Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Bi-Weekly Update • 25th June 2020

COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
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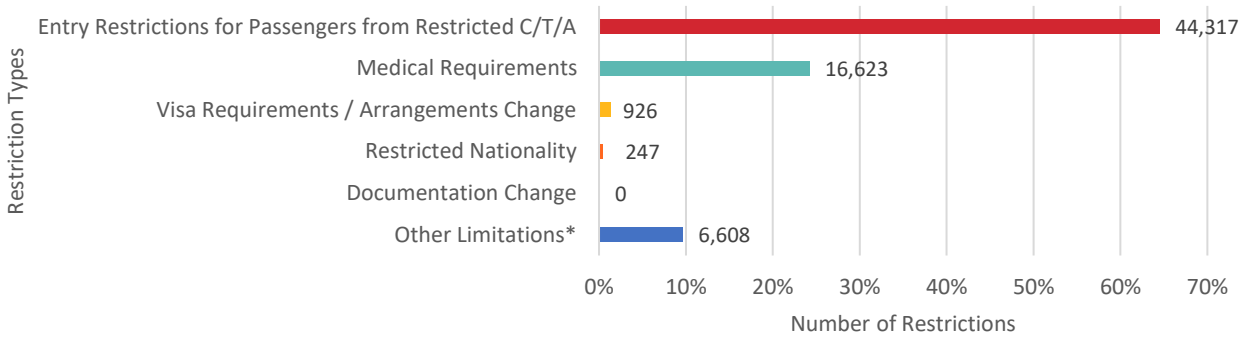
Overview

The global number of COVID-19 cases across the world have exceeded 9 million (9,129,146 cases and 473,797 deaths) as of 24th June 2020, according to the World Health Organization. The COVID-19 impact on global mobility continues to vary depending on the different measures issued by Governments and authorities. As of 25th June 2020, a total of 219 countries, territories or areas have issued 68,721 travel restrictions, indicating an increase of two per cent from 67,572 restrictions recorded on 22nd June 2020. However, there has been an increase of ten per cent in medical restrictions and an increase of three per cent in other requirements such as new travel documents. In addition to this, there was a decrease of one per cent in the restriction on passengers arriving from specific countries, territories, or areas. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 169 countries, territories or areas have issued 647 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 22nd and 25th June 2020, 4 countries, territories or areas have issued 8 new exceptions whilst 18 countries, territories or areas have removed 71 exceptions.

Data Source: IATA and official government websites.

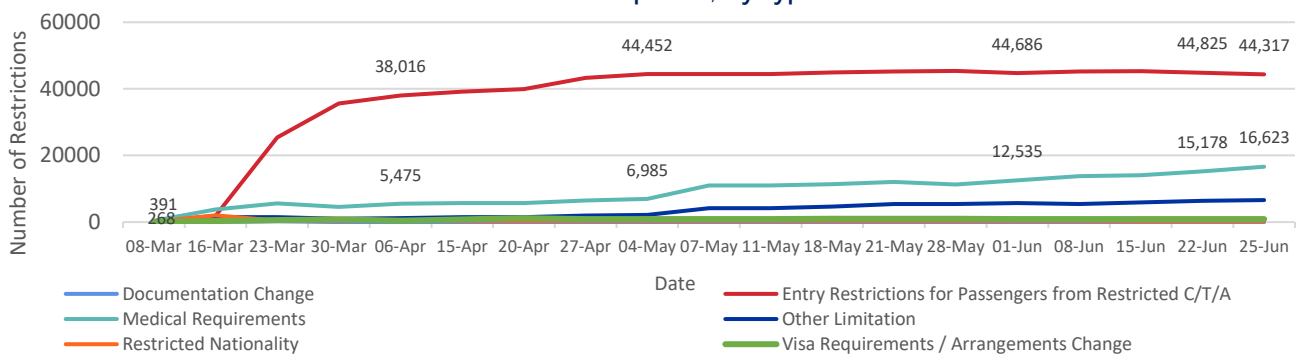
Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Types



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

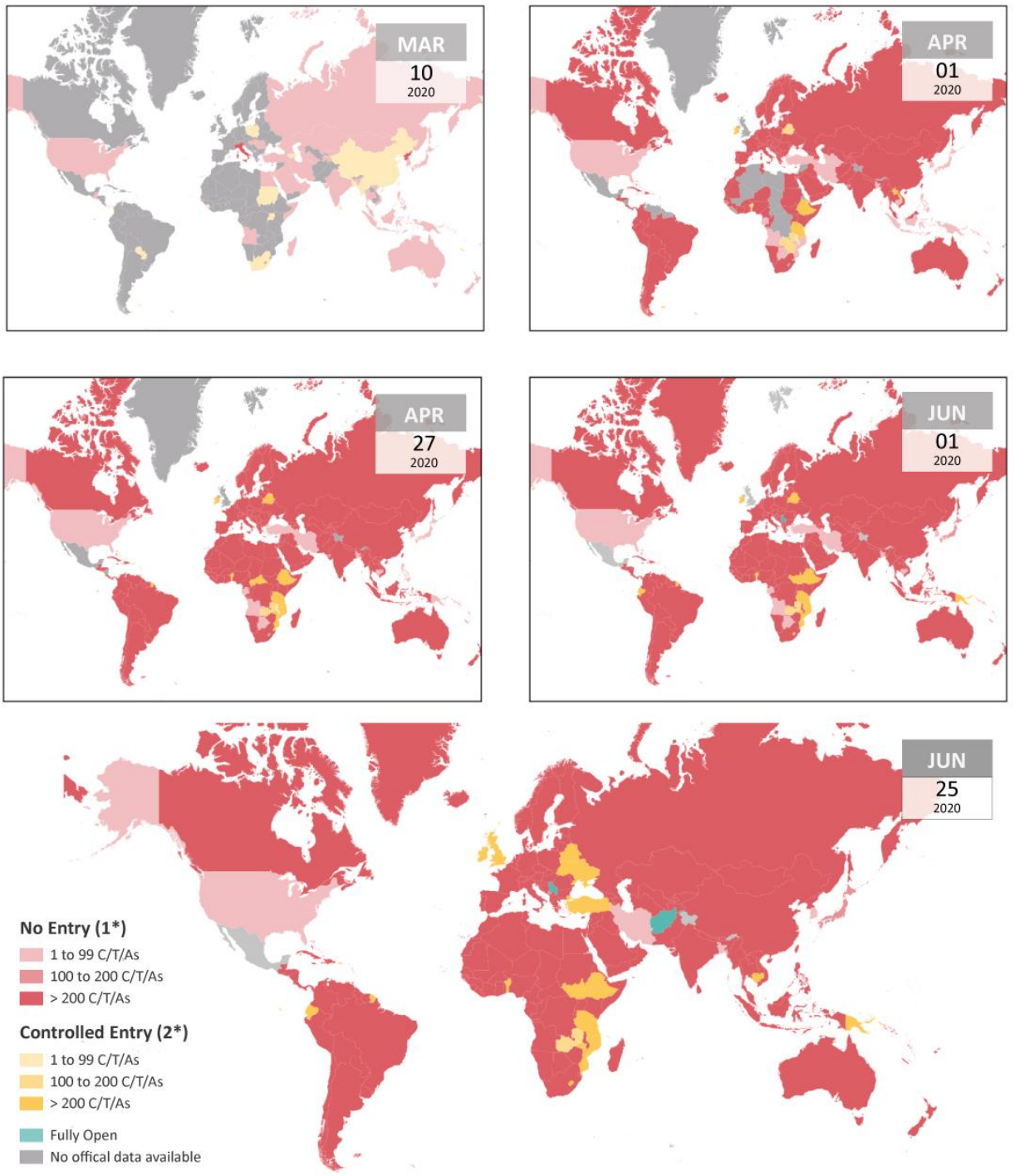
As of 25th June 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Despite the stabilisation, entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As still had the highest share of the total restrictions (64%). Closure of borders has been a common and preferred response, followed by medical measures making up 24 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



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

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Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

- Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba shifted from a partial flight ban for specific countries, territories or areas to a complete suspension of all flights until 1st July 2020.

- New 14-day quarantine measures were issued by Pakistan for passengers and airline crew allowed entry and by Burkina Faso for nationals, residents and passengers arriving for humanitarian, return or medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) flights.

- New medical measures were issued by Guyana, stipulating that passengers provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 result.

- Guam shifted from a passenger ban to a medical restriction, for passengers who have been in a country, territory or area with confirmed COVID-19 cases for more than one week must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival.

- Slovakia issued new medical restrictions for passengers who have visited a country other than Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and Switzerland in the past 14 days, they must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 96 hours prior to arrival.

- After reporting new cases in Germany, Austria implemented a partial travel ban with Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia region, limiting mobility to essential travel only.

- Pakistan announced plans of screening outbound passengers from 25th June 2020.

- The United States of America issued stringent measures in effect from 24th June 2020, restricting visas including the H-1B visas for high-skilled workers; H-2B visas, for seasonal employees; L-1 visas, for corporate executives; and J-1 visas, for scholars and exchange programs, restricting new authorizations until 31st December 2020.

- Authorities in Uruguay have reopened Montevideo (MVD) and Punta del Este (PDP) airports.

- New expected dates for reopening airports were issued by authorities, Liberia issued 27th June 2020, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Poland and Costa Rica issued 30th June 2020, Iraq and Cuba issued 1st July 2020, Brazil issued 4th July 2020, El Salvador issued 22nd July 2020, Argentina issued 28th June 2020, and Azerbaijan issued 1st August 2020.

- COVID-19 entry restrictions were lifted by Gibraltar as of 21st June 2020 and flight suspensions were lifted by Afghanistan as of 25th June 2020.

- Cambodia lifted the COVID-19 related cross-border travel restriction barring nationals of Viet Nam with a normal passport.

- Benin removed quarantine restrictions for passengers. Passengers are still subject to medical screening at their own expense, upon arrival.

- Romania lifted passenger restrictions for passengers arriving from France and Italy and Czechia lifted requirements for passengers to provide medical certificates upon arrival for nationals of Belgium.

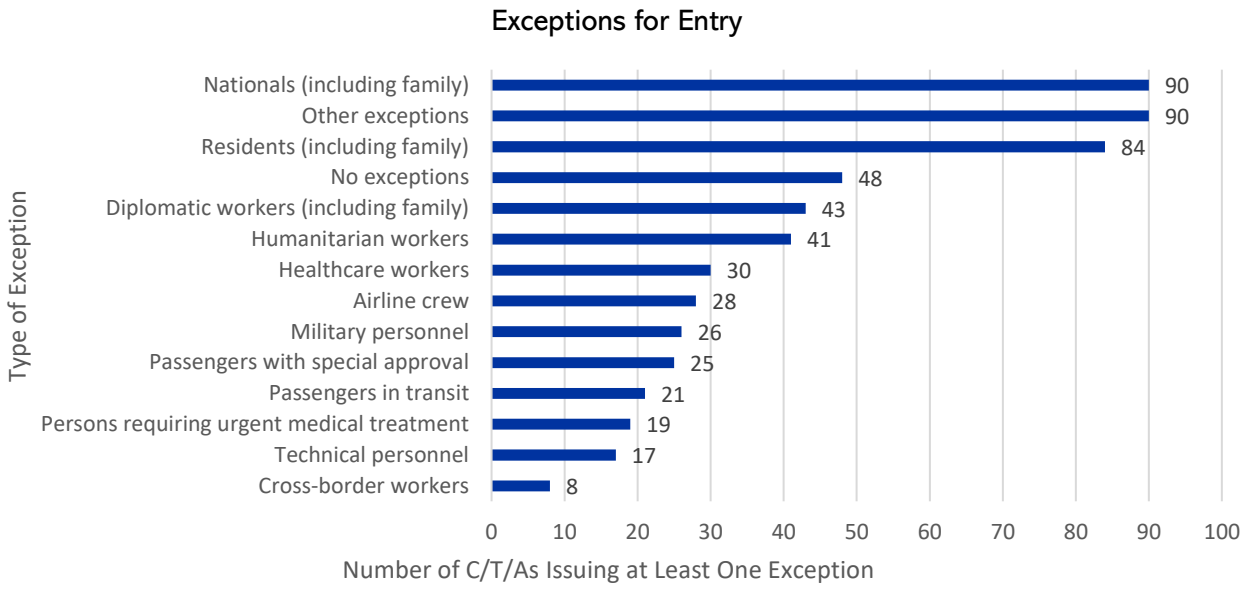
- Spain announced plans of reopening its borders with Portugal and Morocco on 1st July 2020.

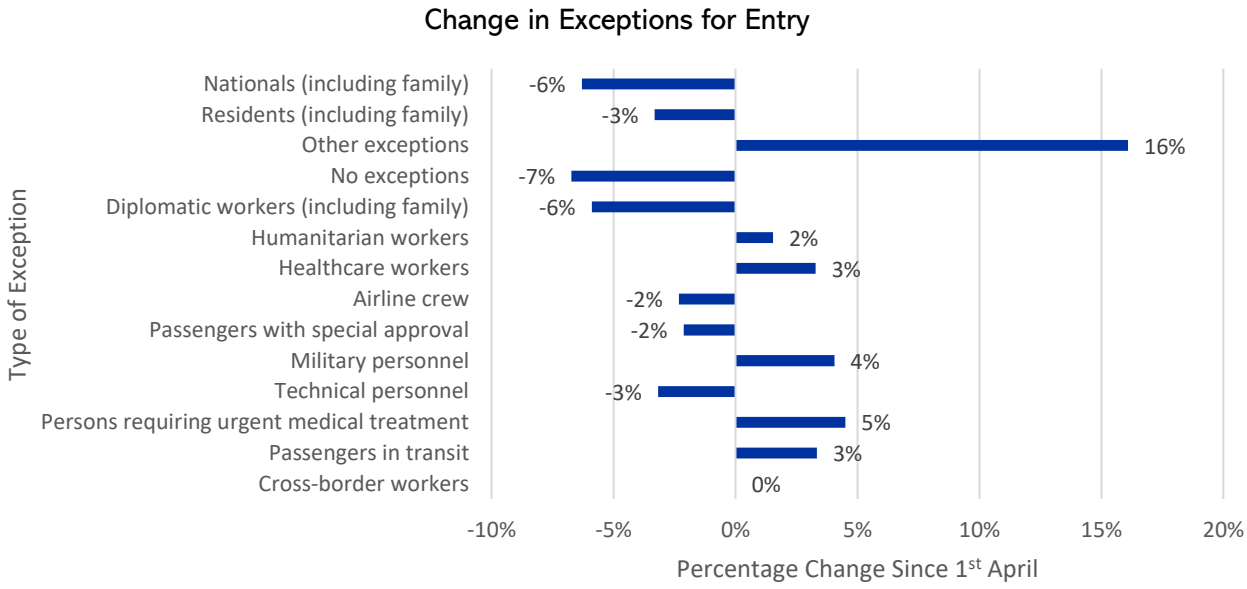
- Ethiopia has also reopened airports as of 24th June 2020, passengers arriving are subject to medical screening; and must have a medical certificate stating a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival, if not, they will be subject to quarantine for seven days.

- North Macedonia will also reopen its borders from 26th June 2020, passengers will not require medical measures such as quarantine or COVID-19 negative test certificate.

- Ukraine reopened airports on 23rd June 2020 to all passengers, authorities issued a new requirement for passengers to enter; in addition to quarantine upon arrival, passengers must have insurance to cover medical expenses in Ukraine.

Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions





Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 647 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 169 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Spain (18), Sweden (15), Norway (13), Luxembourg (11) and then Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Finland, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea joint 5th with 10.
- Since the last update on 22nd June 2020, 8 new exceptions were added by Burkina Faso (3), Lao PDR (2), Liberia (2), and New Zealand (1).
- Since the last update on 22nd June 2020, 71 exceptions were removed by the Federated States of Micronesia (8), the Republic of Moldova (8), Mongolia (8), Myanmar (8), Montenegro (6), Montserrat (6), Brazil (5), Gibraltar (4), Lao PDR (4), Caribbean Netherlands (2), Guyana (2), Morocco (2), Mozambique (2), the Netherlands (2), Afghanistan (1), Australia (1), Lebanon (1), and Slovenia (1).

Key Exceptions Highlights

- Brazil removed exceptions to the passenger ban for passengers with an authorization issued by Brazilian Government, passengers with a National Migration Registry, for technical landings to refuel where passengers of restricted nationalities are not disembarking, and passengers in international transit if they do not leave the international area of the airport and the country of destination admits their entry.

- Nigeria issued measures extending the validity of residence permits which have expired on 22nd March 2020 or later.

- New Zealand added a new measure for flights in transit whereby transit flights are only allowed for maximum 24 hours at Auckland Airport (AKL).

- On 24th June 2020, 32 nationals of Uganda stranded in Khartoum, Sudan as result of COVID-19 related travel measures returned on a flight.

- More flights have been scheduled to facilitate the return of 524 Ugandan nationals from South Africa (70), United Arab Emirates (200), Afghanistan (108), India (120) and from the United States of America (134) early next month. Additionally, earlier this week, Uganda reopened land borders with the Democratic Republic of Congo to allow thousands of women, men and children fleeing recent clashes in to enter.

- Emirates airlines operate four flights to facilitate the return of nationals of the United Arab Emirates from South Africa from 22nd to 30th June 2020.

- A total of 243 Indian workers and tourists stranded in Sri Lanka returned back to India on 22nd June 2020.

- Qatar sent medical supplies to Belarus to bolster COVID-19 efforts.

- The People's Republic of China sent medical aid 30,000 PCR testing kits, 30,000 disposable coveralls, 30,000 medical protective face masks, 600,000 surgical masks, and 30,000 medical goggles to Sri Lanka on 25th June 2020.

- The United Arab Emirates sent Iraq 10.5 metric tonnes of medical supplies to support COVID-19 response.