

Overview:

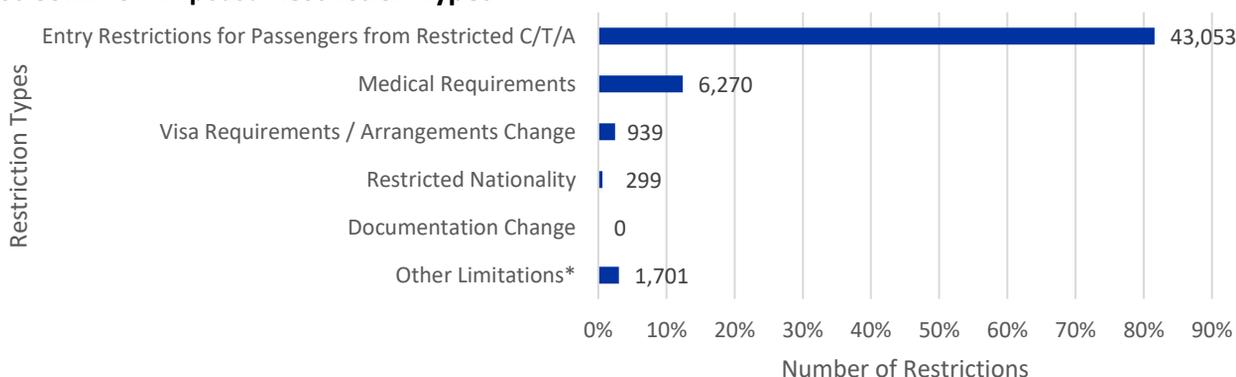
With the total number of global COVID-19 cases at nearly 2.5 million (2,471,136 on 22nd April 2020), as per the World Health Organization, the global COVID-19 pandemic continues to dictate strict measures controlling both, global mobility and migration, as well as daily internal mobility. As of 23rd April 2020, a total of 215 countries, territories and areas have implemented a total of 52,262 number of travel restrictions. This indicates an eight per cent increase in the number of daily restrictions from 48,588 restrictions recorded on 20th April 2020. In general, other limitations such as new documents required for entry increased by 17 per cent, medical restrictions and measures increased by 10 per cent and restrictions on passengers arriving from a specific country, territory or area increased by eight per cent. The preference for a multipronged approach balancing relaxation measures alongside internal mobility limitations continues, Spain will extend its current lockdown until 9th May 2020, but authorities relaxed some measures allowing children under the age of 14 to go out for short walks or accompany adults for essential activities such as shopping from 26th April 2020. Viet Nam announced lifting the current lockdown and social distancing restrictions, allowing daily life in major cities to slowly return. In several parts of the world, restrictions on internal mobility and lockdown measures continue to be extended. The Republic of Ireland announced a ban on large public gathering of 5,000 people and possible extensions of restrictions until September 2020. After a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases, Singapore announced an extension of partial lockdown measures, specifically the closure of most workplaces and schools from 4th May 2020 to 1st June 2020. Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China has also extended its social distancing policies including the closure of cinemas and gyms and bans on gathering of more than four people until 7th May 2020. Likewise, Bahrain also extended its lockdown by two more weeks until 7th May 2020.

Despite reporting no cases of COVID-19 as yet, Lesotho has extended its three-week lockdown period by an additional two weeks until 5th May 2020. While Sri Lanka announced plans to partially lift the lockdown from 20th April 2020, a sudden surge in number COVID-19 cases reported in a single day has reversed this decision, the lockdown has been extended until 27th April 2020. Kenya also announced a cessation of movement by air and road in and out of Mandera County for an initial period of 21 days, commencing from 22nd April 2020. In a similar vein, Nigeria issued a ban on inter-state travel to restrict the spread of infection. Even though Latvia extended its current lockdown until 12th May 2020, the mobility of returning nationals is on-going. On 22nd April 2020, 360 nationals of Latvia are scheduled to return on three return flights from Norway, Germany and the Netherlands. Likewise, authorities in United Kingdom of Northern Ireland and Great Britain announced five charter flights for the return of 1,500 British nationals in New Zealand as well as continued return flights from India. United Arab Emirates announced return flights for nationals from India, United Kingdom of Northern Ireland and Great Britain Spain, Germany, Philippines, South Africa, Tunisia and Indonesia. To overcome current challenges of COVID-19 related mobility restrictions, the first United Nations 'Solidarity Flight' delivered medical supplies and protective equipment to boost COVID-19 response on the African continent. Likewise, since 14th April 2020, 34 African countries have received supplies, several more flights are planned to deliver aid to 95 countries, territories and areas. Egypt sent medical equipment, anaesthesia drugs and antibiotics as well as body bags, masks and testing swabs to support their COVID-19 response to the United States of America. The United Arab Emirates also sent medical supplies to South Africa to bolster COVID-19 measures.

Data Source: IATA (<https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/international-travel-document-news/1580226297.htm>)

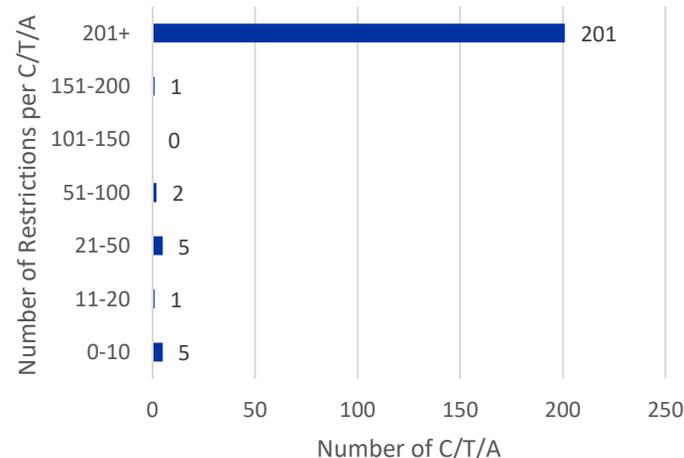
Numbers at a glance

Most Common Imposed Restriction Types

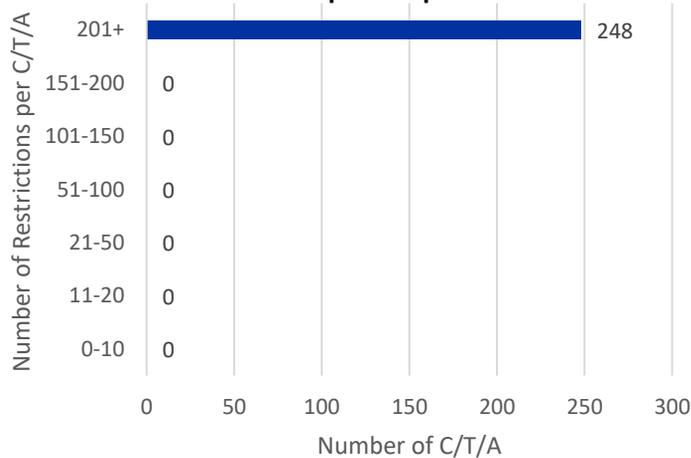


*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.

Number of Countries/ Territories/ Areas Imposing Restrictions

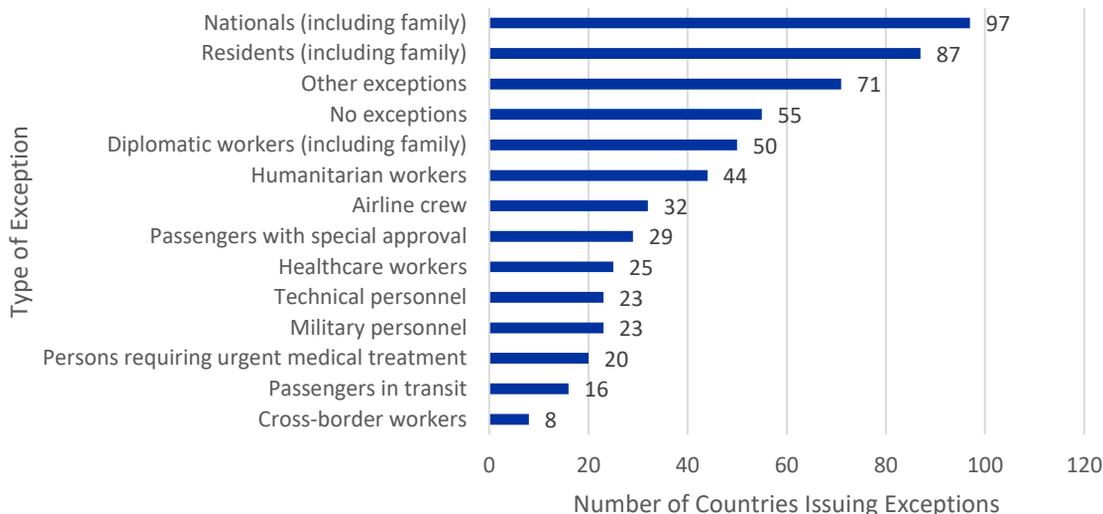


Number of Countries/ Territories/ Areas with Restrictions Imposed upon them



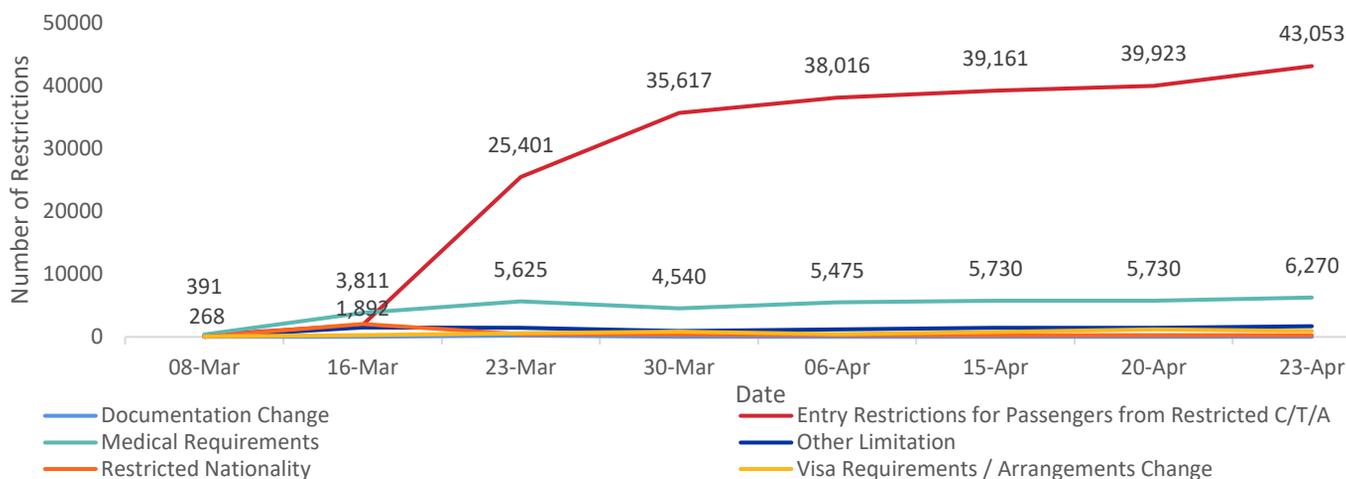
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Exceptions for Entry

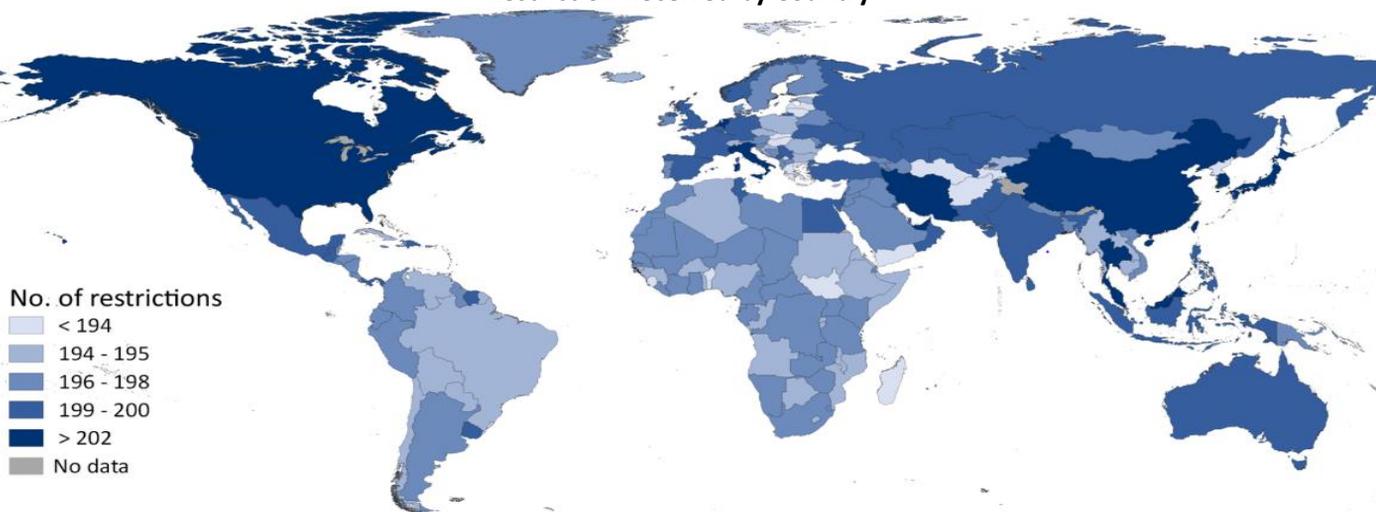


*Nationals (including family members)
Residents (including family members)
No exceptions
Other exceptions
Passengers with a diplomatic passport/visa; diplomats on duty station in the country (including family members)
Passengers with a UN passport; personnel of international and humanitarian organizations
Airline crew
Passengers with a special approval/valid letter of prior approval issued by the government or other entity
Technical, directive personnel and cargo operators
Healthcare professionals, healthcare researchers and collaborators
Military personnel/Military forces of NATO
Passengers in transit
Persons requiring urgent medical treatment
Cross-border workers

Measures Imposed by Countries/ Territories/ Areas, by Type and Date



Restriction Received by Country



Map disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. The representations and the use of borders and geographic names may include errors and do not imply judgment on legal status of territories nor acknowledgement of borders by IOM.

Key Highlights:

- Even with numerous airports and borders closures globally, five new countries, territories and areas issued restrictions for the first time. The Gambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cabo Verde and Burundi suspended all air travel indefinitely. Bhutan issued visa suspensions for all foreign passengers as well as have banned the entry of all passengers with visas, work permits or other immigration permits if they have transited through a COVID-19 affected country, territory or area.
- Extensions of airport closures were issued. Sudan extended its airport closure from 23rd April 2020 to 20th May 2020. Namibia extended airport closures from 23rd April to 7th May 2020. Madagascar, Ecuador, Honduras, and Nigeria extended airport closures to an indefinite period.
- Uruguay shifted from an indefinite restriction on all passengers to a restriction on passenger entry until 15th May 2020. Conversely, Uganda shifted from airport suspension previously issued until 23rd April 2020 to an indefinite period.
- More stringent measures were issued by Belize, shifting from restrictions such as medical measures on passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas to complete closure of airports.
- Spain extended the temporary travel ban on all non-EU passengers. However, authorities issued new exceptions for returning nationals and residents of the European Union and Schengen Member States, as well as nationals and residents who returning to Andorra, Norway, Switzerland and Iceland.
- New measures and requirements for airline crew members were issued by Sri Lanka requiring airline crew to self-quarantine at the location mentioned in the Health Declaration Form and have meals only through in-room dining until they operate the next flight.
- In addition to extending the airport closures, Sri Lanka also issued a limitation on the permitted transit duration of transit passengers is limited to 12 hours. Authorities also issued directives to limit all air traffic to Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB). Comparably, Zimbabwe announced 18 airport closures, limiting air traffic for exceptional mobility at three airports, Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo International Airport (BUQ), Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport (HRE), and Victoria Falls Airport (VFA).
- In light of the current COVID-19 travel restrictions, Authorities in Thailand issued visa extensions for foreigners whose visas expired on 26th March 2020 until July 31st, 2020 without having to apply for an extension.
- New exceptions were issued by Tunisia for the entry of humanitarian workers, medical experts and relief flights. Authorities also issued exceptions for the return of nationals and residents who are subjected to mandatory quarantine for a period of 14-days upon arrival.
- Uruguay issued exceptions for the mobility of humanitarian flights, Sweden added the exception of passengers with a national visa, and Sudan added the exception for technical flights. The Republic of Ireland issued a new exception for essential supply chain workers such as pilots and haulers.
- Canada's national carrier has facilitated the return of 6,600 nationals on 21 flights from Morocco, Spain, Ecuador, Peru, Algeria, Argentina, and Colombia as of 22nd April 2020. Sri Lankan Airlines will operate three return flights from Amritsar and Coimbatore, in India to bring back stranded nationals.