The effect of COVID-19 pandemic on global, national and regional mobility still continues to unfold rapidly as several countries, territories and areas across the world have declared a health emergency and stepped up measures to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. To mitigate the spread of the COVID-19, several countries, territories and areas, imposed lockdowns partially or on the entire territory, while concurrently restricting the entry of passengers from abroad. This is evidenced as 12 countries, territories or areas have issued, for the first time, a total ban on passengers or suspended commercial flights since yesterday. The total number of countries, territories or areas that have issued new or updated existing COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 20th March 2020 stands at 158. In the past 24 hours, total of 4,505 measures were introduced, totalling to at least 26,260 known COVID-19 related measures issued since the outbreak. Reported restrictions based on citizenship have tripled over the past 24 hours and bans of arrivals from specific countries have also increased by 38%. Despite the acceleration in total passenger bans, exemptions made for the entry of humanitarians and medical professionals continues to increase. Even though The Netherlands has closed borders to all nationals of non - EU/EEA Member States, Swiss and British nationals, they have adopted exemptions for healthcare personnel, personnel of international and humanitarian organizations, and passengers in need of international protection or for other humanitarian reasons. Similarly, France has introduced exemption for healthcare professionals, health researchers related to COVID-19, whereas Taiwan Province of the People’s Republic of China included a new special entry permit for passengers in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Global Mobility Restrictions Update, 20 March 2020
Key Highlights:

• Following the closure of the land border between The United States of America and Canada on 18th March 2020, the United States of America has also announced a decision to close its southern border with Mexico for non-essential travel.

• Countries with high number of COVID-19 cases have implemented varying measures of travel and/or health restrictions. The People’s Republic of China has still not closed its borders to all passengers but has implemented mandatory quarantine of 14 days in designated areas; conversely, as of 20th March 2020, Italy has closed its borders to all tourists.

• Total passenger bans continue to become more widely adopted with Switzerland, French Polynesia, Guatemala, Taiwan Province of the People’s Republic of China, The Netherlands, Mauritius, New Zealand, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago and Italy issuing a restriction banning all passengers from entry.

• If not total, partial passenger bans have been issued by St. Lucia, Fiji, Botswana, Antigua and Barbuda, The Netherlands, and France. Uganda added 17 new countries from where passenger entry would be banned.

• While some countries within the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) including Switzerland, Portugal, Netherlands and France continue to make exceptions for their nationals or valid visa holders, other countries, territories or areas outside of Europe have increasingly added EU/EEA countries to their list of restrictions, notably Fiji, Botswana, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Tajikistan, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

• A specific restriction on airline passengers has been issued by Bermuda, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Portugal, Uganda, Angola and Tajikistan.

• France issued its first travel restriction following the collective decision of closing the EU’s external borders, in addition to implementing several domestic measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

• New visa restrictions such as visa invalidations and suspension of visa exemptions were also implemented by Viet Nam for nationals of Italy, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Korea.

• New health measures were announced by Viet Nam with the introduction of a new mandatory proof of quarantine form prior to arrival.

In addition to countries with restrictions issued in previous days, the countries, territories or areas, issued restrictions for the first time as of today (20th March 2020 – 3 pm GST).

• The Bahamas
• France
• The Dominican Republic

Other sources include:
https://www.osac.gov/Content/Report/d930d858-2e2b-4422-9827-183cc7ab29f5
https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/253856
https://www.osac.gov/Content/Report/d930d858-2e2b-4422-9827-183cc7ab29f5
https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/tajikistan