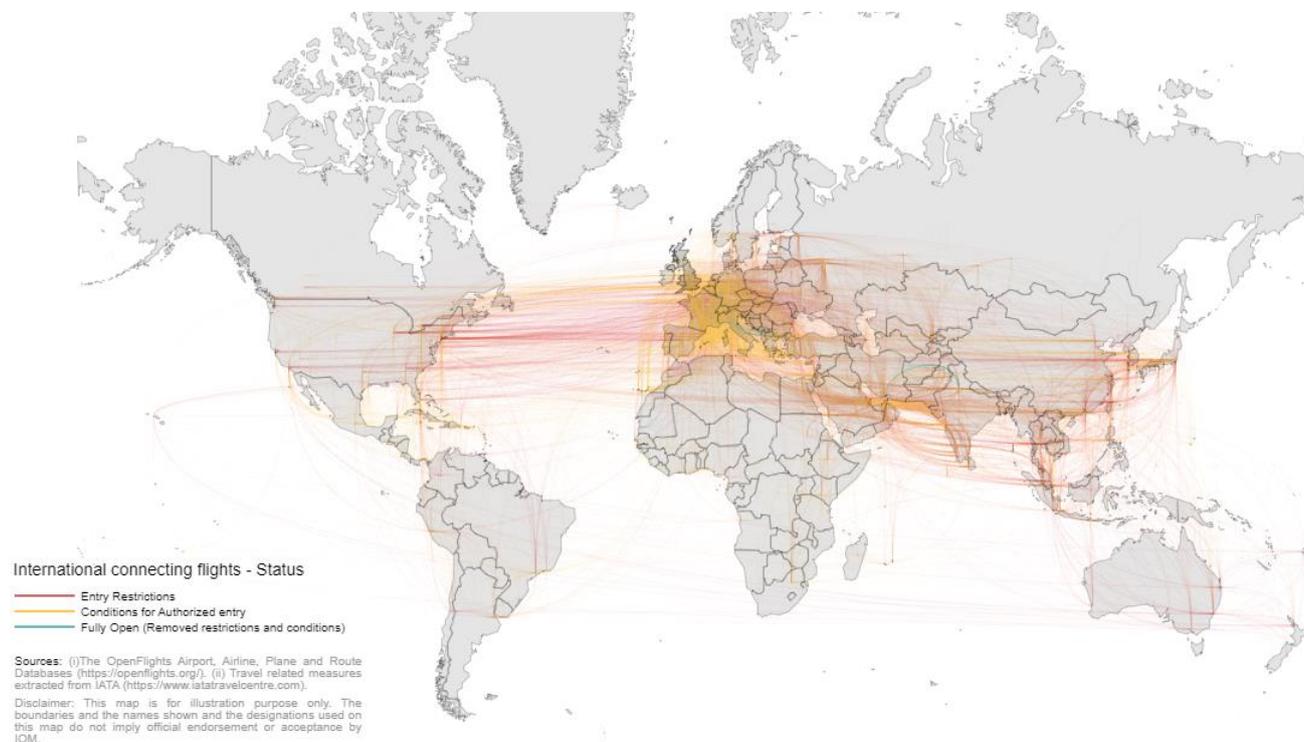


Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Weekly Update • 15th February 2021



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](#).

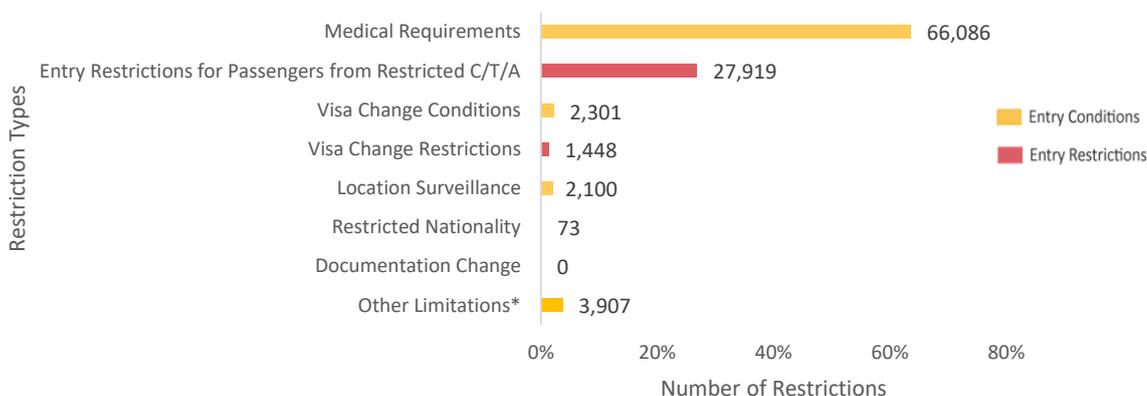
Disclaimer: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe mobility restrictions in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities 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 global number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported proceeds on an upward trend, recording more than 108 million cases as per the [World Health Organization](#) on 15th February 2021.ⁱ Efforts to control the spread of new infection cases and subsequent variants of the virus persist as new travel related measures are issued or extended. As of 15th February 2021, a total of 227 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 103,834 travel related measures indicating a decrease of less than one per cent from 104,044 travel related measures reported on 8th February 2021. Of these, 29,440 were reported as entry restrictions and 74,394 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was a two per cent increase in entry restrictions and a decrease of one per cent in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a decrease of one per cent in medical requirements such as quarantine or medical certificates. There was a two per cent increase in entry restrictions such as passenger restrictions between 8th and 15th February 2021. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 188 countries, territories or areas have issued 780 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 8th and 15th February 2021, 18 countries, territories or areas issued 39 new exceptions whilst 6 countries, territories or areas removed 7 exceptions.

Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

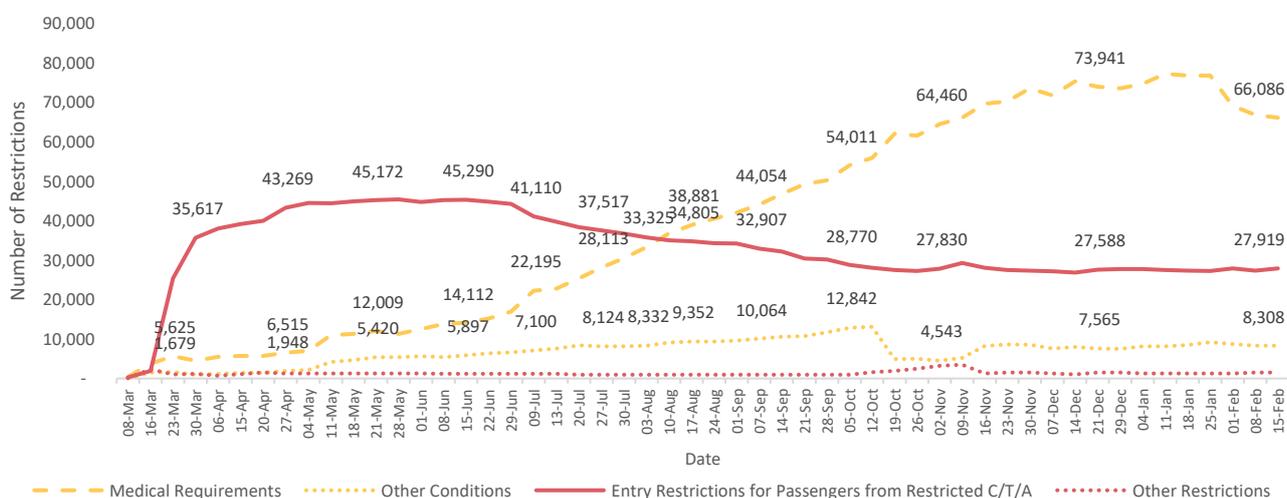
Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry



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

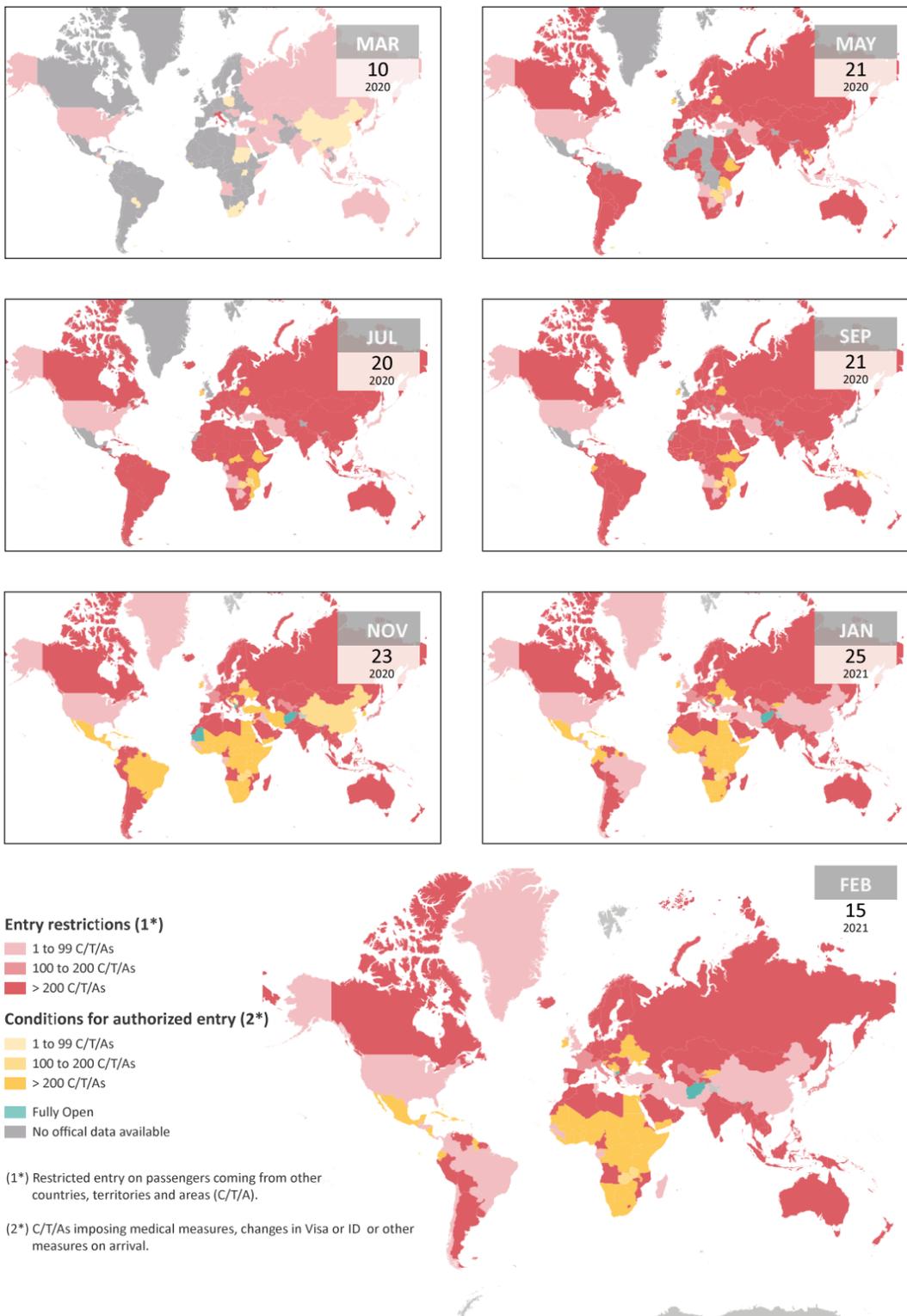
As of 15th February 2021, 227 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 27 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition for authorized entry representing 64 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



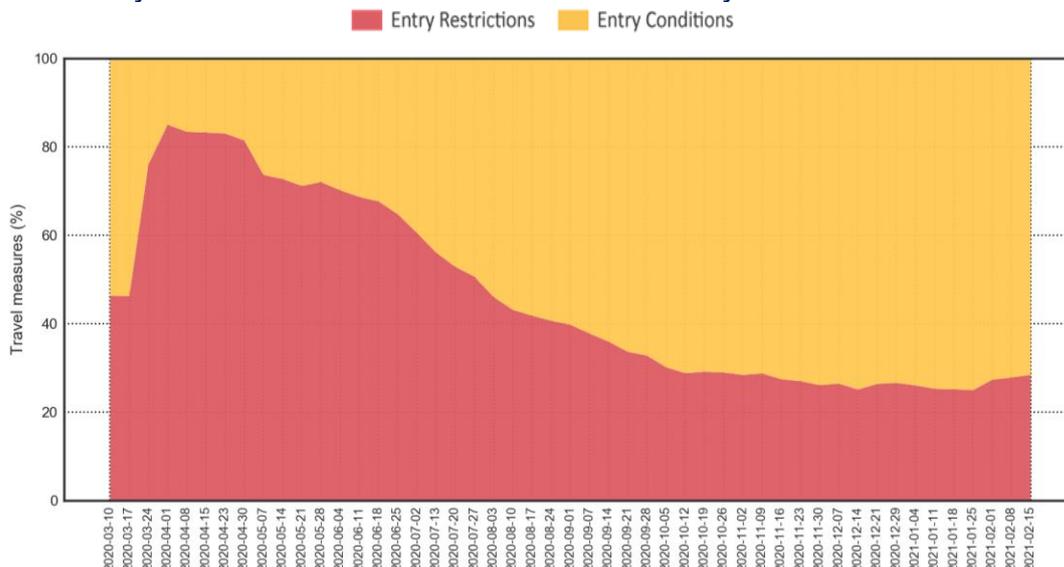
Changes in Entry Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry, Over Time

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.



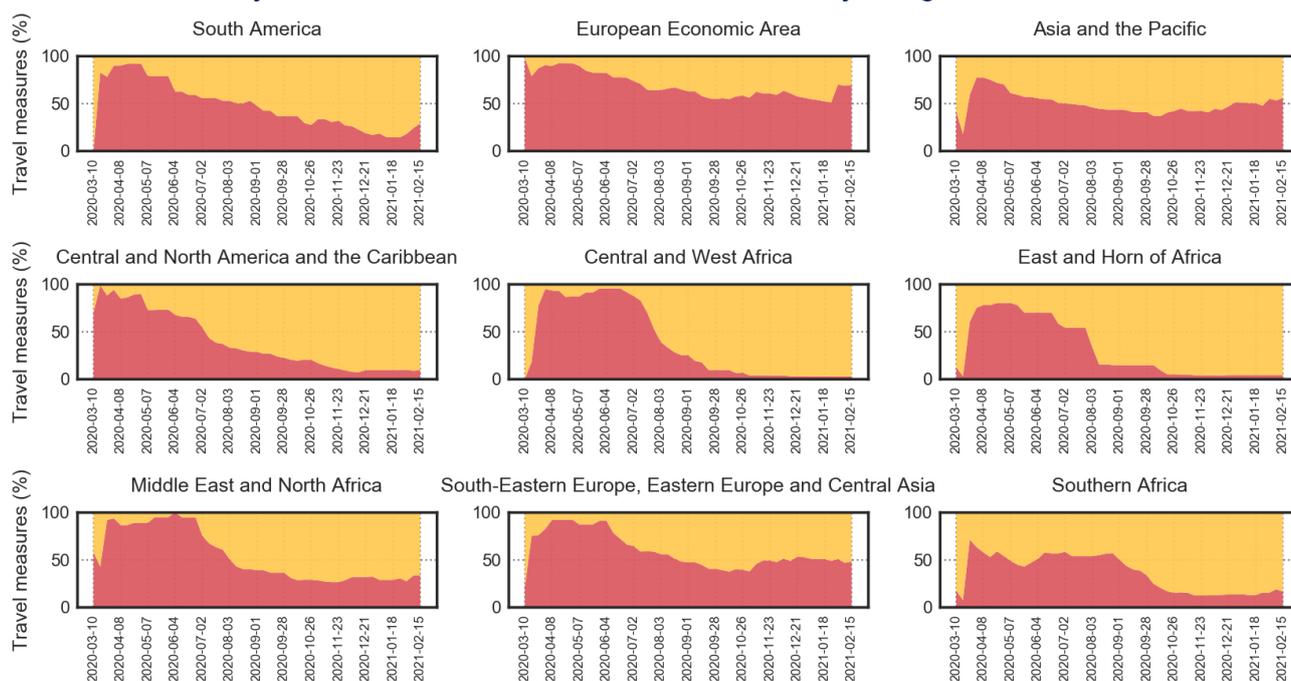
The chart below shows the shift from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' over time. In April 2020, entry restrictions constituted 80 per cent of all COVID-19 related measures (coloured in red), but this proportion has gradually decreased to 25 per cent, as of 15th February 2021.

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 15th February 2021. On the other hand, since October 2020 IOM regions of *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.

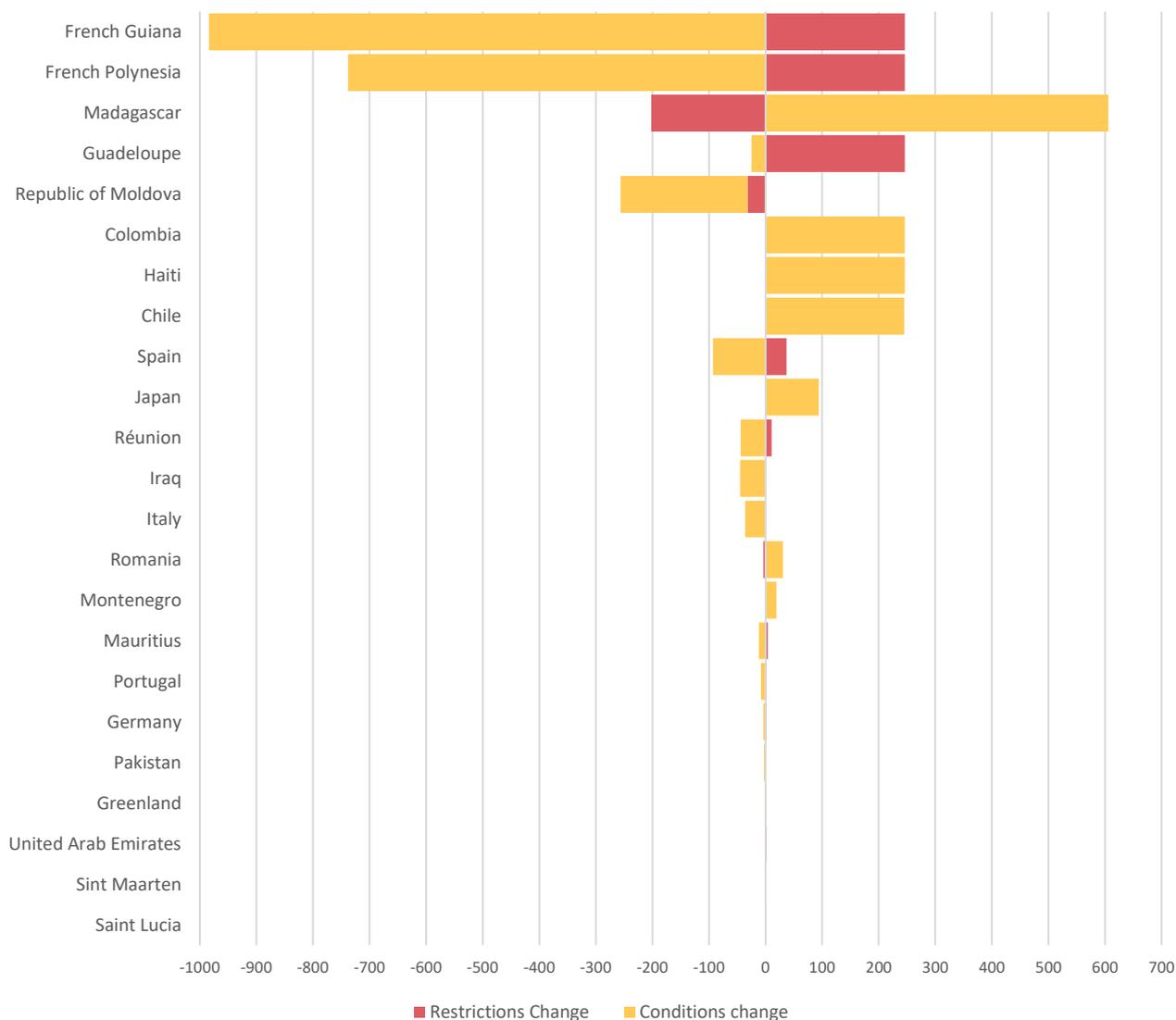
Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Regional overview



■ 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 8th and 15th February 2021, 23 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 9 of them made minor changes. While 12 C/T/As removed existing conditions for authorized entry, 5 C/T/As removed new total restrictions. There were 9 and 10 C/T/As issuing new conditions and restrictions respectively.

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



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

With Brexit in effect as of 1st January 2021, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's 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 15th February 2021, a total of 93 C/T/As have issued some measure or travel restriction in regard 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 such that between 1st and 15th February 2021, no new C/T/A added restrictions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and three C/T/As have been removed.

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 15th February 2021 at 15:00 GMT.

Measures issued by The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring that all passengers subject to a COVID-19 test on day 2 and 8 after arrival, at their own expense.

Changes in Existing COVID-19 Measures

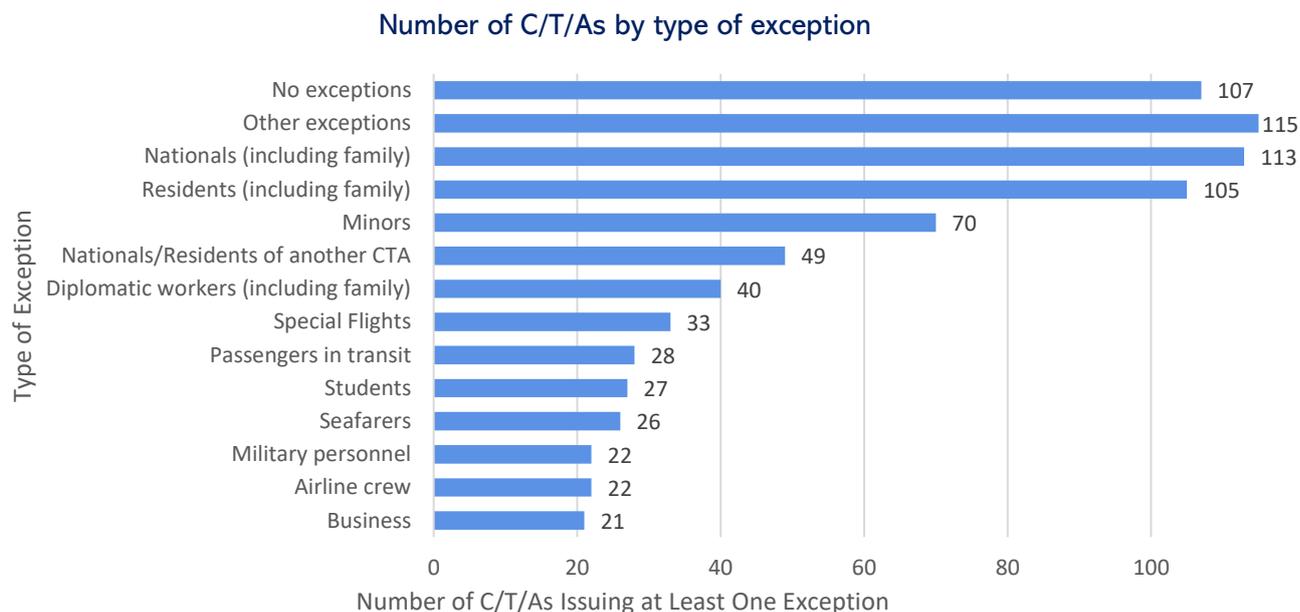
- Nepal removed specific exclusions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland which previously barred certain passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from being exempt from the passenger ban and allowed conditional entry.
- Brazil issued exemptions for the ban on passengers who have been in or transited through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the past 14 days, allowing conditional entry to passengers with a permanent residence permit issued by Brazil, as well as spouses, partners, children, parents, or guardians of a national of Brazil, however such passengers are subject to a 14-day quarantine.

Key Highlights

- France, Guadeloupe, French Polynesia, French Guiana and Monaco issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring passengers to submit a completed Travel Certificate, which includes a justification for authorized travel and a declaration of honour, it can be found [online](#).
- Haiti issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring that passengers present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 antigen or Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction test result issued at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. This does not apply to passengers with a medical certificate with a positive COVID-19 test result with the evaluation of the doctor who treated them. Australia issued the same exception, requiring a medical discharge document issued at least 4 weeks before departure which specifies that at least 14 days have passed since infection with COVID-19, 72 hours have passed since recovery from fever and respiratory symptoms and that passengers are recovered and are not infectious.
- Spain issued conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving from Botswana, Cape Verde, Kuwait, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who must have a medical certificate with a negative Coronavirus COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR), RT-LAMP or TMA test result upon arrival.
- Italy stipulated that passengers who, in the past 14 days have been to or transited through Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyana, Reunion, Mayotte, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden or Switzerland are exempt from presenting a medical certificate, and are subject to medical screening and self-isolation upon arrival.
- Romania added a new condition for authorized entry for passengers arriving from 66 countries, territories or areas who must present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before arrival. This does not apply to passengers younger than four years, passengers with a consular, diplomatic, official, service or special passport travelling on duty and their family members, merchant seamen, passengers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate with the second dose administered at least 10 days before arrival, or passengers with a medical certificate with a positive Coronavirus COVID-19 test result issued at least 14 days and at most 90 days before arrival.
- Montenegro issued new conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving from Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the United States of America, they must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival. Nationals and residents of Montenegro arriving from the forenamed countries are not required to have a medical certificate, however they must self-isolate for 14 days.
- The United Arab Emirates has suspended all flights from Nigeria and Yemen and issued a passenger ban, barring entry to all passengers that have been in or transited in Nigeria in the past 14 days. Nationals of the United Arab Emirates are exempt from this measure.

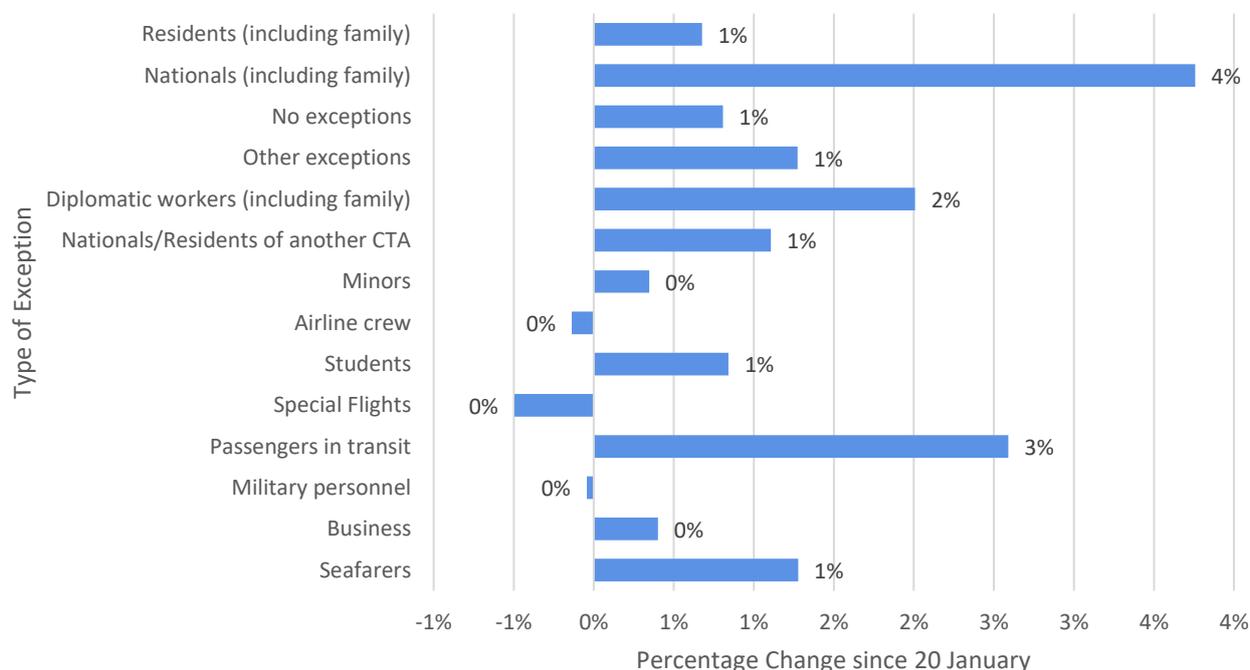
- Sint Maarten removed Dominican Republic from the list of arrival countries, territories or areas from which arriving passengers or airline crew are not allowed entry.
- Saint Lucia removed Barbados from the list of arrival country, territories or areas exempt from providing a travel authorization letter stipulating that their hotel stay has been verified.
- Belgium issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring that passengers must have an Essential Journey Certificate issued by a Belgian embassy or consulate. Nationals and residents of Switzerland and European Economic Area Member States, residents of Australia, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore and Thailand, as well as merchant seamen and passengers with a diplomatic passport are exempt.
- Panama extended the validity of residency permits that expired after 13th March 2020, until 30th June 2021. Likewise, multiple non-resident visas (Visa de no Residente) issued by a consulate of Panama, which expired after 13th March 2020, will be accepted for entry until 30 June 2021. They must have an extension stamp.
- Philippines issued a condition for authorized entry requiring that passengers must have a reservation confirmation of a hotel approved by Tourism and Health Agencies for at least six nights, where they will undergo their mandatory quarantine, upon arrival.
- As of 13th of February 2021, Qatar issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring that all passengers must quarantine in a hotel for seven days.

■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions



C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (113) and for Residents (105) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 70 different CTAs, and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter



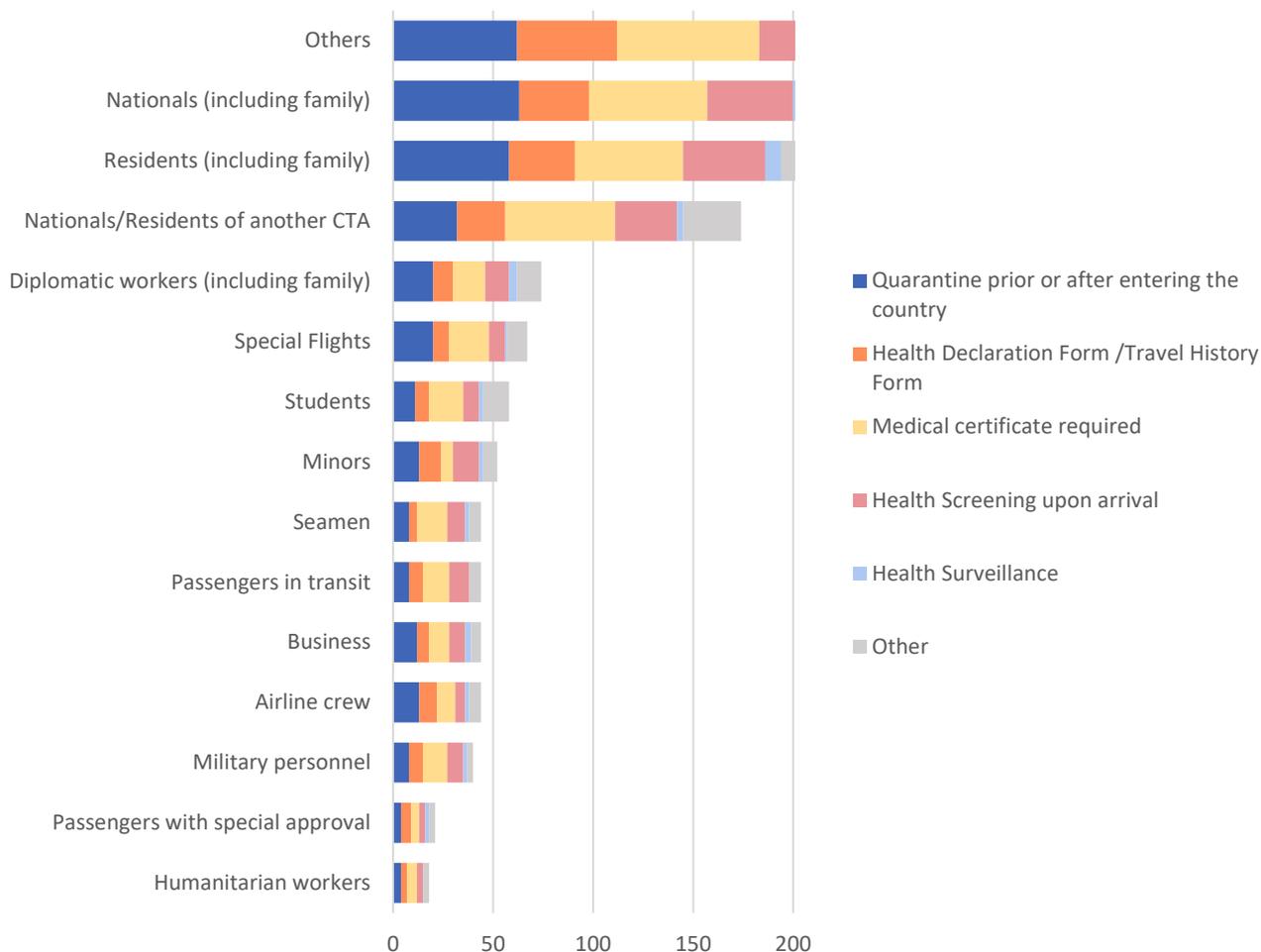
Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 780 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 188 C/T/As.
- The C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Finland (13), Guadeloupe (12), Croatia (12), Austria (11), Belgium (10), and the Netherlands (10).
- Between 9th and 15th February 2021, 18 countries, territories or areas issued 39 new exceptions whilst 6 countries, territories or areas removed 7 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 183 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 145 have issued 1,447 conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups.
- The top six C/T/As issuing the highest number of conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups were Singapore (53), Guadeloupe (44), Finland (39), Philippines (36), India (34), and Spain (34).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was to provide a medical certificate upon arrival, which was issued at least 366 times. This is the second time, and second consecutive week, that quarantine prior or after entering the country has not been the top condition, currently listed 336 times, and followed by medical screening (254).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Mozambique issued an exception for the condition for authorized entry requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result upon arrival, for nationals and residents of Mozambique who have been outside the country for less than 14 days, whereas Rwanda added an exception, for the same condition for authorized entry, for children under the age of 5.
- Indonesia issued new exceptions to its passenger ban, exempting passengers with a temporary residence visa and passers with an APEC Business Travel Card.
- Gabon issued an exception to the condition for authorized entry requiring passengers to subject to a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test upon arrival, exempting passengers under six years of age.
- Bulgaria issued exceptions to its temporary passenger ban, allowing conditional entry to passengers who are family members of British nationals residing in Switzerland or a European Union Member State before 31st December 2020. In addition to presenting a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result, they must also present a certificate of application for a new residence permit, a residence permit which specifies "Type of permit: Article 50 TEU" with the "Remark" 18(1) or 18(4), or a residence card issued before 31st December 2020.
- Georgia issued exceptions for its passenger ban, for nationals and residents of Turkey if arriving from Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States of America, United Arab Emirates or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Nepal issued exceptions to its passenger ban allowing conditional authorized entry to relatives of nationals of Nepal.
- Chile issued exceptions for conditions for authorized entry for nationals and residents who are exempt from presenting a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, taken at most 72 hours before departure of the last direct flight.