Global Mobility Restriction Overview

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COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
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Overview

As the global number of COVID-19 cases across 216 countries, territories or areas continues to increase, reaching almost 10 million (9,962,193 cases and 498,723 deaths) as of 29th June 2020, per the World Health Organization, the impact on global mobility remains complex. As of 29th June 2020, a total of 219 countries, territories or areas have issued 68,964 travel restrictions, indicating almost no change from 68,721 restrictions recorded on 25th June 2020. However, there has been an increase of two per cent in medical restrictions. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 179 countries, territories or areas have issued 668 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 25th and 29th June 2020, 15 countries, territories or areas have issued 34 new exceptions whilst 4 countries, territories or areas have removed 13 exceptions.

Data Source: IATA and official government websites.

Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restriction Types</th>
<th>Number of Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry Restrictions for Passengers from Restricted C/T/A</td>
<td>44,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Requirements</td>
<td>16,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa Requirements / Arrangements Change</td>
<td>926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Nationality</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation Change</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Limitations*</td>
<td>6,608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

As of 29th June 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Despite the stabilisation, entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As still had the highest share of the total restrictions (64%). Closure of borders has been a common and preferred response, followed by medical measures making up 25 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 (1% and <1% respectively) in total restrictions.

Restrictions Imposed, by type

![Graph showing number of restrictions imposed, by type from 08-Mar to 29-Jun 2020.]

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.
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/A imposing medical measures, changes in Visa or ID or other measures on arrival.

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Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

- New expected dates for reopening airports were issued by authorities. Myanmar announced reopening of airports on 30th June 2020, the Netherlands as of 1st July 2020, Sweden as of 7th July 2020, Sudan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as of 12th July 2020, Guinea and India as of 15th July 2020, Turkmenistan as of 20th July 2020, Belize as of 14th August 2020, and Colombia as of 30th August 2020.

- Chile moved the expected date for reopening from 25th June 2020 to 2nd July 2020. Similarly, Costa Rica moved the expected date for reopening from 30th June 2020 to 30th July 2020.

- Aruba announced their expected reopening date of 1st July 2020 for passengers arriving from 54 countries, territories or areas and 10th July 2020 for passengers arriving from the United States of America.

- New medical measures were issued by Angola, Uganda and Colombia, stipulating that passengers and airlines must undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. Myanmar also issued new medical measures for airline crew requiring them to quarantine until their next flight.

- Costa Rica issued a new medical measure requiring all passengers to submit an "Epidemiological Form" that must be completed online prior to departure.

- Guyana issued a new medical requirement for all passengers exempt from the flight ban to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result.

- Myanmar issued indefinite visa suspensions for all passengers.

- Authorities in Algeria announced on 28th June 2020 that the land, air and sea border closures will remain in place until the COVID-19 situation improves.

- The United Arab Emirates suspended flights arriving from Pakistan on 29th July 2020 after some passengers tested positive for COVID-19.

- Authorities in Jordan have announced plans to suspend flights facilitating the return of nationals from abroad until 10th July 2020 after reporting a spike in the number of new cases amongst returnees from abroad.

- Authorities in Greece announced plans to extend the ban on flights arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Sweden until 15th July 2020.

- Liberia reopened Monrovia Roberts International Airport on 28th June 2020, imposing new stringent medical measures for incoming and outgoing passengers, including temperature screening for symptoms of COVID-19 and registration via phones numbers and Mobile App, arriving passengers who have been tested at point of departure must present a valid negative result document on arrival.

- Passenger ban measures were lifted by Montenegro, for passengers arriving from Israel, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine. Additionally, passengers arriving from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Italy, Poland, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, and Kosovo* (UN SCR 1244) must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival.

- Denmark lifted passenger ban restrictions for residents of European Union Member States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions

Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 668 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 179 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Spain (18), Norway (13), Luxembourg (11) and then Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Finland, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea joint 4th with 10 exceptions respectively.
- Since the last update on 25th June 2020, 34 new exceptions were added by the Federated States of Micronesia (4), Mongolia (4), Myanmar (4), the Republic of Moldova (4), Colombia (3), Montenegro (3), Montserrat (3), Slovenia (2), Bulgaria (1), Guinea (1), Morocco (1), Mozambique (1), the Netherlands (1), Slovakia (1), and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (1).
- Since the last update on 25th June 2020, 13 exceptions were removed by Sweden (8), Colombia (2), Slovenia (2), and the Netherlands (1).
Key Exceptions Highlights

- Slovenia added exceptions for the entry of passengers arriving from Denmark, France, Ireland, Malta, and Spain.
- Colombia added new exceptions for nationals and residents that are returning from abroad, as well as passengers with diplomatic passports and humanitarian flights.
- Bulgaria issued exception to the passenger ban for nationals of Estonia or Latvia.
- New exceptions were added by Angola and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for humanitarian flights.
- A total of 917 Moroccan nationals arrived on 26th June 2020 on six flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, France, Cote D’Ivoire, Senegal and France. Upon arrival, returnees were taken to eight hotels to undergo COVID-19 testing and subsequent quarantine in adherence to Health Ministry protocols.
- On 26th June 2020, 251 nationals of Thailand arrived from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on a flight facilitated by the authorities.
- In the Phase 4 of India’s Vande Bharat Mission to facilitate the return of Indian nationals from abroad, IndiGo airlines will operate 238 flights from Qatar and 219 flights from Kuwait in July. Additionally, Air India will operate 114 flights between 3rd and 15th July to different destinations whereas Air India Express will operate 300 flights in July 2020.
- On 29th June 2020, Poland sent medical aid and supplies to strengthen COVID-19 efforts in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

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\[1\] “References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).”