

# Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Weekly Update • 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020



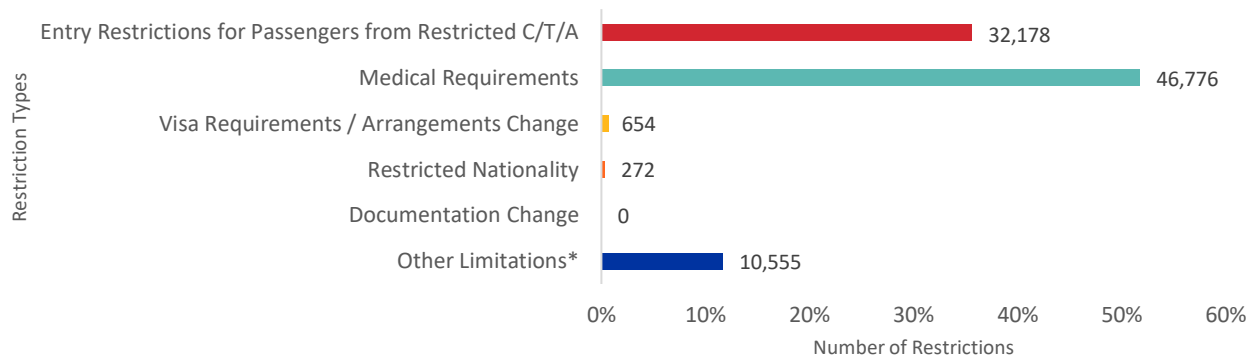
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series  
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## Overview

The global number of COVID-19 cases have exceeded 28 million (28,871,176 cases and 921,801 deaths) as of 14<sup>th</sup> September as per the [World Health Organization](#). With the growing number of new cases, Governments and authorities across the world continue to limit mobility. As of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, a total of **219** countries, territories or areas have issued travel **90,435** restrictions indicating an **increase of 3 per cent** from **87,951** travel restrictions reported on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. There has been an **increase of 6 per cent** in both **medical restrictions** and in **4 per cent** in **other restrictions** such as new documents needed for travel. Simultaneously, there was a **2 per cent decrease** in **restrictions** on passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 177 countries, territories or areas have issued 742 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 4 countries, territories or areas issued 11 new exceptions whilst 1 country, territory or area removed 1 exception.

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

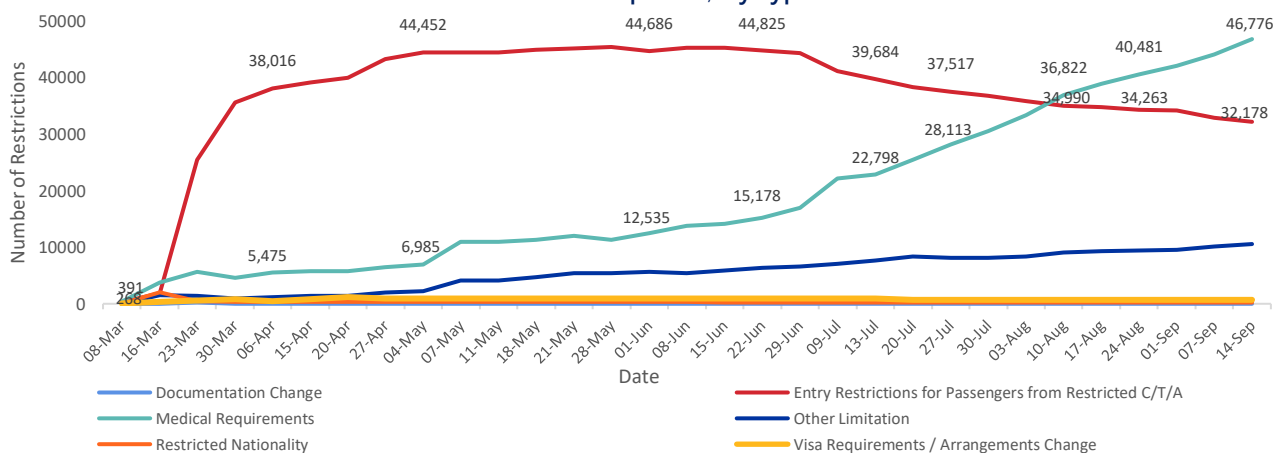
### Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type



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

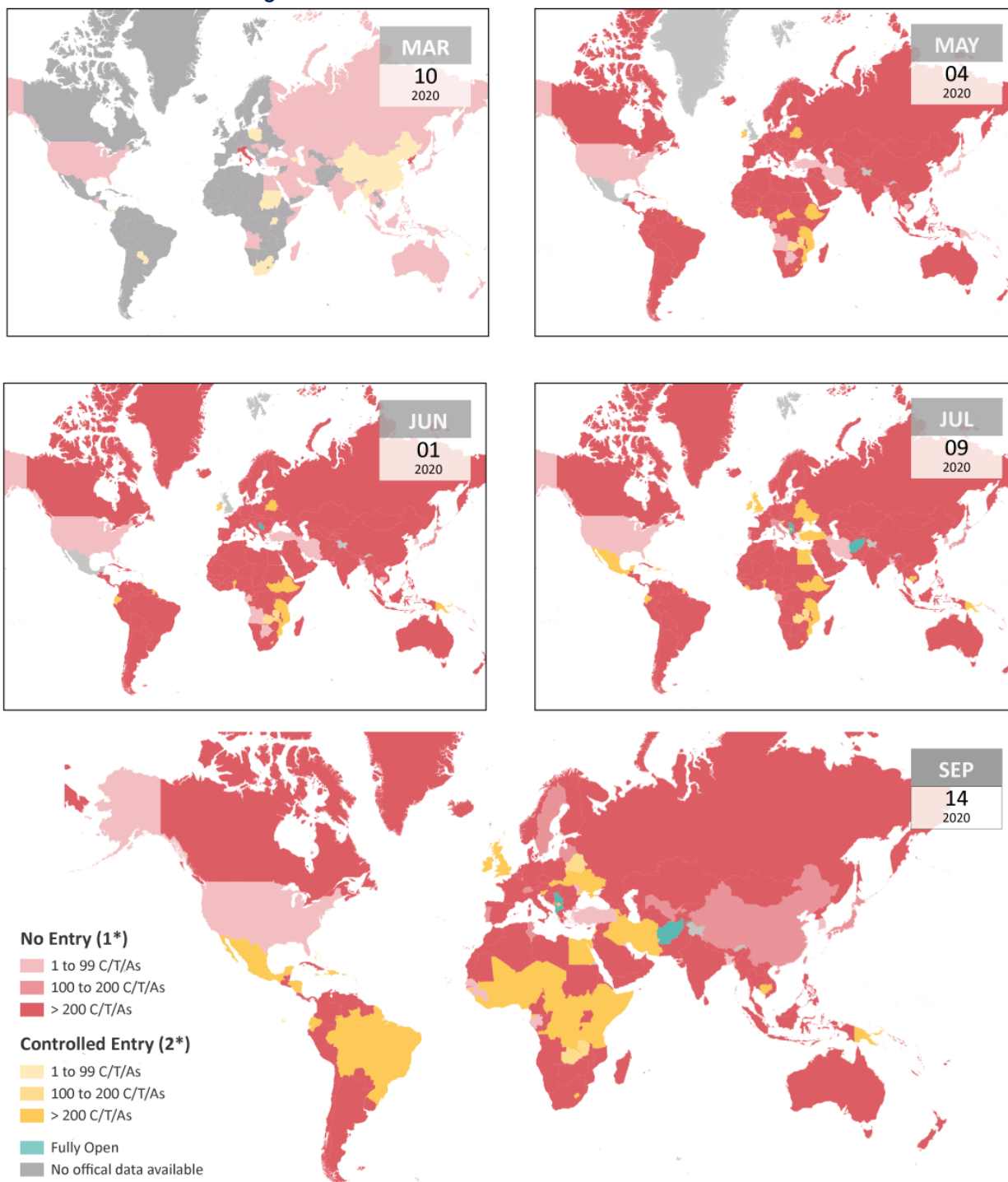
As of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As have been following a decreasing trend and no longer have the highest share of total restrictions (36%). Medical measures are the most common restriction type representing 52 per cent of restrictions. 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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

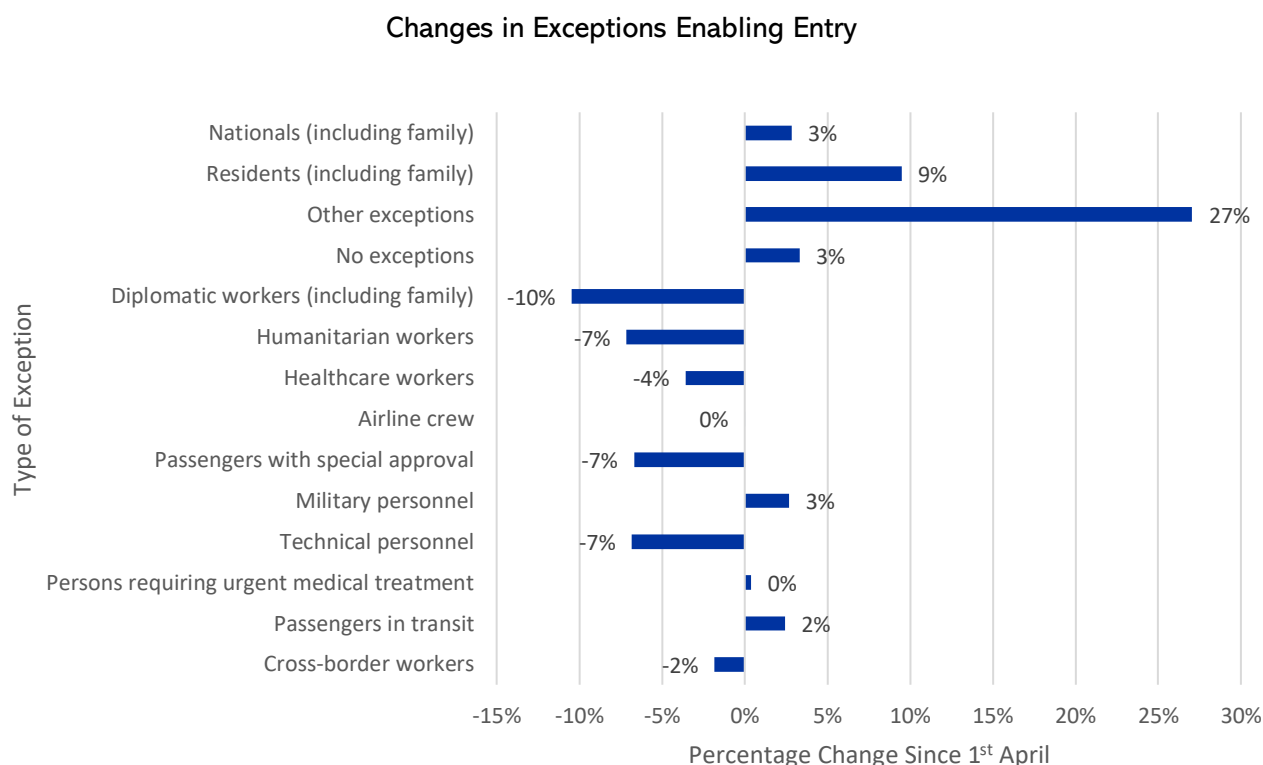
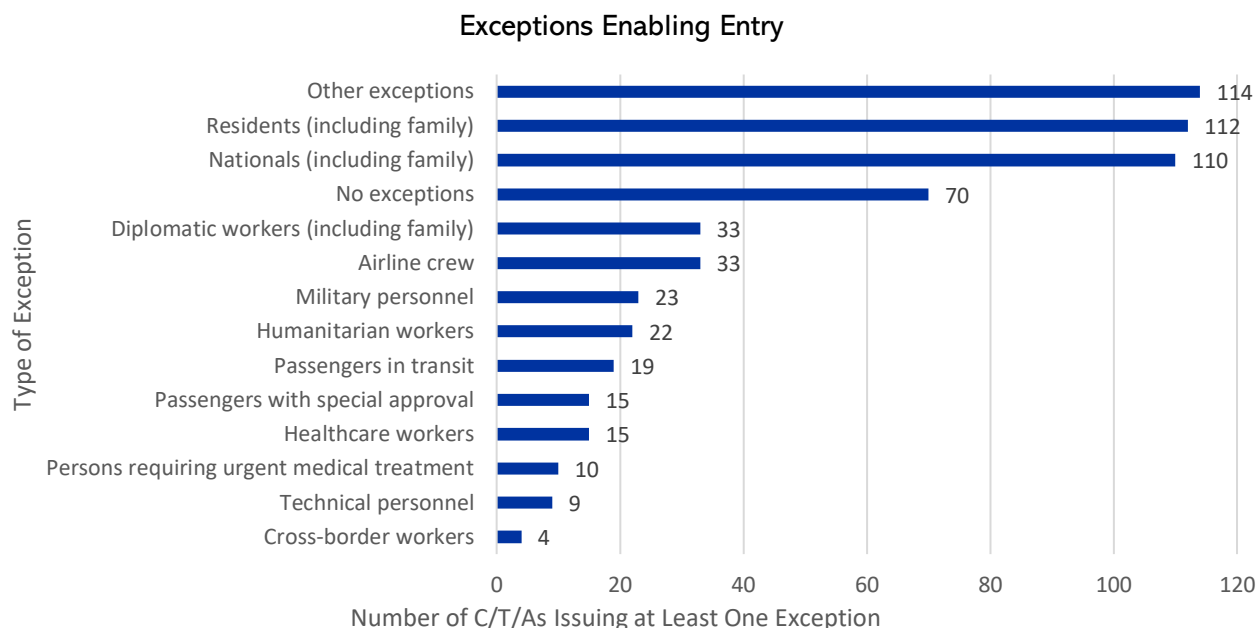
- As of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020, **Japan** eased restrictions on nationals of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia and Myanmar that are residing in and arriving directly from there. Passengers must have a visa issued by Japan with "EX-R" in the Remarks column or have a Letter of Confirmation showing that they have Submitted the Required Documentation for Re-entry into Japan. They must also have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result valid no longer than 72 hours before departure and the sample collection method must be 'nasopharyngeal swab' or 'saliva'.
- Authorities in **Guatemala** will reopen airports as of 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020, passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival. Passengers without a medical certificate are subject to quarantine for 14 days.
- As of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020, **Central African Republic** reopened airports, however, passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most seven days before arrival, passengers are also subject to medical screening and quarantine for 14 days. Additionally, airline crew are subject to medical screening and quarantine until their next flight.
- **Nepal** issued a new passenger ban, barring entry to all passengers except for nationals of Nepal, passengers with a Laissez-Passer issued by United Nations and passengers with a diplomatic passport traveling on duty.
- While **Canada** announced an end date (20<sup>th</sup> September 2020) for the current passenger ban, authorities also announced that the current entry restrictions for passengers arriving from the United States of America will remain in effect until 21 September 2020. All travel restrictions may be prolonged as necessary for public health reasons.
- While airports have reopened in **Côte d'Ivoire** since 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020, authorities issued new conditions for authorised entry requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 3 days prior to arrival.
- **Singapore eased restrictions on passengers** arriving from Republic of Korea and Brunei Darussalam under stringent conditions. Passengers must have a valid SafeTravel Pass approval letter issued by Singapore under the Singapore-ROK Fast Lane and Singapore-Brunei Reciprocal Green Lane. Passengers must have a visa to enter Singapore (if they are a visa-required short-term visitor); and have a medical certificate stating a negative COVID-19 test result, taken within 72 hours before departure. Passengers must also have stayed in the Republic of Korea/ Brunei Darussalam in the last 14 days before departure; and have a return ticket or proof of other transportation arrangements to depart from Singapore. Passengers from Republic of Korea must depart from Incheon International Airport (ICN).
- **Kuwait removed a measure** requiring passengers who have transited through or been in Armenia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, People's Republic of China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Lebanon, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Nepal, North Macedonia, Panama, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka or Syrian Arab Republic to self-isolate for 14 days in a different country not listed, before coming to Kuwait.
- **Extension of flight bans** were issued by **Jordan** until 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, by **Eswatini** until 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020, by **Syrian Arab Republic** until 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020, by **South Africa** until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and by **Curaçao** until 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020.
- **New conditions for entry** were issued by the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** for passengers arriving from Portugal, Réunion, French Polynesia and Hungary who are now subject to mandatory 14-day self-isolation upon arrival. Conversely, passengers arriving from Sweden no longer need to self-isolate upon arrival.
- **Paraguay** issued **new restrictions** banning passenger entry and transit into Paraguay, except for nationals and residents of Paraguay, who must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

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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).

- **Changes in conditions** for entry were issued by **Chile**, previously only applicable to nationals and residents, as of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020, all arriving passengers are subject to mandatory 14-day quarantine at first point of entry.
- **New conditions for authorised entry**, requiring all passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure were issued by the **Maldives, Lithuania, Bhutan, Greece, Cabo Verde** and **Seychelles**.
- **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** issued specific conditions for the authorized entry of passengers arriving from Cuba, Germany, or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most five days before arrival. **Malta** removed the specific condition for entry for passengers arriving from Bulgaria without a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival, to be subject to taking the test upon arrival.
- **Restrictions for airline crew** requiring them to quarantine until their next flight were lifted by **Cabo Verde**.
- As of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020, **Viet Nam** issued **new conditions for authorised entry** for passengers with a diplomatic or an official passport traveling on duty. They must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Real Time-Polymerase Chain Reaction test result issued between three to five days before arrival. The test must be taken at the laboratory of the authorised medical authority.
- The **Gambia** issued **new conditions for authorized entry** for passengers who arrive without a medical certificate indicating a negative COVID-19 test result, requiring that such passengers subject to a fine and quarantine for 14 days at their own expense. **Lebanon** issued a medical measure for passengers, requiring that they complete a health declaration form online at <https://arcg.is/OGaDnG>, prior to arrival.
- The **United Arab Emirates** issued stipulations for **passengers in transit**. Passengers transiting through Abu Dhabi can only transit for 24 hours, passengers with a transit period longer than 8 hours must provide a hotel booking to enter.
- **Republic of Moldova** shifted from a **complete passenger ban** to **partial ban**. Passengers arriving from 53 countries, territories or areas are not allowed to enter. Meanwhile, **Seychelles** extended its condition for entry on passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas to all passengers. In addition to the medical certificate, all passengers must provide a completed application form online, are subject to medical screening and effective 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 passengers must have a health travel authorization obtained at online or by using the 'TA VALIDATOR' app.
- **Slovakia** issued a series of conditions for entry including for all passengers authorized entry to undergo a 10-day quarantine upon arrival and complete the 'Public Health Passenger' form at least 24 hours before departure at <https://www.mindop.sk/covid/>, as well as specific conditions for passengers *not* arriving from Australia, Austria, People's Republic of China, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who must register online at <https://korona.gov.sk/ehranica/> before arrival.
- **New conditions for authorised entry** for passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas were issued by **Uzbekistan** for passengers arriving from Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, the Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, United States of America, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure. The certificate must be in English or Russian.
- **Conditions for authorized entry** were issued by **Cook Islands** requiring that passengers present an approval issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Cook Islands, clearance from the Ministry of Health of Cook Islands with a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 96 hours before departure, stay in New Zealand for 14 consecutive days before they enter the Cook Islands and subject to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

## ■ Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions



### Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 742 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 177 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Singapore (19), Italy (14), Republic of Korea (13), Canada (12), and then joint 5<sup>th</sup> with 11 were Belgium, Greece, the Netherlands, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America.
- Since the last update on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 11 new exceptions were added by Singapore (6), the Maldives (3), Hungary (1), and South Africa (1).
- Since the last update on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 1 exception was removed by the Maldives (1).

## ■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- **Nationality-based exceptions to passenger bans** were issued by **Malaysia**, allowing entry to nationals of Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, United States of America and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- **Exceptions to passenger bans for sporting events** were issued by the **Russian Federation** and **Hungary**. Participants, press and honoured guests of the Formula 1 FIA race in Sochi, will be allowed entry into the Russian Federation until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020, whereas passengers arriving for cultural or sport events in Hungary with a personal invitation letter issued by the official organizer of the event will be granted entry if they have two negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test results issued within five days with at least 48 hours difference between the two tests.
- **Panama** issued a **new exception** for passengers with diplomatic passport, they must provide a certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued 96 hours before departure.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 74 nationals of [Pakistan](#) that were stranded across Indian cities returned to Pakistan via the Wagah-Attari border.
- In the last week, as of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs of the [Philippines](#) has facilitated the return of 9,671 nationals from all over the world.
- Around 200 nationals of [Sri Lanka](#) will return on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 after being stranded in Seychelles due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020, [Egypt](#) sent over 7,000 various medical supplies for personal protection, including sterilised gloves, medical gowns, facemasks, plastic medical glasses and medical shoes to Kenya to support their COVID-19 efforts.