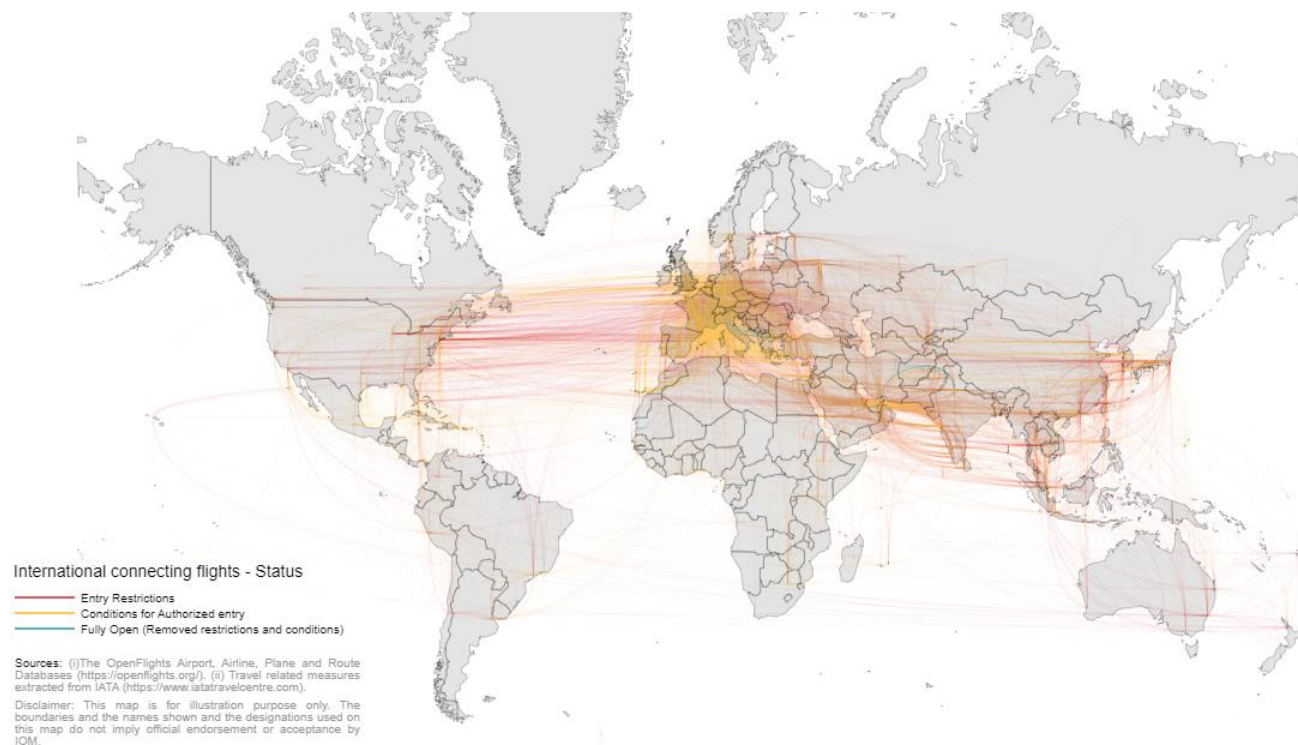# Global Mobility Restriction Overview
Weekly Update • 4th January 2021

COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
https://migration.iom.int ● dtmcovid19@iom.int

IOM • OIM

International connecting flights - Status

— Entry Restrictions
— Conditions for Authorized entry
— Fully Open (Removed restrictions and conditions)

Sources: (i)The OpenFlights Airport, Airline, Plane and Route Databases (https://openflights.org/). (ii) Travel related measures extracted from IATA (https://www.iatatravelcentre.com).

Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

■ Key Definitions

Entry restrictions: These are total restrictions which do not allow the entry of passengers of a given country, territory, or area (C/T/A). These include a complete border closure, nationality ban, suspension of visa issuances, and suspension of flights, etc.

Conditions for authorized entry: These are partial restrictions in the form of specific requirements upon which entry is incumbent. These conditions include medical measures, new requirements on visa/travel documents or other specific requirements for entry. Partial restrictions may be applicable to all passengers or exempt groups such as specific nationalities or immigration status.

No Restriction: This refers to the removal of COVID-19 related international air travel restrictions that were issued after 10th March 2020 on IATA's website

Exceptions: Refers to specific individuals, nationalities, or immigration status to whom the specific COVID-19 related travel restriction issued by a C/T/A do not apply. Conditions for authorized entry may also apply to specific exception groups to enable their mobility.

Please note: This output represents the implementation of the third phase of Air Travel Restriction Methodology. In this phase, previous categories of Medical and Visa Restrictions have been recategorized as conditions for authorized entry under partial restrictions. For more information please see here.
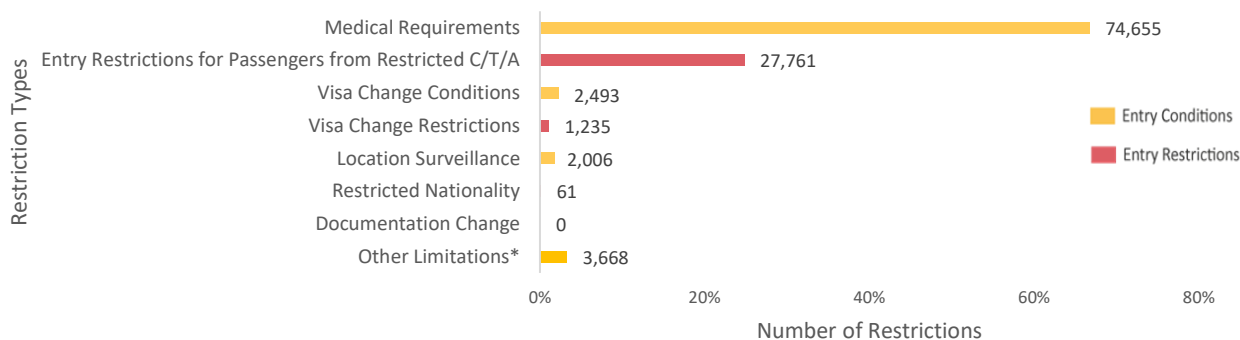
Disclaimer: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe mobility restrictions in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities to confirm political correctness while producing a timely update. This analysis does not aim to provide exact information on 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. Corrections are very welcomed and should be submitted to DTM COVID-19 dtmcovid19@iom.int to ensure consistency of information in the database repository.

■ Overview

The global pandemic continues to pose myriad epidemiological challenges as the total number of COVID-19 cases has reached over 83 million (83,910,386 confirmed cases) as of 4th January 2021 according to the World Health Organization. [i] As a result of the new strain of COVID-19 further restrictions on global mobility and migration continue with several passenger bans and flight suspensions to mitigate the spread. As of 4th January 2021, a total of 226 countries, territories, or areas, have issued **111,879** travel related measures indicating a slight increase of just over one per cent from **110,320** travel related measures reported on 29th December 2020. Of these, **29,057** were reported as entry restrictions and **81,822** were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was a decrease of almost one per cent in the entry restrictions and an increase of two per cent in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a 26 per cent in increase in location surveillance measures such as passenger locator forms. There was a 13 per cent increase in entry restrictions on passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas between 29st December 2020 and 4th January 2021. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 179 countries, territories or areas have issued 749 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 29th December 2020 and 4th January 2021, 15 countries, territories or areas issued 45 new exceptions whilst 6 countries, territories or areas removed 8 exceptions.

■ Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry
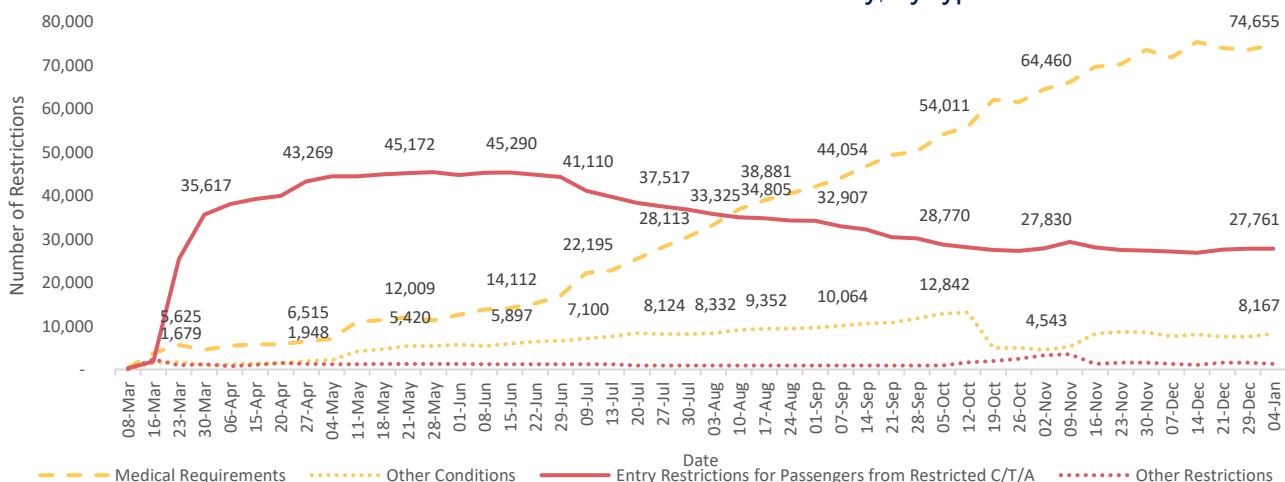
Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry

*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.
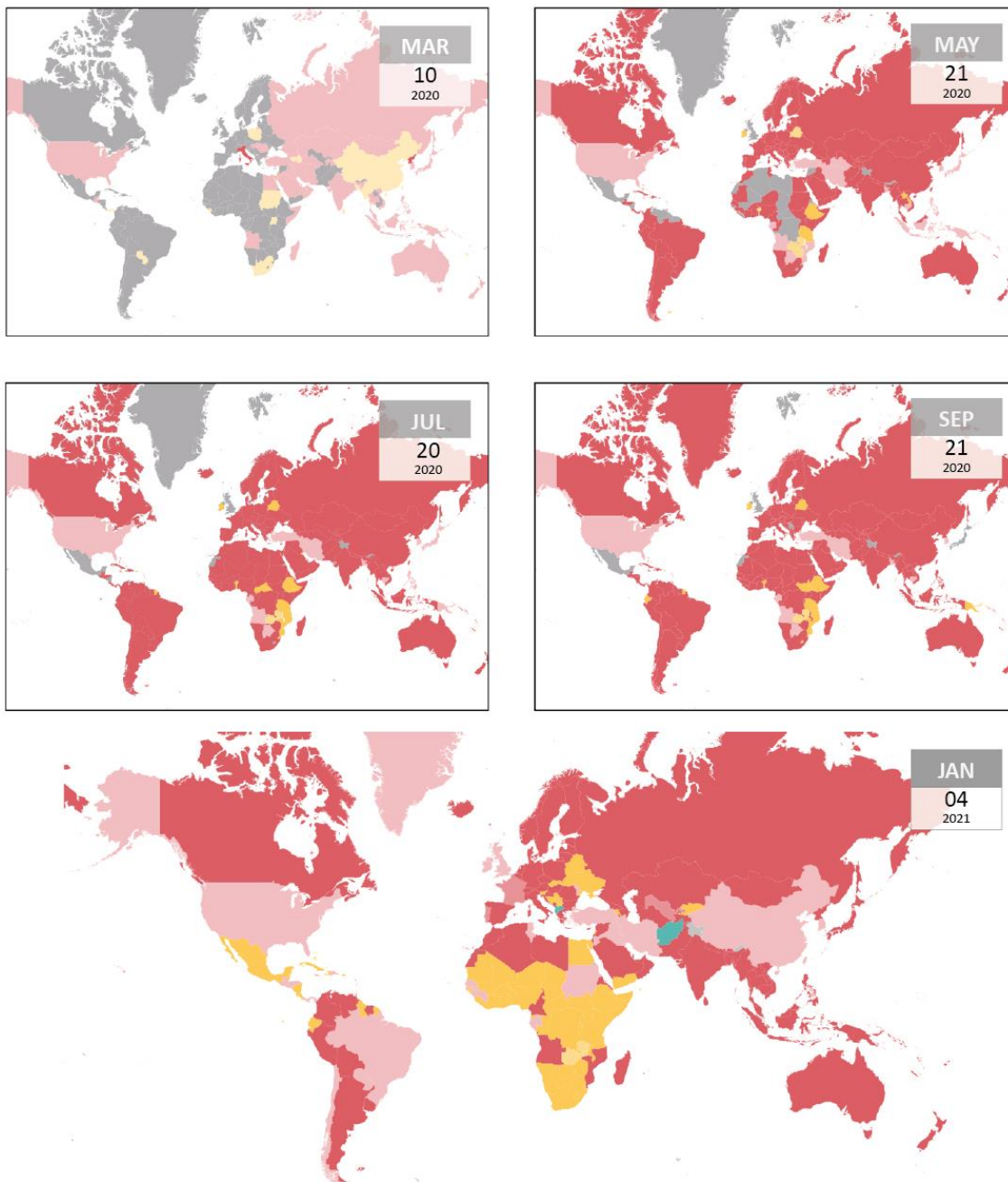
As of 4th January 2021, 226 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 25 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition for authorized entry representing 67 per cent of conditions. In contrast, visa requirements represent 3 per cent of total restrictions and conditions.

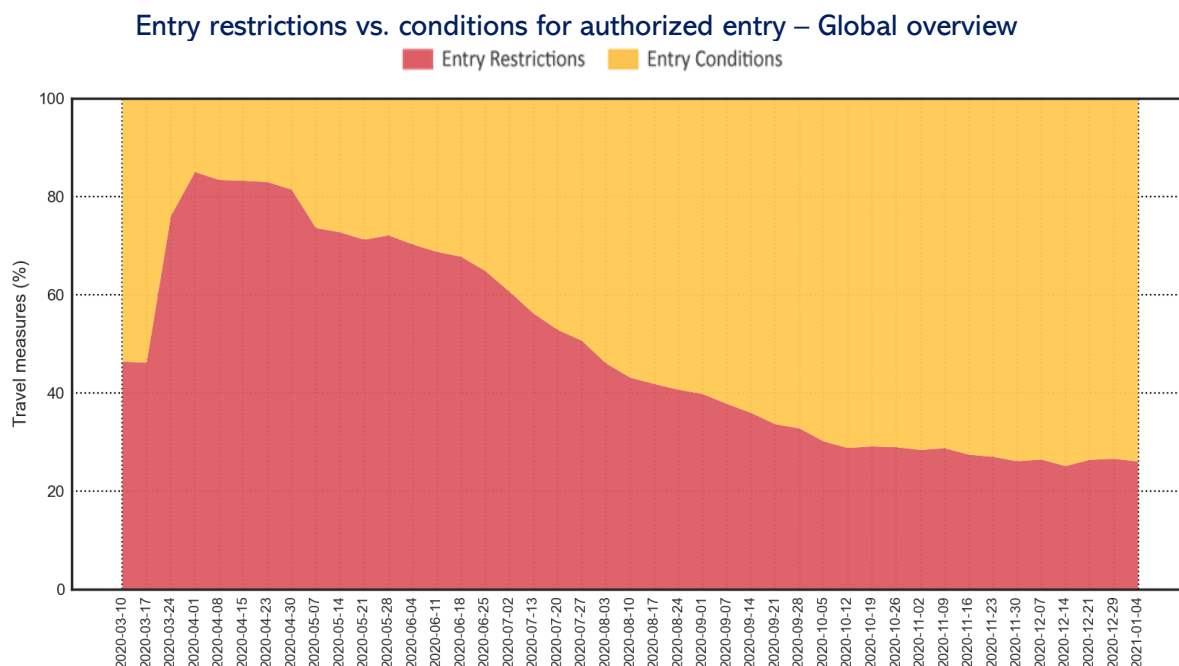### Restrictions and conditions for authorized entry, by type

◼ Changes in Entry Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry, Over Time

The map below provides a global overview on how C/T/As have gradually increased the issuance of 'entry restrictions' (e.g. total entry restrictions for passengers) and 'conditions for authorized entry' (e.g. medical requirements in the form of PCR test, quarantine, etc.). In March 2020, most of the Governments and authorities across the world had not officially announced any COVID-19 related travel measures (coloured in grey), whereas as of December 2020, almost all the C/T/As have issued some form of entry restrictions or conditions for authorized entry at international airports.
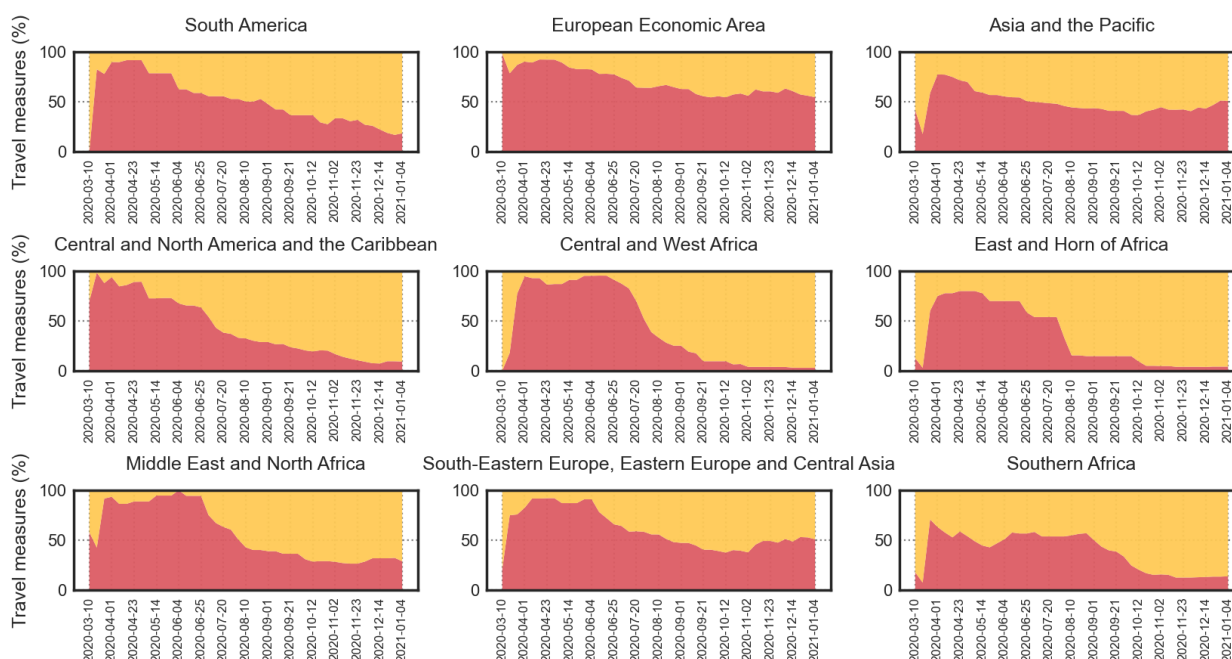
The chart below shows the shift from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' over time. In April 2020, entry restrictions constituted 80 per cent of all COVID-19 related measures (coloured in red), but this proportion has gradually decreased to 26 per cent, as of 4th January 2021.

Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Global overview

Although most of the IOM regions have gradually shifted from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' there are important differences in terms of timing and shift intensity. For instance, the IOM regions of *Central and West Africa* and *East and Horn of Africa* have seen the sharpest shift from restrictions to conditions, with restrictions representing less than 5 per cent of the total travel related measures as of December 21st 2020. On the other hand, since October 2020 IOM regions of *European Economic Area, Asia and the Pacific and South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia* have backed out of the previous trends observed (shift from restrictions to conditions) and started to increase restrictions again. These regional differences over time mirror the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in different geographical areas.
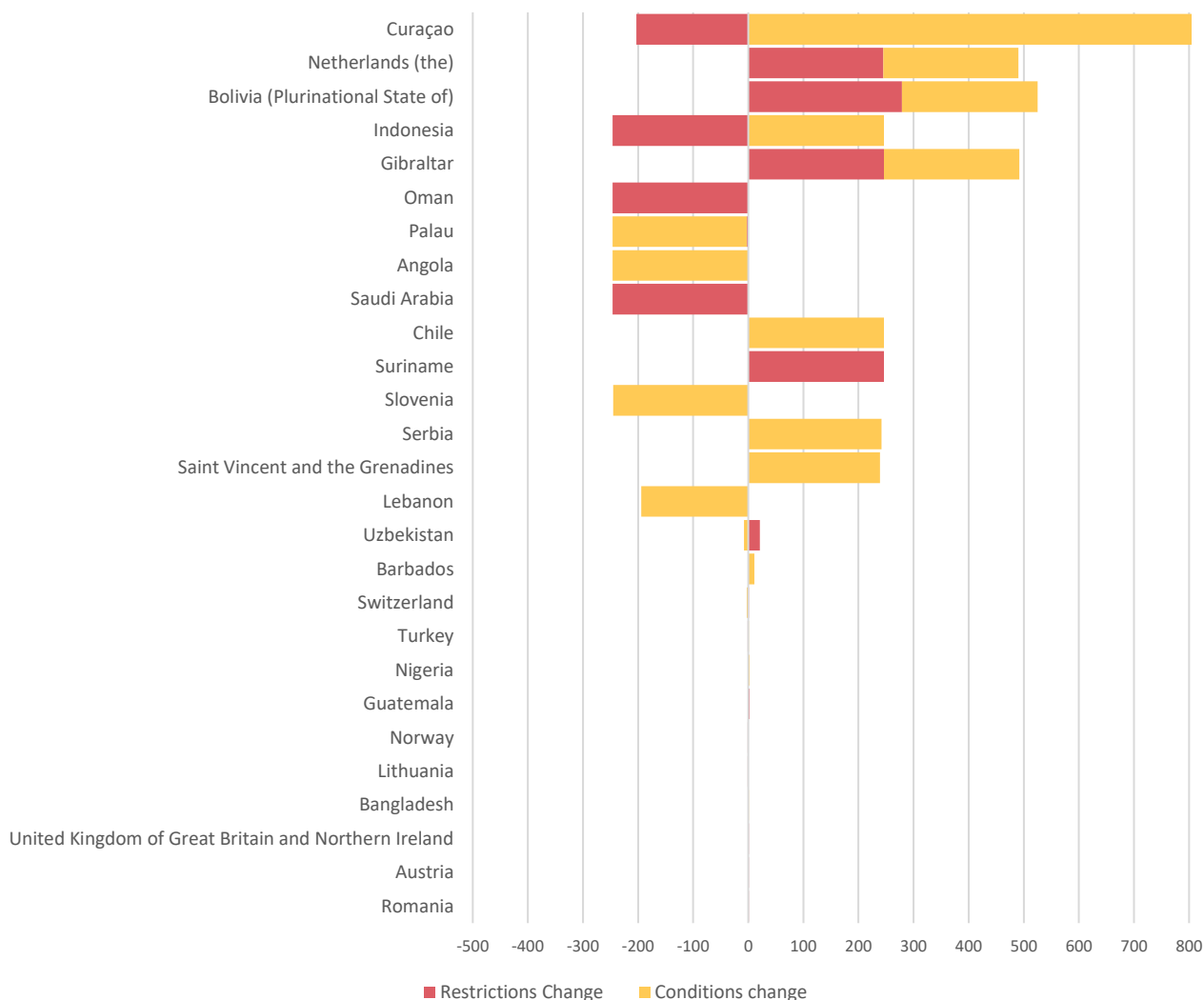
Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Regional overview

■ Key Highlights on Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

This section illustrates a comparison between total restrictions such as passenger bans, airport closures, flight suspensions and partial restrictions comprising of conditions for authorized entry. Between 29th December 2020 and 4th January 2021, 27 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 11 of them made minor changes. While 18 C/T/As issued new total restrictions and/ or conditions for authorized entry, 13 C/T/as removed some existing restrictions and/ or conditions. There were 3 C/T/As issuing conditions by removing existing total restrictions.

Weekly changes in number of restrictions and conditions for authorized entry issued by C/T/As

■ Restrictions Change   ■ Conditions change

[1]

Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[2]

With Brexit in effect as of 1st January 2021, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland status in relation to the European Union Member States has changed. This has also had a subsequent effect in terms of COVID-19 related travel measures. In parallel, reports of the new strain of the COVID-19 virus in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have led to various impacts on migrants as C/T/As respond with new measures to mitigate and prevent the spread of the new strain. As of 4th January 2021, a total of 86 C/T/As have issued some measure or travel restriction on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as a result of the new strain.

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[1] Please note that changes in the chart only reflect actual timely shifts in measures, and not additional changes that are resultant of internal quality control.
[2] This was last updated on 4th January 2020 at 15:00 GMT.

Updates on the Impact of Brexit
- Sweden shifted their passenger ban exception for British nationals, stipulating that now only British nationals and their family members with proof of having applied for residence status in Sweden are allowed conditional entry.
- The Netherlands and Belgium removed nationals and residents of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and family members, from the group exempted from the passenger ban. As a result, they are not allowed to entry or transit to get to other countries in the European Economic Area.

Changes in existing COVID-19 measures
- Extensions on the suspension of flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were issued by Romania until 4th January, by the Republic of Moldova until 14th January 2021, and by the Philippines until the 15th January 2021.
- Norway restarted flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and issued new conditions for authorized entry for passengers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including a 10-day quarantine, upon arrival, undergoing a COVID-19 test within 24 hours after arrival and completing an online registration form before arrival.
- Lithuania removed the flight ban on flights from Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as of 1st January 2021.
- Singapore lifted a ban on travellers transiting through Changi airport from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 1st January. Singapore airlines received government approval to carry passengers from London Heathrow onwards to Sydney and Auckland in Australia via Changi airport.
- Kuwait reported extending the ban of all commercial flights to and from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland beginning on 6th January. Additionally, all passengers arriving to Kuwait are required to undergo a COVID-19 PCR test at the airport, in addition to undergoing a COVID-19 PCR test 96 hours prior to their departure, registering for the "Shlonik" application and quarantining at home for 14 days.
- Jamaica has extended ban on flights coming into the country from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 31st January 2021. Additionally, non-Jamaican nationals who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the last 14 days prior to their intended arrival date are now allowed to enter. For Jamaican nationals who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the past 14 days, they will be placed in State quarantine for a minimum of 48 hours until their COVID-19 test result is returned. If negative, they will be allowed to transfer to home quarantine to complete the 14-day mandatory quarantine period. If positive, they will be transferred to a designated quarantine facility.
- Bangladesh issued a new 14-day quarantine measure for passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Lebanon added passengers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the list of C/T/As required to subject to a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test and quarantine upon arrival.
- Sweden issued new measures for residents of Sweden, arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before arrival.

Passenger ban and flight Suspensions
- The Plurinational State of Bolivia suspended all flights and issued a passenger ban on passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and passengers who have spent any time in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the past 14 days, until 8th January 2021.

Other measures
- New Zealand is requiring all travellers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to provide a medical certificate confirming negative COVID-19 test result 72 hours prior to their arrival to the country, beginning on 15th January 2021 Travellers from both countries will still be required to undergo 14 days of quarantine upon arrival, where they will have to take additional COVID-19 tests on day 3 and day 12 of their quarantine.
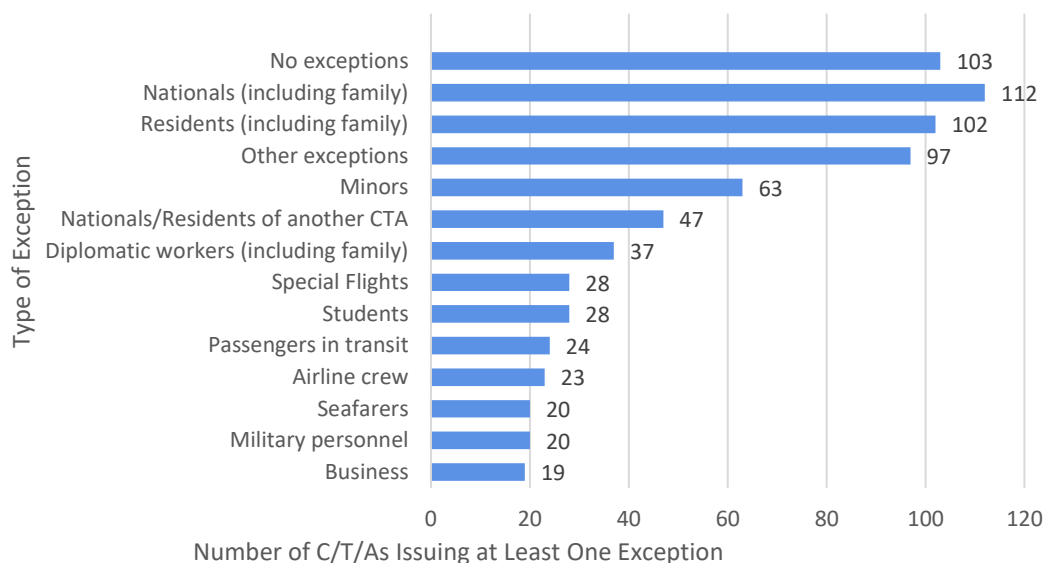
Key Highlights

- **Curaçao** removed their passenger ban, however passengers must present a printed Digital Immigration card and a Public Health Locator Card 48 hours before departure, a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point, proof of medical insurance, and subject to medical screening and testing upon arrival.

- **The Plurinational State of Bolivia** suspended all flights from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland until 8th January 2021, to mitigate the spread. This does not apply to humanitarian, medical evacuation or return flights.

- The **Netherlands** issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring that passengers provide a completed and printed "Negative Test Declaration" form which can be found online. This does not apply to passengers under 13 years old, or passengers arriving from Australia, Austria, Belgium, People's Republic of China, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland or Thailand.

- **Oman** restarted flights, however passengers are still not allowed to enter unless they are nationals or residents of Oman or nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before arrival, register online before departure, provide proof of insurance to cover COVID-19 medical expenses in Oman for a period of one month, subject to testing and a 7-day quarantine upon arrival and download the Tarassud+ app before departure.

- **Angola** removed the measure allowing for passengers with expired residency permits, student visas, Investor visas or temporary stay visas issued by Angola, to be accepted for entry.

- **The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** lifted its suspension of all flights, however passengers are still not allowed to enter. Nationals and residents of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and nationals of nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and United Arab Emirates are exempt however, they must have not been in Argentina, Brazil, India, South Africa or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in the past 14 days to be granted entry.

- **Chile** issued a new quarantine measures as of the 31ˢᵗ December 2020, requiring all passengers to quarantine for 10 days upon arrival.

- **Suriname** issued a new passenger ban, barring entry to all passengers. Nationals and residents of Suriname and passengers with a PSA card issued by Suriname residing in Suriname, are exempt.

- **Serbia** shifted a condition for authorized entry, requiring that all passengers except those arriving from the United States of America, have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival. Passengers arriving from the United States of America must have a medical certificate with either a negative COVID-19 Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival or negative COVID-19 Antigen FIA Rapid test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival.

- **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** shifted conditions for authorized entry, extending the proof of a quarantine hotel reservation timeframe from 5 to 10 days.

- **Uzbekistan** removed restrictions barring nationals of Tajikistan from being allowed entry or transit through the country.

- **Barbados** expanded the list of C/T/As that must provide a medical certificate with a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued in English at most 3 days before arrival, to include Canada, Costa Rica, Dominica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Australia was removed from this list.

- **Switzerland** re-issued restrictions barring entry to passengers arriving from Uruguay and added Sweden to the list of countries, territories and areas that must quarantine upon arrival.

- **Turkey** issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring that all passengers have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point.

- **Nigeria** issued a measure for passengers arriving from South Africa who are subject to a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test within seven days after arrival. They must have a proof of payment for the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test obtained online.

- **Guatemala** issued a passenger ban for passengers that have spent any time in the last 14 days in South Africa, in addition to the existing passenger ban on passengers coming from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- The **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** issued a new passenger ban for passengers who have been in or transited through South Africa in the past 10 days. This does not apply to British nationals and residents, or to nationals of Ireland.

- **Austria** suspended all flights from South Africa indefinitely, as of the 30th December 2020.

- In addition to the previous passenger ban issued by **Singapore** on passengers from United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, passengers who have spent any time in the past 14 days in South Africa have also been banned.

- The **Philippines** prohibited the entry of passengers from the United States of America, beginning 3rd January 2021 after additional cases of the new COVID-19 variant were confirmed. The travel ban will last until 15th January 2021 and includes travellers who have been in the United States of America within the last 14 days, before their arrival to the Philippines.

- Existing passenger bans were extended by Malta until 14th January 2021, by **Thailand** until 31st January 2021, by **Mongolia** until 31st March 2021, and by **Malaysia** indefinitely.

- Flight suspensions were extended by Tajikistan until 15th January 2021, by **India** and **Myanmar** until 31st January 2021.

- **Kuwait** reopened airports and restarted flights.

- **Ecuador** removed their passenger ban as of 30th December 2020, however passengers wishing to enter must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result issued at most 10 days before arrival and completed health declaration form, which can be found online.

- Taiwan Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China barred entry to any transiting passengers.

- **Ghana** issued a new medical measure for passengers who test positive for COVID-19 upon arrival, they will undergo isolation at a designated health facility or isolation centre for seven days.

- **Brazil** issued new measures for airline crew, requiring them to quarantine at a hotel until their next flight and fulfil a traveller health deceleration form before arrival.

- **Grenada** issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring that passengers subject to a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test upon arrival at their own expense. Payments can be made online or upon arrival and passengers who are 5 years and younger are exempt.
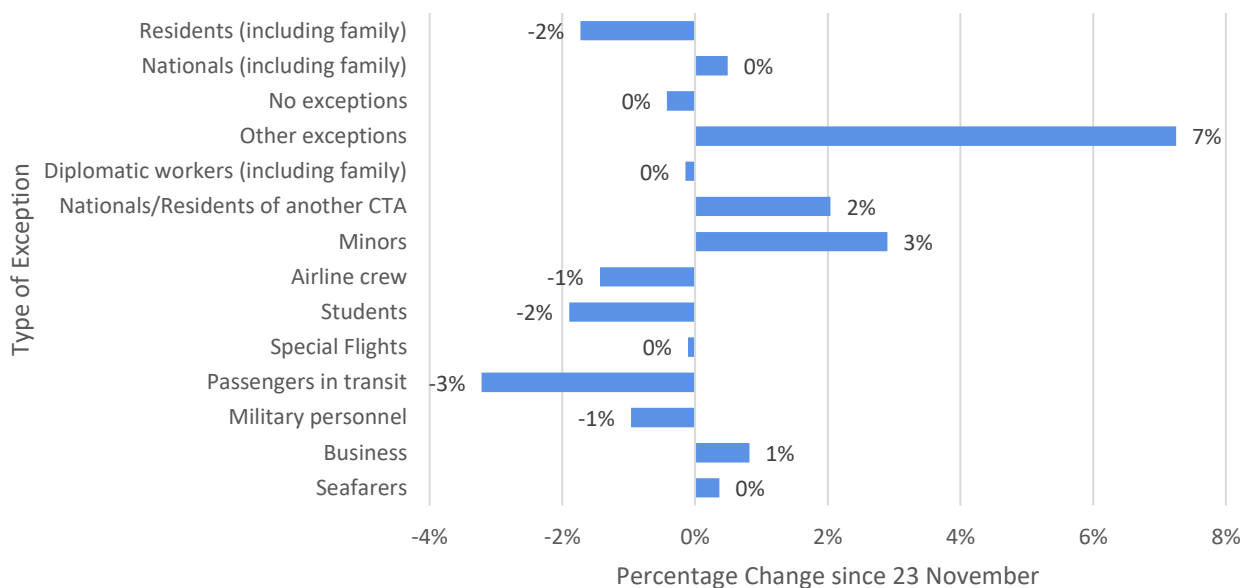
■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions

Number of C/T/As by type of exception

C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (103) and for Residents (98) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 61 different CTAs, continue to increase and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

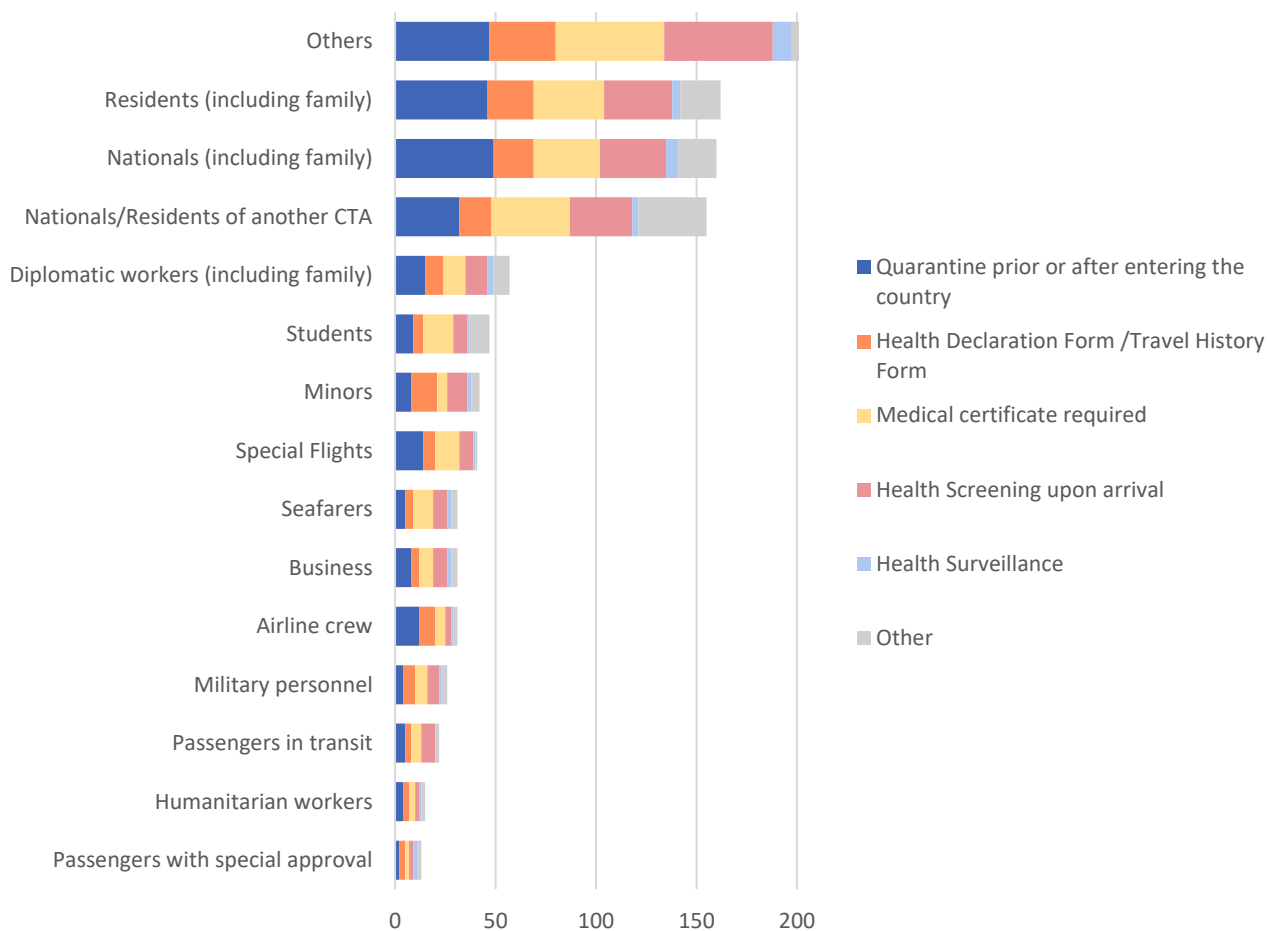### Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter

Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 749 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 179 C/T/As.
- The top eight C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Singapore (15), Switzerland (14), the Netherlands (14), Croatia (14), Austria (12), Bulgaria (12), Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (12), and Uruguay (12).
- Between 29th December 2020 and 4th January 2021, 175 countries, territories or areas issued 45 new exceptions whilst 6 countries, territories or areas removed 8 exceptions.

■ Exceptions and Corresponding Conditions for Authorized Entry

The conditions for authorized entry refer to additional requirements or measures that specific exempt individuals or groups need to fulfil to enter a given C/T/A. The below chart demonstrates the most commonly imposed conditions for authorized entry such as quarantine, health declaration forms, and medical certificates, that are applicable to specific exceptional groups.

Exception groups and associated conditions for authorized entry

Noticeable Trends for Conditions for Authorized Entry for Exempted Groups

- Of the 175 C/T/As issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 122 have issued 1,056 conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups.
- The top six C/T/As issuing the highest number of conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups were, Singapore (37), the Philippines (36), Belgium (33), Norway (32), Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (30), India (30).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was quarantine prior or after entering the country, which was issued 260 times. This was followed by medical certificates (242) and health screening (221).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Exceptions for flight suspensions were removed by **Morocco** for passengers arriving from Denmark and South Africa, in addition to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Previously all passengers who were visa exempt, had a hotel reservation confirmation or an invitation from a Moroccan company, were granted entry.

- **Pakistan** issued an exception, exempting passengers with a disability from being required to produce a medical certificate upon arrival.