

Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Bi-Weekly Update • 23rd July 2020



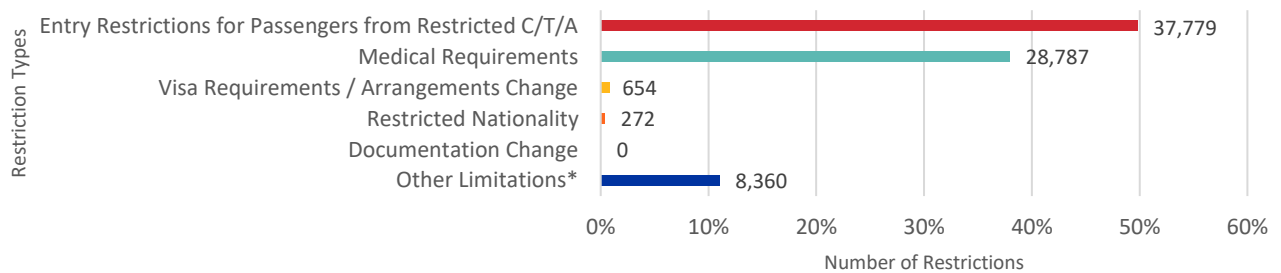
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
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Overview

The current pandemic and the subsequent COVID-19 related travel restrictions limiting global mobility, have not been entirely suspended. Depending on the varied health impacts of COVID-19 and resulting concerns, travel restrictions continue to be tightened or eased by governments and/or authorities. As of 23rd July 2020, a total of **219** countries, territories or areas have issued **75,852** travel restrictions indicating an **increase of 4 per cent** from **73,008** restrictions recorded as of 20th July 2020.¹ There has been an **increase of 13 per cent** in **medical restrictions** and an increase of 11 per cent on restrictions on specific nationalities. Additionally, there has been a **3 per cent decrease** in **visa restrictions**. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 177 countries, territories or areas have issued 656 exceptions to enable mobility despite general travel restrictions. Between 20th and 23rd July 2020, 8 countries, territories or areas have issued 14 new exceptions whilst 3 countries, territories or areas (C/T/As) have removed 5 exceptions.

Data Source: [IATA](#) and official government websites.

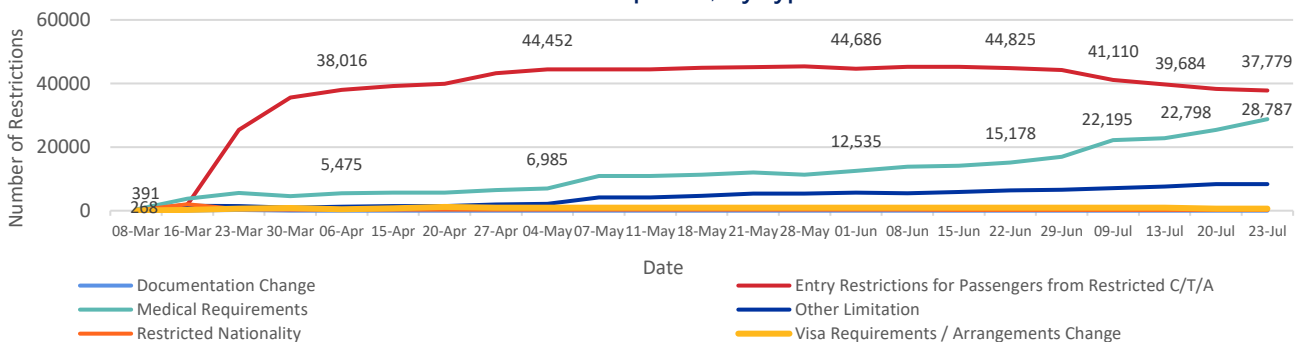
Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type



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

As of 23rd July 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Although entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As still had the highest share of the total restrictions (50%), they have been following a decreasing trend. In contrast, medical measures making up 38 per cent of the restrictions have been increasing. Changes in visa requirements have also followed a stable trend, continuing to represent a small share (<1%) in total restrictions.

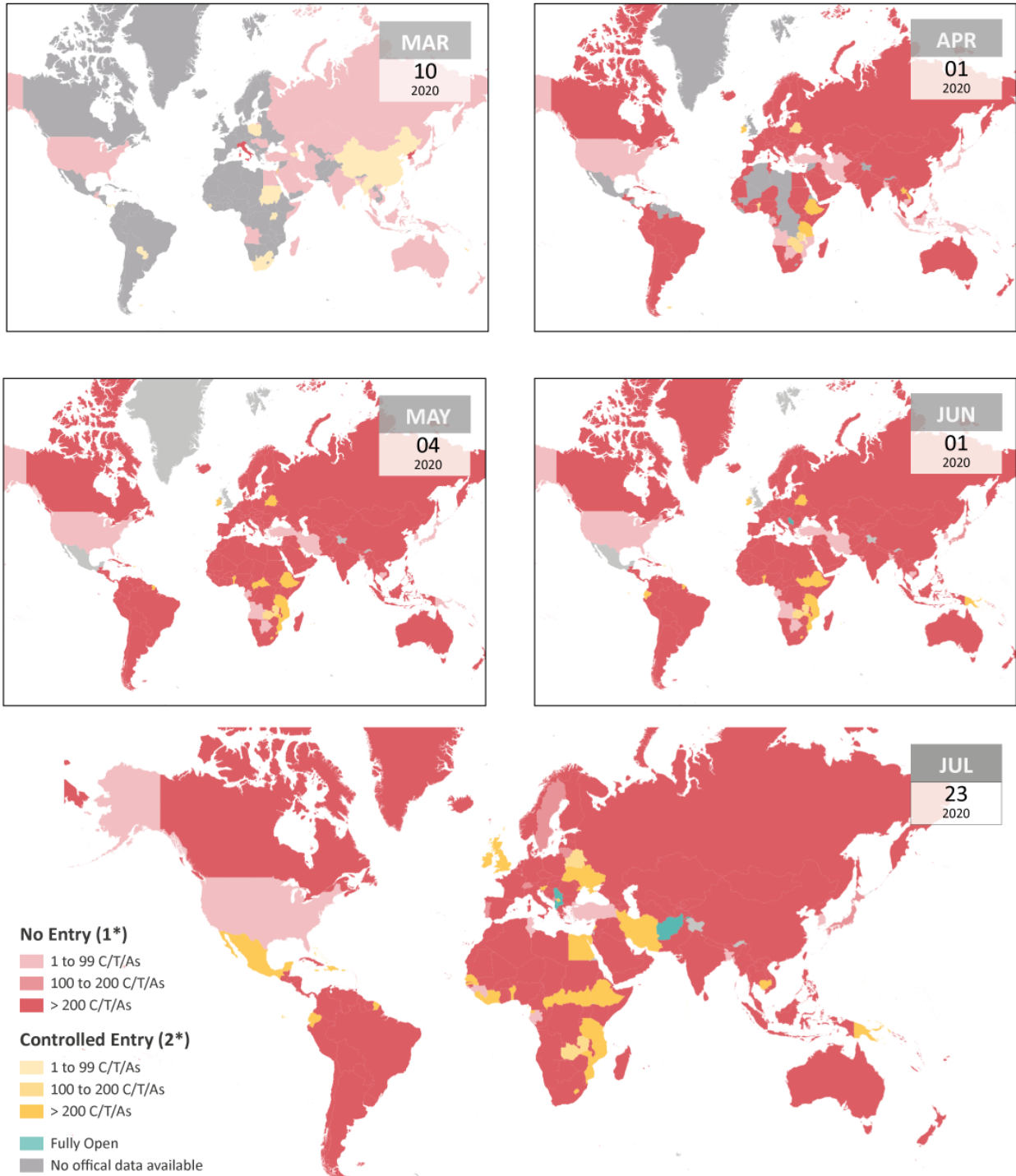
Restrictions Imposed, by type



Important: This analysis does not capture pre-COVID-19 related travel restrictions, rather it draws attention to various travel restrictions issued as a result of COVID-19. This report focuses on the changes to pre-existing measures affecting passengers travelling through specific routes or with specific travel documentation and nationalities. The number of restrictions recorded in this report is indicative of the total number of COVID-19 related travel restrictions since 8th March 2020, when IOM began monitoring the impact of travel restrictions on global mobility as a result of COVID-19. More specifically, this analysis highlights emerging changes as a result of COVID-19 travel requirements to support identifying border management practices. This analysis does not aim to provide information on exact 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.

¹ This report has been amended, please note that due to a technical error the previously published report COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Output 20 July 2020 had reported the total number of travel restrictions as 73,008. The correct number is 73,589. All corrections have been implemented in this report and that subsequent reports which make comparisons with data from 20th July 2020 have used the correct figure.

Changes in Restrictions on Arrival since 10th March 2020



(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.

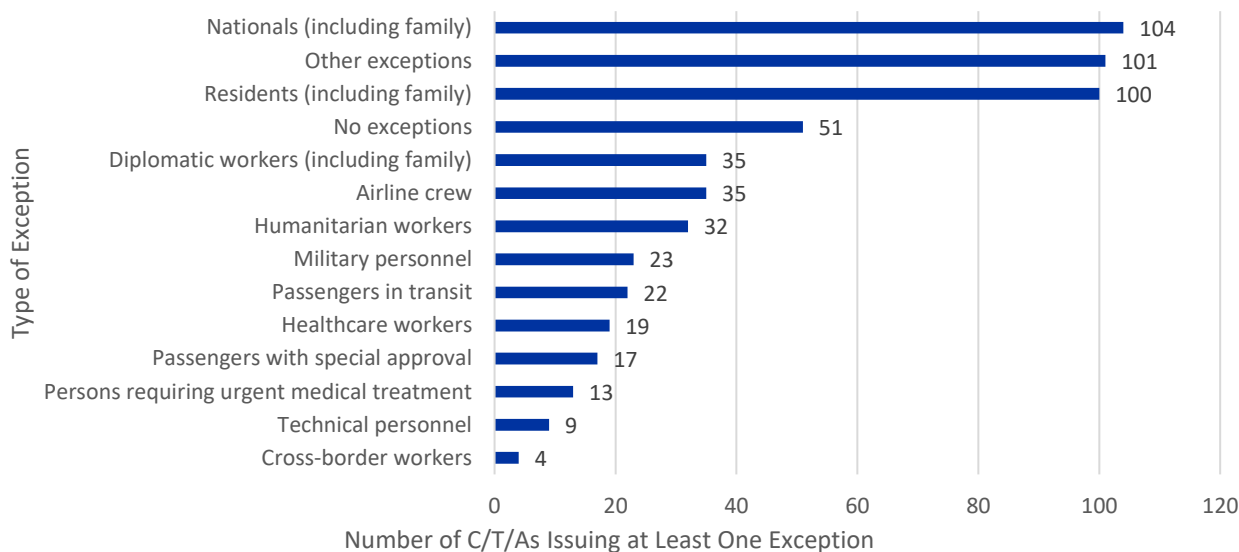
The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

■ Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

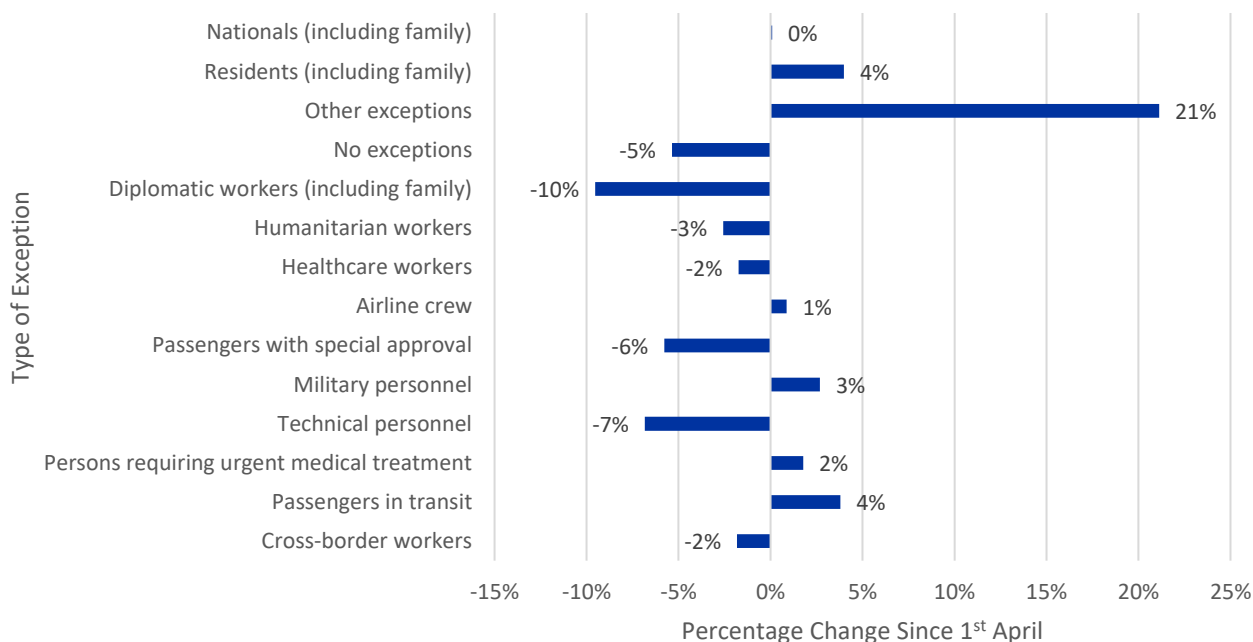
- Flight suspensions were extended by **Jordan** until 4th August 2020, **Suriname** until 14th August 2020, by **Nepal** until 16th August 2020, and by **Turkmenistan** until 20th September 2020.
- Extensions of passenger bans were issued by **Chad** until 31st July 2020, Argentina until 2nd August 2020, by **Dominica** until 7th August 2020, by **Romania** until 14th August 2020, and by Sweden until 31st August 2020.
- **Passenger restrictions** were **reissued** by **France**, barring passengers arriving from Montenegro or Serbia and by **Slovakia**, barring passengers from Australia, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan Province the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Likewise, **Germany reissued a travel ban** for the entry for residents of Montenegro.
- **Uruguay, Bulgaria** and the **United Arab Emirates** issued **new medical measures** requiring all passengers provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure. **Papua New Guinea** also issued measures requiring the provision of a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, issued at most 7 days before departure.
- **Cameroon** and **Ireland** issued new medical measures, requiring passengers to subject to **medical screening** upon arrival.
- **Cameroon** also issued a new **14-day quarantine measure**, along with authorities in **Romania**, who also issued [a list of quarantine exceptions](#).
- **Japan** issued travel bans on passengers arriving from 17 countries, territories or areas including Nepal, Kenya, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Botswana, the Comoros, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Namibia, Paraguay, the Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname and Uzbekistan.
- **Restrictions were eased** by **Cyprus** for passengers arriving from Algeria, the People's Republic of China, Rwanda and Thailand. Likewise, **Norway** eased restrictions, allowing entry to passengers arriving from Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania and Sweden (excluding Blekinge, Kronoberg and Skane). Passengers must provide a confirmed booking of a 10-day quarantine accommodation for the period of stay, upon arrival.
- **French Polynesia opened entry** for passengers arriving from Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Holy See and European Economic Area Member States.
- As of 22nd July 2020, **Sierra Leone** has reopened airports. Passengers are allowed to enter under the condition that they undergo mandatory medical screening and present a travel authorization prior departure.
- **Slovenia** lifted all COVID-19 related travel restrictions on 20th July 2020, passengers are required to undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. However, the authorities announced that [35](#) countries, territories or areas that are on the 'green list' or the list of epidemiologically safe countries are exempt from quarantine.
- **Guinea** reopened Conakry (CKY) airport but passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result at most 7 days before arrival and are subject to medical screening and mandatory quarantine upon arrival.
- Authorities in **Thailand** announced on 21st July 2020, that the visa amnesty has been extended from 31st July 2020 to 26th September 2020 for all foreigners in Thailand whose visa has expired allowing them to stay.
- Authorities in **Iraq** have reopened airports as of 23rd July 2020, passengers must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to board.

■ Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions

Exceptions Enabling Entry



Change in Exceptions Enabling Entry



Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 656 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 177 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Norway (13), Greece (11), Sweden (11), Thailand (11), and then joint 5th with 10 were Bulgaria, Finland, Iceland, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China.
- Since the last update on 20th July 2020, 14 new exceptions were added by Uruguay (4), Cameroon (2), Sierra Leone (2), Suriname (2), Algeria (1), Bahrain (1), Spain (1), and Switzerland (1).
- Since the last update on 20th July 2020, 5 exceptions were removed by Sierra Leone (3), Cameroon (1), and Sweden (1).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- **Exceptions** to the passenger ban were issued by **Czechia** for passengers who are unmarried partners of nationals of Czechia. They must have a confirmation of their relationship issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechia.
- **Spain** revised **exceptions** to allow entry to students with medical insurance, and resident permit and "D" visa holders, with documents that expired between 14th December 2019 and 21st June 2020.
- **Switzerland** expanded **exceptions** to allow entry to passengers arriving directly from Algeria, Andorra, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay and the Holy See.
- Exceptions for **medical evacuation and return flights** were issued by **Algeria** whereas **Montenegro** issued an exception for passengers under the age of five who do not need to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result or self-quarantine for 14-days.
- More than 2,000 nationals of [Angola](#) that are stranded in Portugal are scheduled to return on the 24th July 2020.
- The [United States of America](#) issued a schedule of 18 flights from South Africa for US nationals who wish to return home from 23rd July to 16th August 2020.
- Similarly, authorities in [Thailand](#) announced three flights in August to and from Bangkok and London, to facilitate the return of Thai nationals and nationals of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- A total of 570 nationals of [Nepal](#) returned on four flights from various destinations including Malaysia on 23rd July 2020.
- In [India](#), authorities announced nine flights operated by Spice Jet Airline to facilitate the return of 1,500 Indian students from Kyrgyzstan over the next two months. On [23rd July 2020](#), four European Union (EU) Humanitarian Air Bridge flights coordinated by Portugal delivered medical supplies and equipment to Guinea-Bissau to bolster their ongoing COVID-19 efforts.