

# Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Bi-Weekly Update • 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020



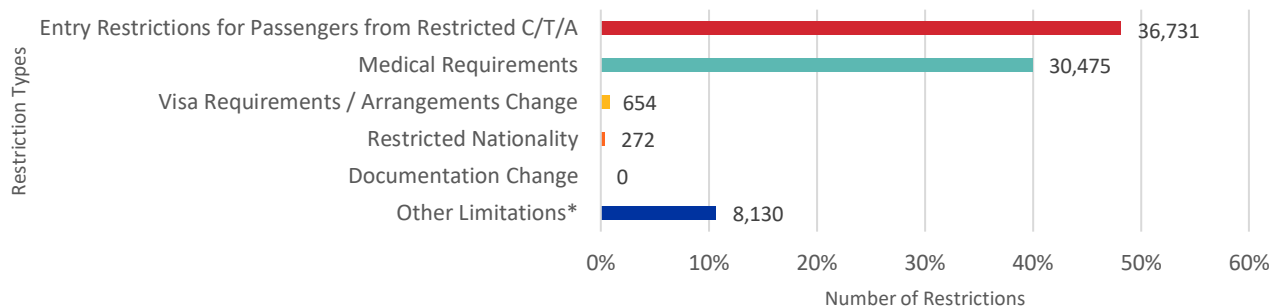
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series  
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## Overview

As the health impacts of COVID-19 continue to intensify, global mobility continues to be affected as Governments and authorities respond in diverse ways, balancing the need to curb the spread of the virus and at same time tackle economic pressures. As of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020, a total of 219 countries, territories or areas (C/T/As) have issued 76,262 travel restrictions marking an increase of two per cent from 74,680 travel restrictions reported on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020. There has been an increase of eight per cent in medical restrictions. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 178 countries, territories or areas have issued 652 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020, 5 countries, territories or areas have issued 8 new exceptions whilst 3 countries, territories or areas have removed 4 exceptions.

Data Source: IATA and official government websites.

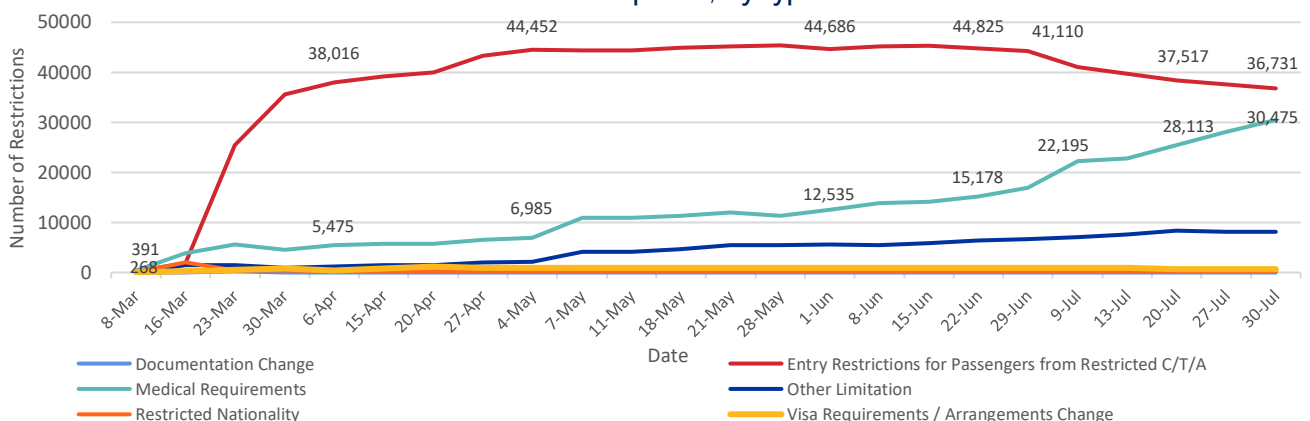
### Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type



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

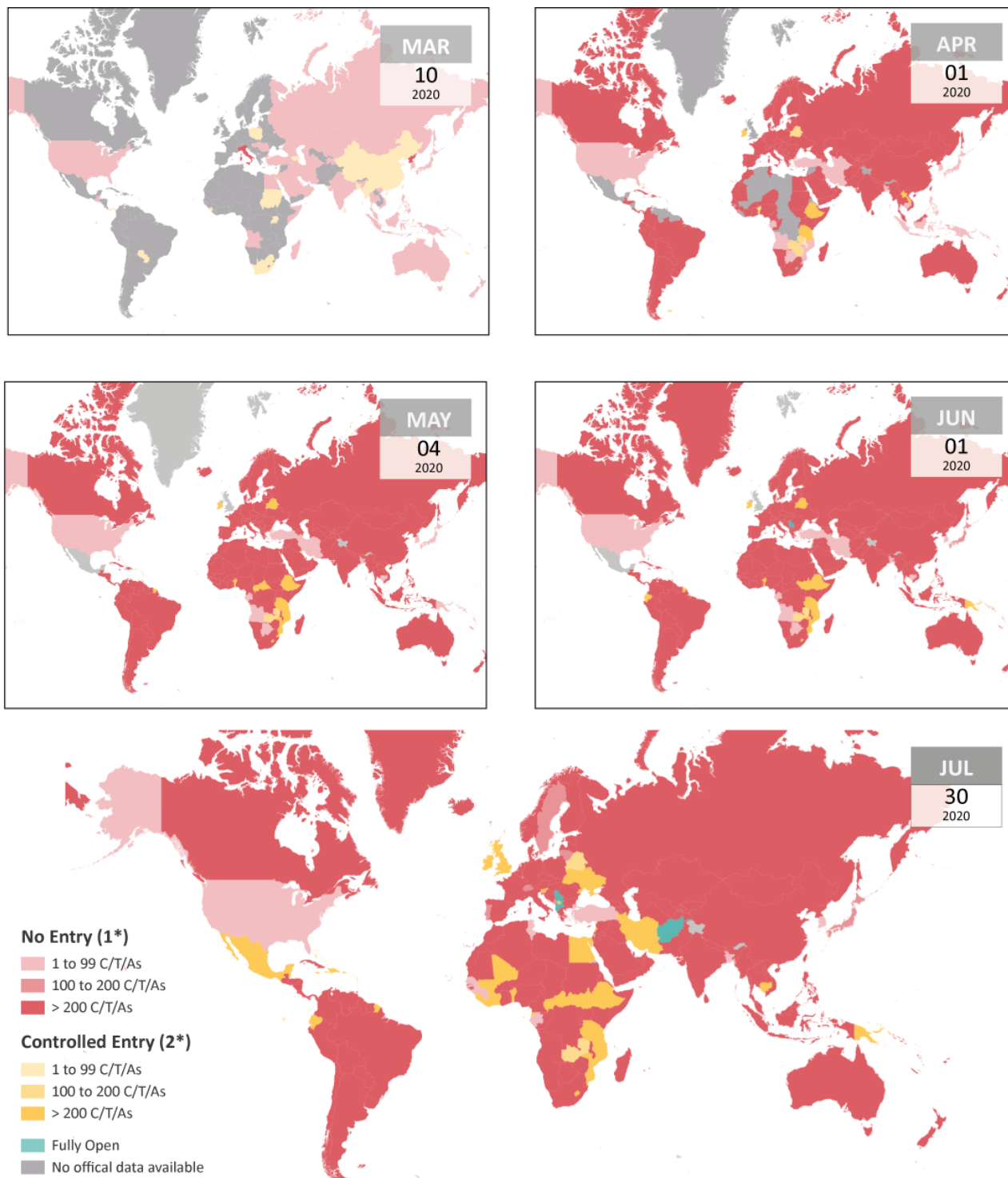
As of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Although entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As still had the highest share of the total restrictions (48%), they have been following a decreasing trend. In contrast, medical measures making up 40 per cent of the 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

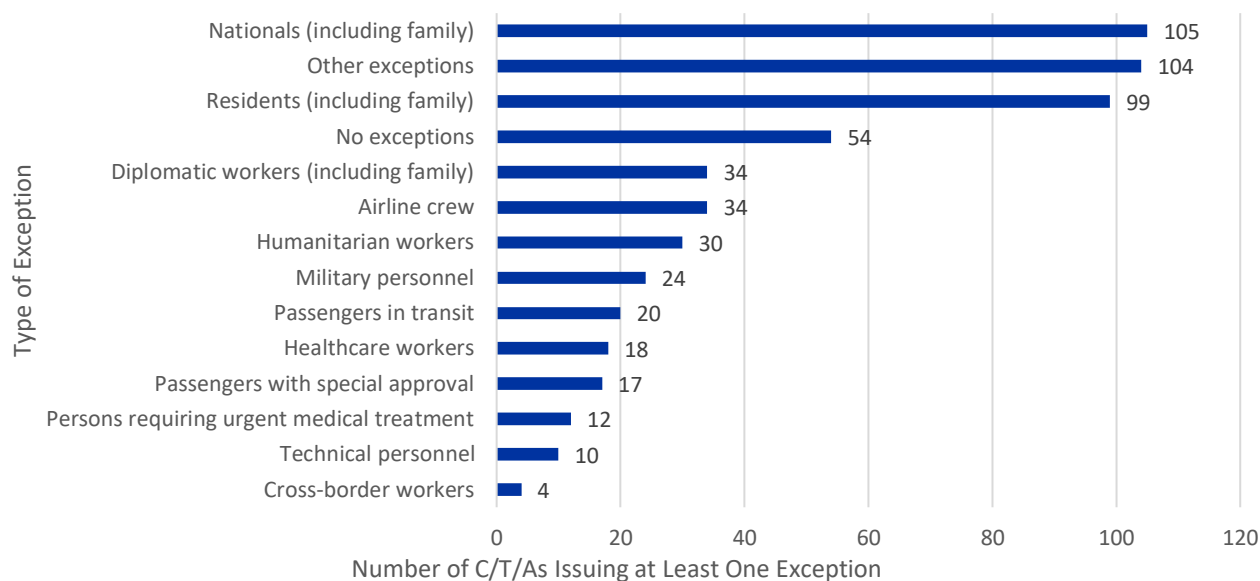
- Flight suspensions were extended by the Syrian Arab Republic until 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020; by Ghana until 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and by Myanmar until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.
- Entry bans for passengers, were extended indefinitely by Brazil, by Norway until 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020, by Finland until 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and by Sweden and Mongolia until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.
- **New travel restrictions** were issued by **Tunisia** barring entry for passengers arriving from Afghanistan, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Comoros, Croatia, Czechia, Djibouti, Gabon, Greece, Guam, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine or Uruguay for a period less than 14 days.
- Visa restrictions were issued by the **Islamic Republic of Iran**, to suspended issuance of visa upon arrival for passengers traveling as tourists.
- **Restrictive measures for airline crew** were issued by **Cabo Verde**, stipulating that airline crew must quarantine until their next flight, whereas the **United Arab Emirates** issued new medical screening and quarantine measures for airline crew, upon arrival.
- **Senegal** shifted from a mandatory 14-day quarantine measure to medical certificate requirement indicating a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 7 days before arrival. Passengers without a medical certificate are subject to medical screening on arrival and must complete a declaration stating that they do not have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Conditional entry measures were issued by **Kiribati** for the nationals of 78 countries, territories and areas who are allowed entry if they have **quarantined for 14-days** before traveling.
- **Romania** issued a **14-day quarantine requirement** for passengers arriving from Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Suriname, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States of America or American Virgin Islands.
- Requirements for **medical screening upon arrival** and a **7-day quarantine** were issued by **Qatar making it mandatory** for all passengers to undergo upon arrival.
- The **Russian Federation** issued medical measures, requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, issued at most 72 hours before arrival.
- **Greece** issued **medical measures** for passengers from Bulgaria or Romania, requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival, in effect until 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020.
- **Myanmar** issued **new medical requirements** for entry, including a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result and a mandatory 14-day quarantine, upon arrival.
- As of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020, **Sierra Leone** resumed flights, however passengers are subject to medical screening and must present a travel authorization obtained before departure.
- Flights to **Djibouti** resumed as of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and all incoming passengers are subject to medical screening upon arrival.
- **Mali** removed its passenger ban as of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and has instead issued medical requirements for passengers upon arrival, including a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival and a subsequent 14-day quarantine.

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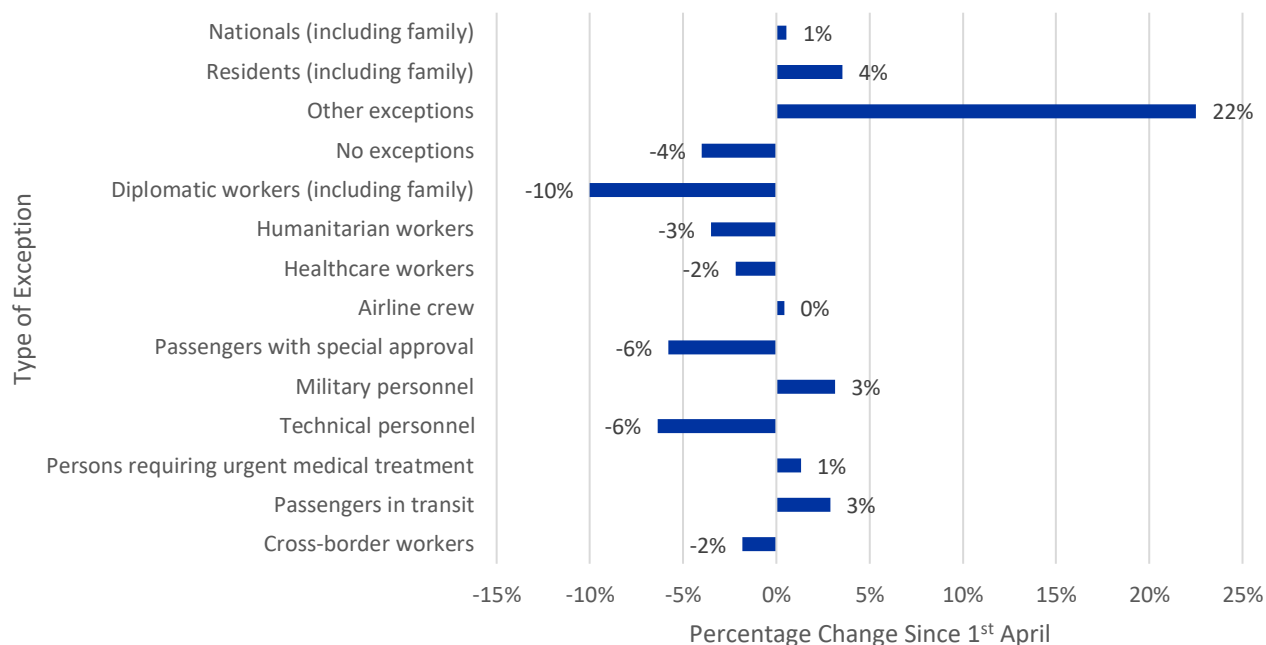
<sup>1</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

## ■ Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions

Exceptions Enabling Entry



Change in Exceptions Enabling Entry



### Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 652 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 178 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Thailand (12), Greece (11), Sweden (11), the Republic of Korea (11), and then joint 5<sup>th</sup> with 10 were Bulgaria, Finland, Iceland, Taiwan Province of the People’s Republic of China, and the United States of America.
- Since the last update on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020, 8 new exceptions were added by Myanmar (2), the Netherlands (2), Qatar (2), Burundi (1), and Senegal (1).
- Since the last update on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020, 4 exceptions were removed by Myanmar (2), Kuwait (1), and the Syrian Arab Republic (1).

## ■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- **Burundi** issued an **exception** to their flight ban, allowing for humanitarian and medical evacuation flights.
- **Exceptions** to passenger bans were issued by **Austria** for passengers arriving to visit their life partner.
- The **Netherlands** expanded their list of countries, territories and areas exempt from a 14-day quarantine measure upon arrival, to include passengers arriving from Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, and People's Republic of China.
- Due to the overwhelming demand for return flights to **India**, Phase V of the 'Vande Bharat' mission to return Indian nationals was extended from the original 5-day period starting 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020, until 29<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Flights to India have increased and have been announced to operate out of Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah until 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and following, 23 flights are scheduled return Indian nationals from Bahrain, Doha and Muscat. As of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020,
- 230 nationals of **Viet Nam** were returned home from Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China, on a flight coordinated between the Viet Nam Economic-Culture Office in Taipei, the low cost air carrier Vietjet Air, and relevant local agencies.
- A British Airways flight was scheduled to return **Filipino nationals** on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 from Grand Cayman. The flight is scheduled to transit via London and Nassau in the Bahamas. After landing, the passengers will transfer to a flight to the capital of the Philippines, Manila.
- As of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020, through the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism**, **Slovakia** sent 20,000 protective face masks, 50,000 coronavirus test kits, hand disinfectant and laboratory supplies to **Kenya**, while **France** announced plans to send medical supplies and equipment to **Bangladesh, Ecuador** and **El Salvador** via the same mechanism.