Overview:
The varied impact of COVID-19 across different parts of the world continues to engender differing responses and mitigation measures to restrict international travel and limit internal mobility. A total of 221 countries, territories or areas, have issued 63,872 travel restrictions as of 21st May 2020, demonstrating an increase of three per cent from 62,162 travel restrictions recorded on 18th May 2020. Restrictions such as other limitation requiring new documents for entry and other requirements increased by 16 per cent and measures such as medical requirements also increased by 6 per cent. Alongside the travel restrictions, since 1st April 2020, a total of 172 countries, territories or areas have issued 694 exceptions to their travel restrictions. Between 18th May and 21st May 2020, 9 countries, territories or areas have issued 31 new exceptions whilst 9 countries, territories or areas have removed 18 exceptions. Even with travel restrictions remaining stringent, the planning of reopening some international and domestic air travel continues.

Data Source: IATA and official government websites.

As of 21st May 2020, 221 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Despite the recent stabilization, entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/A had the highest share of the total restrictions (71%). Closure of borders has been a common and preferred response, followed by medical measures which have followed an increasing trend, making up 19 per cent of the restrictions. Changes in visa requirements and entry restrictions for certain nationalities have also followed a stable trend, continuing to represent a small share (2%) in total restrictions.

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Changes in Restrictions on Arrival since 10th March 2020

Restrictions on Arrival
- Total (1*)
- Partial (2*)
- No official data available (3*)

(1*) Restrictions on passengers coming from at least 200 different countries, territories and areas (C/T/A).
(2*) C/T/As imposing medical measures, changes in Visa or ID, and restrictions on passengers coming from a specific list C/T/As.
(3*) No data about travel restrictions were found on IATA website or government official sources.
Key Highlights

Restrictions:

• Extensions of suspension of domestic and international flights were announced by Turkey’s national carrier. On 20th May 2020, Turkish Airways announced that all domestic flights have been previously suspended until 28th May 2020 and all international flights which have been suspended until 1st June 2020 will be extended until 4th June 2020 and 10th June 2020, respectively.

• Ecuador also issued an extension of airport closures for an indefinite period.

• Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region, China extended the current passenger ban for an indefinite period and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia suspended all flights except those for technical stops, humanitarian reasons, MEDEVAC or repatriation.

• Romania suspended flights from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. An additional requirement for passengers who are allowed entry under the exceptions must now quarantine at home for 14 days.

• Conditions for airline crew were issued by the United Republic of Tanzania, requiring that airline crew be subject to medical screening upon arrival and immediate isolation if they are suspected of being infected with COVID-19.

• In addition to a 14-day mandatory quarantine, the Republic of Korea has introduced further medical requirements for passengers who are exceptions to current restrictions. This includes self-monitoring of health conditions for 14 days, providing a medical certificate with negative COVID-19 test result issued within 72 hours before departure. Upon arrival all passengers must undergo additional COVID-19 testing and wait in a designated quarantine facility for the results. Additionally, Nationals and residents are required to install ‘self-quarantine safety protection mobile app’ and all other passengers, ‘self-diagnosis mobile app’ as well as provide a completed Health Declaration Form and Special Quarantine Declaration Form.

• European Union Aviation Agency issued new guidelines for resuming international travel and the International Civil Aviation Organization issuing plans to deliver global guidelines by the end of May 2020.

• Greece announced their plan to reopen the tourism industry from 15th June 2020 and direct international flights to tourist destinations will gradually begin by 1st July 2020. Passengers will not be tested or screened for COVID-19 upon arrival.

• Easy Jet Airline announced plans to resume flights within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France, all passengers and crew must wear face masks.

• Emirates has restarted flights to nine destinations with passengers required to adhere to stringent safety measures including free hygiene kits, face masks, gloves, anti-bacterial wipes and hand sanitisers. Face masks are compulsory for passengers at the airport and while on board.

• On 20th May 2020, authorities in Colombia announced the suspension of international travel until 31st August 2020.

• Land border closures continued to be issued as the United States of America extended the border closures with Canada and Mexico for an additional 30 days to limit the spread of COVID-19.
Global Mobility Restrictions Update, 21 May 2020

Online Dashboards: https://migration.iom.int/ dtmcovid19@iom.int

Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

• Since 1st April, 172 C/T/As have issued a total of 694 exceptions to their entry restrictions.
• The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Spain (16), Bulgaria (14), Sweden (13), Bosnia and Herzegovina (11) and Luxembourg (11).
• Seventeen of the top 20 C/T/As issuing exceptions were in Europe.
• Since the last update on 18th May 2020, 31 new exceptions were added by Lao People’s Democratic Republic (6), Republic of Korea (6), Spain (5), Saudi Arabia (4), Zimbabwe (4), Philippines (3), Serbia (1), Sweden (1) and Togo (1).
• Since the last update on 18th May 2020, 18 exceptions were removed by Zimbabwe (4), Philippines (3), Spain (3), Australia (2), Latvia (2), Guinea (1), Republic of Korea (1), South Africa (1) and Togo (1).
• Since exceptions were first recorded on 1st April 2020, 38 new C/T/As have issued exceptions and the total number of exceptions has increased by 211.
• During May 2020, the number of C/T/As issuing exceptions for healthcare workers has increased by 5 per cent. Since the previous update on 18 May the category ‘other exceptions’ has seen an increase of 3 per cent. All other categories of exceptions issued by C/T/As continue to remain stable between updates.
Key Highlights

Exceptions:

• Italy announced new exceptions for the entry of passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas including Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In effect from 3rd June 2020, arriving passengers will not be required to quarantine.

• Latvia issued a new exception for the entry of nationals and residents of Estonia and Lithuania, who can now enter Latvia. Passengers coming from countries outside Estonia and Lithuania, must be quarantined for 14 days at their place of residence.

• Sweden added an exception for passengers transiting home, to include residence permit holders of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

• New categories of exceptions to mobility restrictions were introduced by Lao People’s Democratic Republic for MEDEVAC, humanitarian, relief, diplomat and repatriation flights with an entry permit obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

• Norway reduced the duration of the required home quarantine period from 14 to 10 days, for any passengers that are exempt from the current travel restrictions.

• New requirements for conditional entry of passengers that are exempt from current restrictions were also issued by Ireland, including the provision of a Public Health Passenger Locator Form.

• Philippines added new exceptions allowing the entry of spouses or children of nationals, and for accredited diplomats or officials of international organizations. Philippines also issued new conditions for exceptional operation of commercial and charter flights including limited time frames for landing (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday with an approval from CAAP 48 hours before departure for commercial flights, and Monday or Thursday with a secured clearance from the Department of Foreign Affairs and CAAP for charter flights), COVID-19 testing and quarantine for passengers and airline crew, along with a Case Investigation Form upon arrival are mandatory conditions.

• To help those affected by heavy rains and severe flooding in Somalia, the WFP UN Humanitarian Air Service delivered critical relief items to cut off communities.

• Authorities in Colombia announced that as of 20th May 2020, the number of chartered flights to facilitate the return of Colombian nationals from abroad have been increased from two a week to nine a week. Since the closure of the airport in the capital, a total of 5,000 Colombian have returned on 47 flights from the Brazil, Dominican Republic, Mexico and the United States of America.

• Flights have also been chartered from Canada, India, United Arab Emirates, France, Ecuador, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Switzerland among others. India announced more flights until 13th June 2020 to facilitate the return of nationals from Finland, Republic of Korea, Belgium, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Kenya, Spain, Mauritius, Myanmar, the Maldives, Egypt and Sri Lanka.