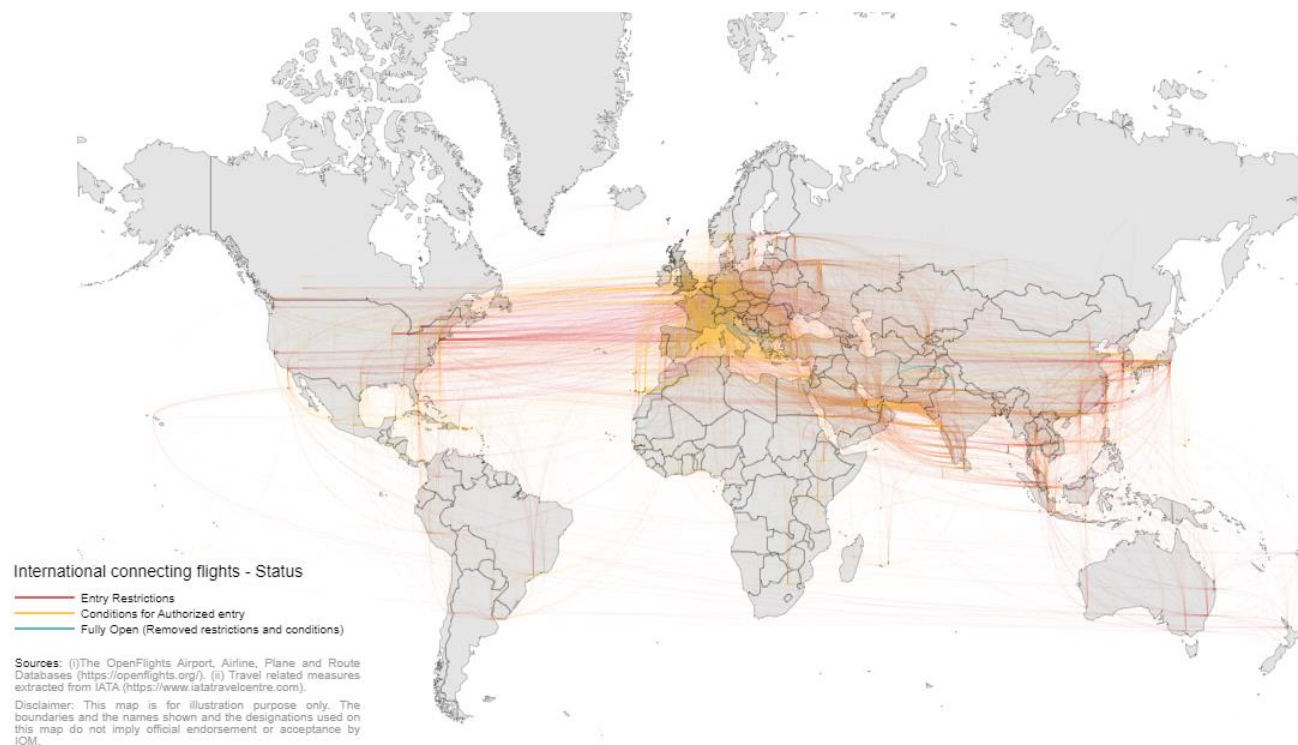# Global Mobility Restriction Overview
Weekly Update • 25th January 2021

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

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

As of 24th January 2021, more than 97 million COVID-19 cases have been reported by the World Health Organization globally. The resultant multi-layered challenges of the pandemic continue to stifle mobility and global migration. As of 25th January 2021, a total of 226 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 114,490 travel related measures indicating an increase of one per cent from 113,832 travel related measures reported on 18th January 2021. Of these, 28,525 were reported as entry restrictions and 85,965 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was an increase of one per cent in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was an increase of 6 per cent in other limitations such as travel insurance and an increase of 24 per cent in location surveillance measures such as registering with local authorities and downloading QR codes or health apps on personal devices. There was a one per cent increase in entry restrictions such as visa changes issued between 18th and 25th January 2021. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 178 countries, territories or areas have issued 753 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 18th and 25th January 2021, 15 countries, territories or areas issued 22 new exceptions whilst 17 countries, territories or areas removed 30 exceptions.

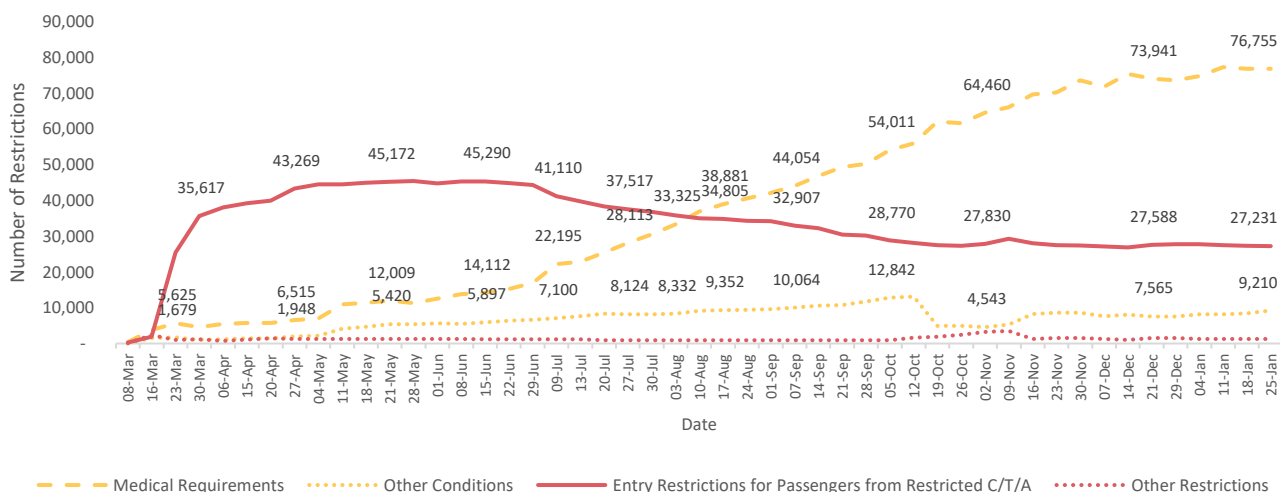## ■ Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry
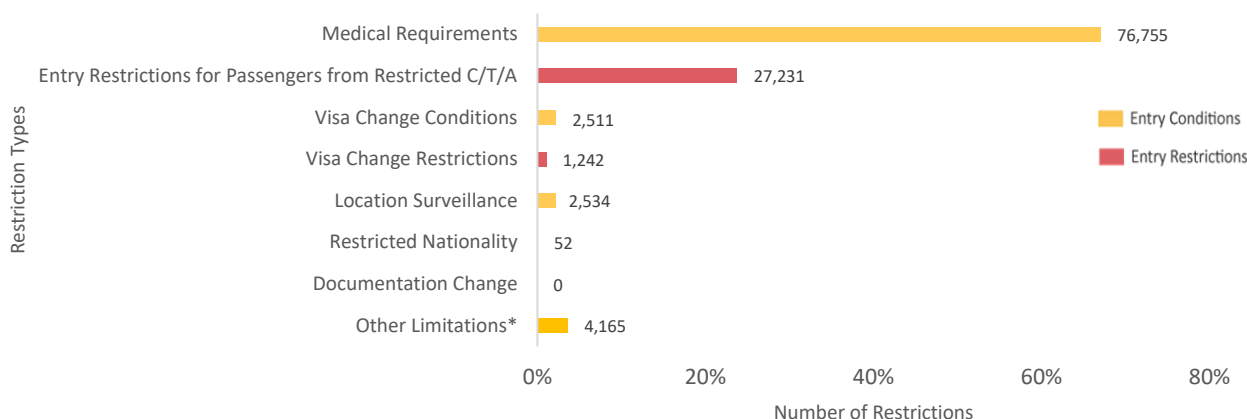
*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.

As of 25th 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 24 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.

Entry restrictions (1*)
- 1 to 99 C/T/As
- 100 to 200 C/T/As
- > 200 C/T/As

Conditions for authorized entry (2*)
- 1 to 99 C/T/As
- 100 to 200 C/T/As
- > 200 C/T/As
- Fully Open
- No offical data available
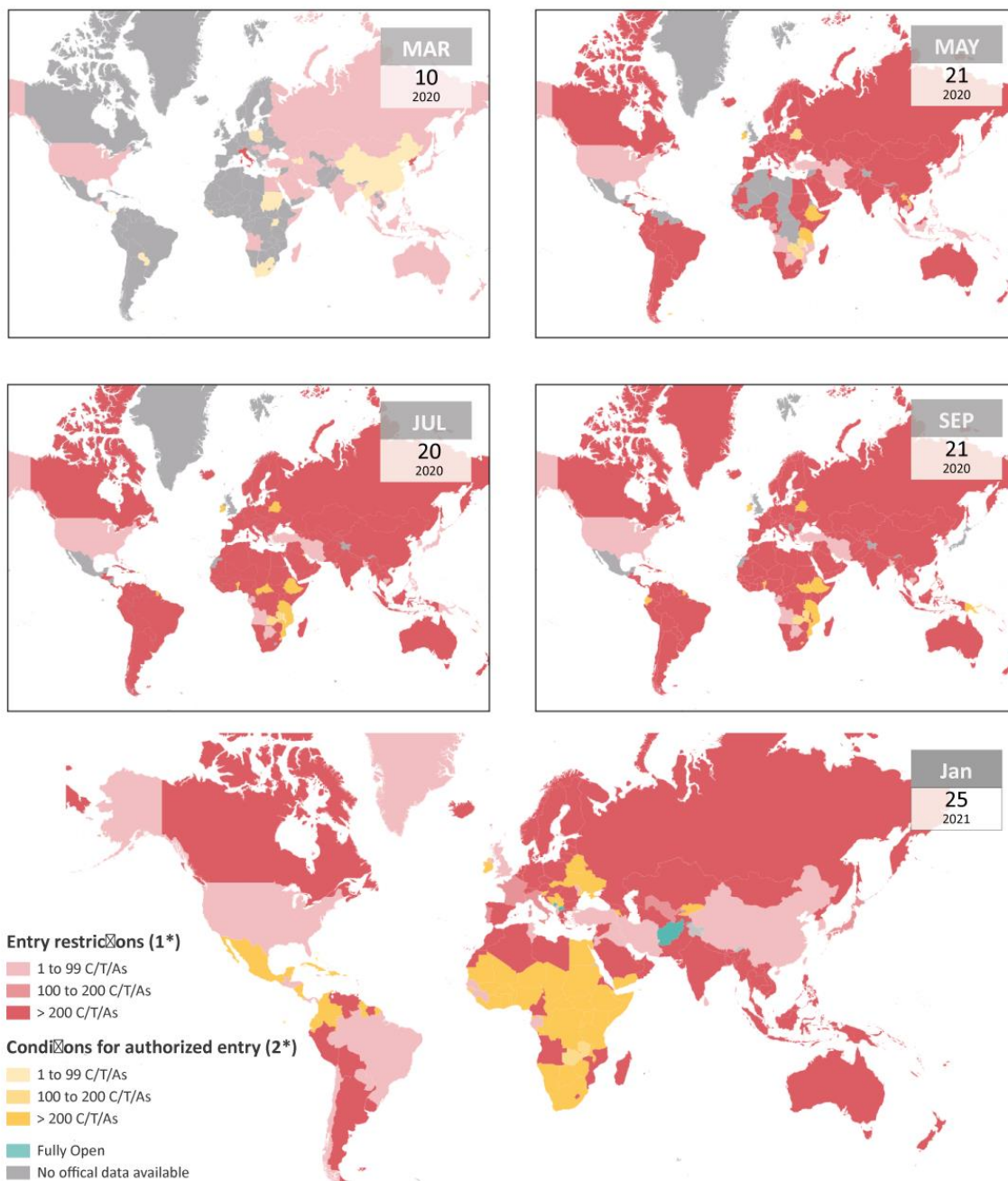
(1*) Restricted entry on passengers coming from other countries, territories and areas (C/T/A).

(2*) C/T/As imposing medical measures, changes in Visa or ID or other measures on arrival.

The 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 25 per cent, as of 25th January 2021.

Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Global overview
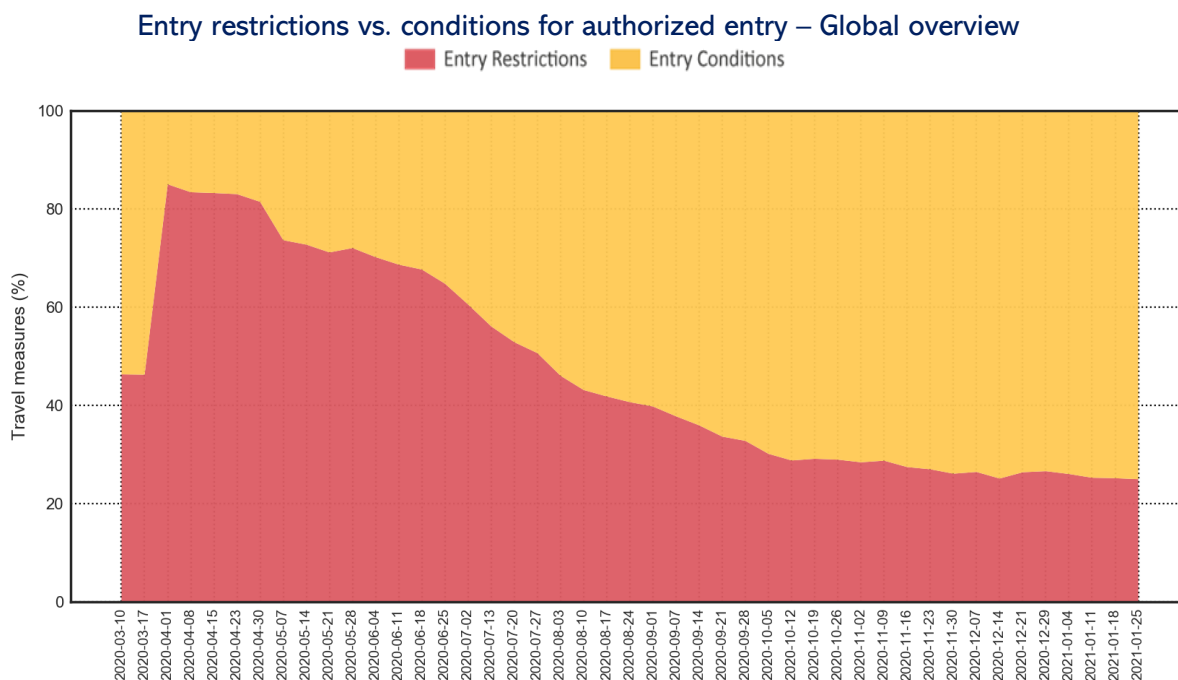
Although most of the IOM regions have gradually shifted from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' there are important differences in terms of timing and shift intensity. For instance, the IOM regions of *Central and West Africa* and *East and Horn of Africa* have seen the sharpest shift from restrictions to conditions, with restrictions representing less than 5 per cent of the total travel related measures as of January 25th 2021. On the other hand, since October 2020 IOM regions of *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
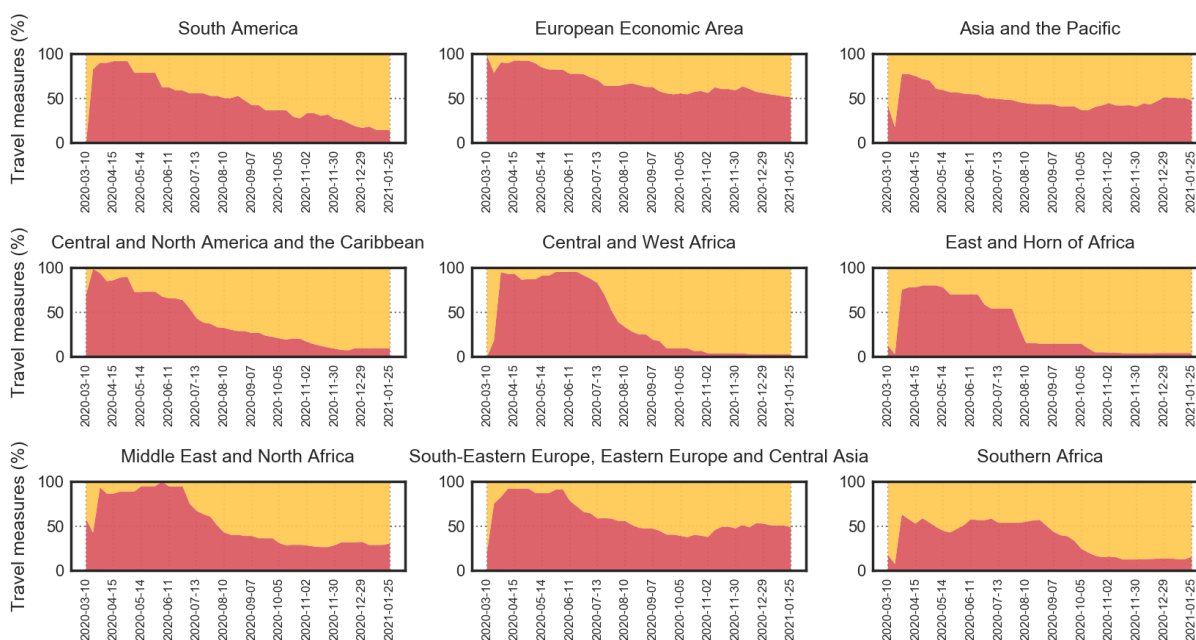
■ Key Highlights on Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

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 11th January and 18th January 2021, 22 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 10 of them made minor changes. While 9 C/T/As issued new conditions for authorized entry, 6 C/T/As issued new total restrictions. There were 6 and 7 C/T/As removing conditions and restrictions respectively.

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

Restrictions Change   Conditions change
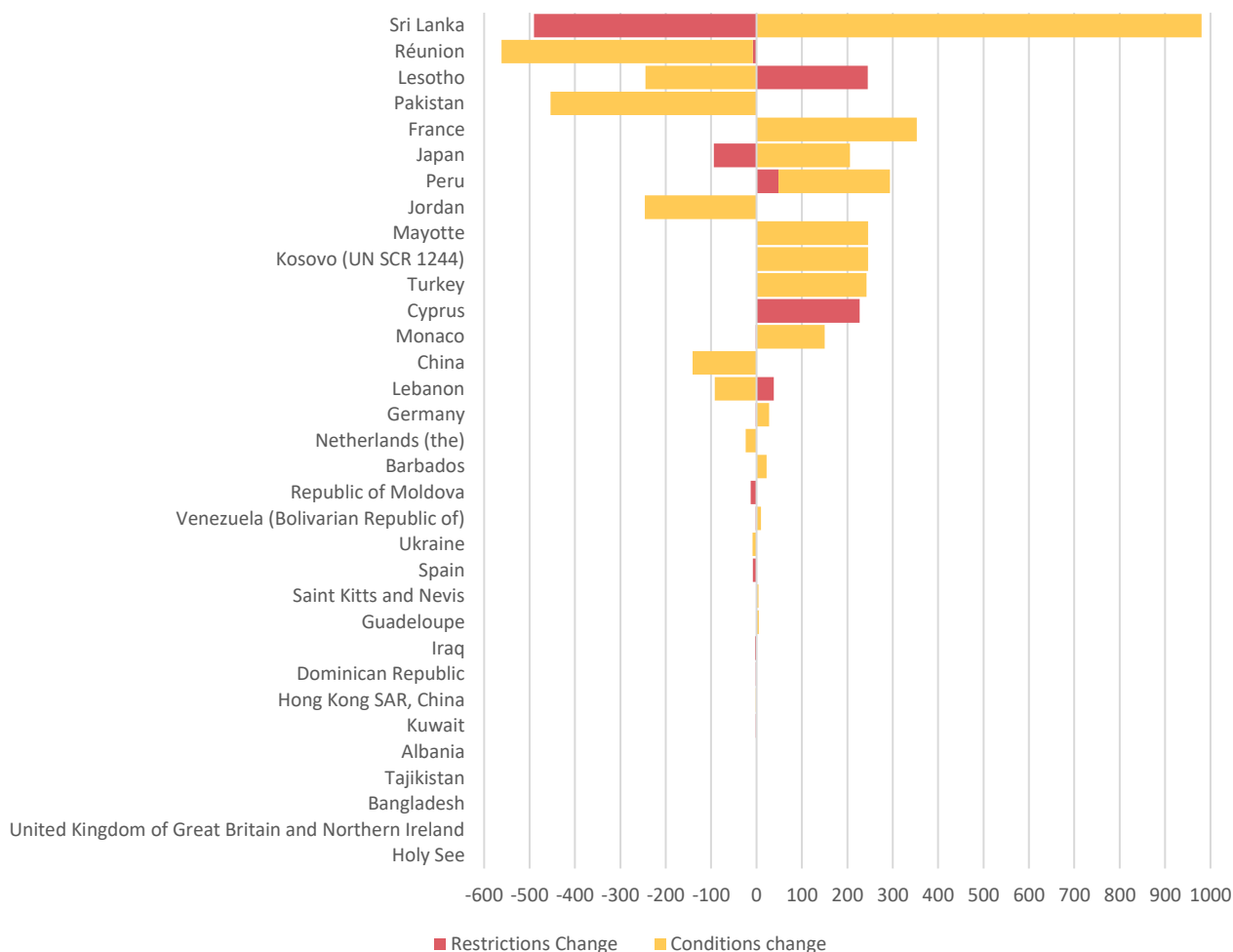
1
2

Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[3]

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 responded with new measures to mitigate and prevent the spread of the new strain. As of 25th January 2021, a total of 96 C/T/As have issued some measure or travel restriction in regard to travel/arrivals from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as a result of the newly identified strain of COVID-19. However, following recent reports, the situation seems to have stabilized as between 18th and 25th January 2021, no new C/T/A added restrictions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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[1] References to Kosovo shall be understood for IOM to be in the context of (United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244) (1999)
[2] 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.
[3] This was last updated on 25th January 2021 at 15:00 GMT.

Measures issued by The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland issued a ban on travellers who have been in or transited through the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Republic of Tanzania.

- Authorities also issued a new exception for military personnel with an exemption letter from the Ministry of Defence who no longer require a completed 'Passenger Locator Form' to enter. Another exception was issued for merchant seafarers and military personnel with an exemption letter from the Ministry of Defence who no longer require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter.

Changes in Existing COVID-19 Measures

- Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China issued an entry ban on travellers who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the last 21 days for more than 2 hours.

- Jordan issued an end date for the passenger ban on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 31st January 2021.

- As of 24th January 2021, Germany reissued a passenger ban on travellers arriving from United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- Republic of Moldova issued a passenger ban on travellers who have been in or transited through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the last 14 days.

- As of 18th January 2021, Saint Kitts and Nevis lifted the temporary flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- Sri Lanka issued an exception for diplomats and passengers with official or service passports for the existing passenger ban on travellers who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the last 14 days.

- Portugal issued a flight suspension of all direct flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as of 23rd January 2021, however they issued new exceptions to allow conditional entry to passengers with a residence permit of the European Union, travelling through Portugal to their country of residence from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- New Zealand specified the acceptable tests for the medical certificate with negative test result for passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, these include antigen, LAMP, PCR and RT-PCR tests.

- Norway added measures for airline crew arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who must undergo COVID-19 testing upon arrival.

Key Highlights

- As of 21st January 2021, flights to Lesotho are suspended until 27th January 2021, however, flights facilitating return of nationals are exempt.

- France, Monaco and Guadeloupe issued new measures requiring all passengers to complete a declaration of honour prior to arrival stating that they do not have symptoms of COVID-19, they commit to stay in isolation for 7 days upon arrival and take another COVID-19 molecular test at the end of the isolation period if they are older than 11 years. France and Monaco issued exceptions to this condition for authorized entry, each for passengers arriving from the other country and for passengers from Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Holy See.

- Japan issued a new entry ban on passengers who have been in 152 countries, territories or areas in the past 14 days. This does not apply to Japanese nationals and residents. Passengers granted authorized entry must quarantine for 14 days and submit a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result and a written pledge which requires passengers to download an application and update their location, upon arrival.
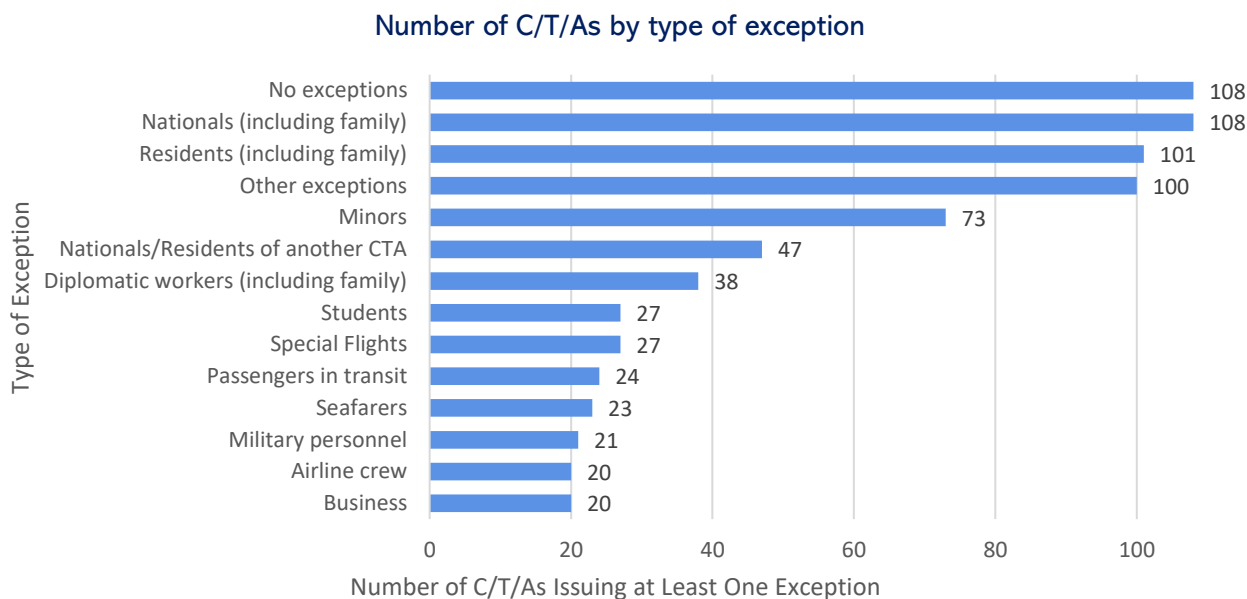
- Peru issued a passenger entry ban on travellers who have been in Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo[1], Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the Holy See in the last 14 days are not allowed to enter until 31st January 2021. Children under 12, nationals and residents are exempt but must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point.

- Jordan issued changes to existing measures. Authorities increased the duration of transit from 6 to 10 hours, passengers can transit through Jordan for maximum of 10 hours. Passengers are no longer required to self-isolate for 7 days upon arrival, however, passengers entering or transiting through Jordan must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours (previously 120 hours) before arrival. The certificate must be issued by an approved laboratory.

- Kosovo[4] issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring all passengers to subject to medical screening upon arrival.

- As of 24th January 2021, Turkey suspended flights with Brazil. Turkey also issued new conditions for entry on passengers who are arriving from or have been in Brazil, Denmark, South Africa in the past 10 days, they are subject to mandatory quarantine for 14 days. Additionally, all passengers must also complete and present a "Passenger Information Form" upon arrival.

- Germany issued new conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving from Albania, Andorra, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Czechia, Egypt, Estonia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Kosovo[2], Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Panama, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or United States of America require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result. Passengers arriving from all other destination are subject to a COVID-19 test upon arrival.

- From 23rd January 2021, the Netherlands suspended flights from Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Suriname, Uruguay and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela until 22 February 2021.

- Republic of Moldova issued a passenger ban on travellers who have spent time in the past 14 days Andorra, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Georgia, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, or United States of America.

- Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela suspended all arrival flights except humanitarian, medical evacuation and repatriation flights, as well as flights arriving from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and Turkey.

- As of 22nd January 2021, Iraq lifted the passenger ban for travellers arriving from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands and Lebanon.

- Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China issued an entry ban on travellers who have been in Brazil, Ireland and South Africa for more than 2 hours in the past 21 days.

- Kuwait removed the passenger ban on travellers arriving from Peru and Montenegro.

- The existing flight suspensions were extended by Tajikistan until 31st January 2021, by Greece for flights from Turkey and Catalonia until 8th February 2021.

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[4] References to Kosovo shall be understood for IOM to be in the context of (United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244) (1999)

- Conditions for authorized entry for passengers travelling on business to Bangladesh were amended. These travellers are exempt from the passenger ban and are no longer required to present a medical certificate with negative COVID-19 result to enter.

- Italy, San Marino and the Holy See issued a new restriction banning the entry of passengers who have stayed in or transited through Brazil in the past 14 days until 31 January 2021.

- On 25th January 2021, Australia halted the 'travel bubble' i.e., suspended quarantine free travel with New Zealand for three days.

- Austria suspended flights with Brazil whereas Germany issued an entry ban for travellers from South Africa.

- As of 21st January 2021, Bahrain issued a flight suspension on flights to Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Iraq. However, humanitarian, medical evacuation and repatriation flights are exempt from this suspension.

- Authorities in Nigeria announced the closure of three airports, Enugu (ENU), Kano (KAN) and Port Harcourt (PHC) airports for an unspecified period.

- Canada extended the existing entry restrictions, i.e. an entry ban on all passengers arriving from destinations other than the United States of America, until 21st February 2021.

- On 24th January 2021, Israel announced a ban on incoming and outgoing flights for one week with the exception for cargo and humanitarian flights.

- Previously issued passenger bans were extended by Malta until 5th February 2021 and by Greece until 8th February 2021.

- Australia issued new measures requiring a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result for all incoming passengers taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. However, passengers younger than 5 years old and passengers arriving from Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu or Vanuatu are exempt.

- Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China extended the minimum number of nights from 14 to 21 days for passengers arriving from outside the People's Republic of China, Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China and Macao Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China, they must have a hotel reservation confirmation in Chinese or English at designated hotels, for the quarantine period.

- Turkmenistan added new conditions for authorized entry including providing a COVID-19 vaccination certificate and proof of chromatographic determination of antibodies (IgM, IgG) in the blood (this does not apply to nationals of Turkmenistan), as well as the provision of a "Public Health Passenger Locator Form" upon arrival.

- Tajikistan lifted the flight suspension on flights from Uzbekistan, however the passenger ban is still in place, and only exempted groups including nationals and residents of Tajikistan and nationals of Turkey, are allowed conditional entry.

- Changes to the conditions for authorized entry were issued. Kuwait reduced the validity of the negative COVID-19 test result from 96 hours to 72 hours for the medical certificate that is needed for authorized entry. New Zealand specified the acceptable tests for the medical certificate with negative test result for passengers arriving from the United States of America, these include antigen, Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP), Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

- People's Republic of China issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring all passengers to obtain a green QR code online, prior to arrival.

- Iceland issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring all passengers to quarantine upon arrival. Exceptions for passengers with a certificate of vaccination against COVID-19, passengers with certificate of previous infection of COVID-19 issued by a laboratory in Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, the Holy See or an European Economic Area Member State, details can be found online.

- Changes for airline crew were issued by Cuba who has removed measures requiring airline crew must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 48 hours before departure. Conversely, Norway added measures for airline crew arriving from South Africa, who must undergo COVID-19 testing upon arrival.

- New Caledonia, removed a condition for authorized entry, previously requiring all passengers to complete a declaration of honour stating that they do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions

Number of C/T/As by type of exception

No exceptions — 108
Nationals (including family) — 108
Residents (including family) — 101
Other exceptions — 100
Minors — 73
Nationals/Residents of another CTA — 47
Diplomatic workers (including family) — 38
Students — 27
Special Flights — 27
Passengers in transit — 24
Seafarers — 23
Military personnel — 21
Airline crew — 20
Business — 20

Y-axis: Type of Exception. X-axis: Number of C/T/As Issuing at Least One Exception (0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100)

C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (108) and for Residents (101) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 73 different CTAs, continue to increase, and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter

Residents (including family) — 2%
Nationals (including family) — 2%
No exceptions — 1%
Other exceptions — 6%
Diplomatic workers (including family) — 1%
Nationals/Residents of another CTA — 0%
Minors — 5%
Airline crew — -2%
Students — 0%
Special Flights — -1%
Passengers in transit — 1%
Military personnel — 1%
Business — 1%
Seafarers — 1%

Y-axis: Type of Exception. X-axis: Percentage Change since 29 December (-3%, -2%, -1%, 0%, 1%, 2%, 3%, 4%, 5%, 6%, 7%)
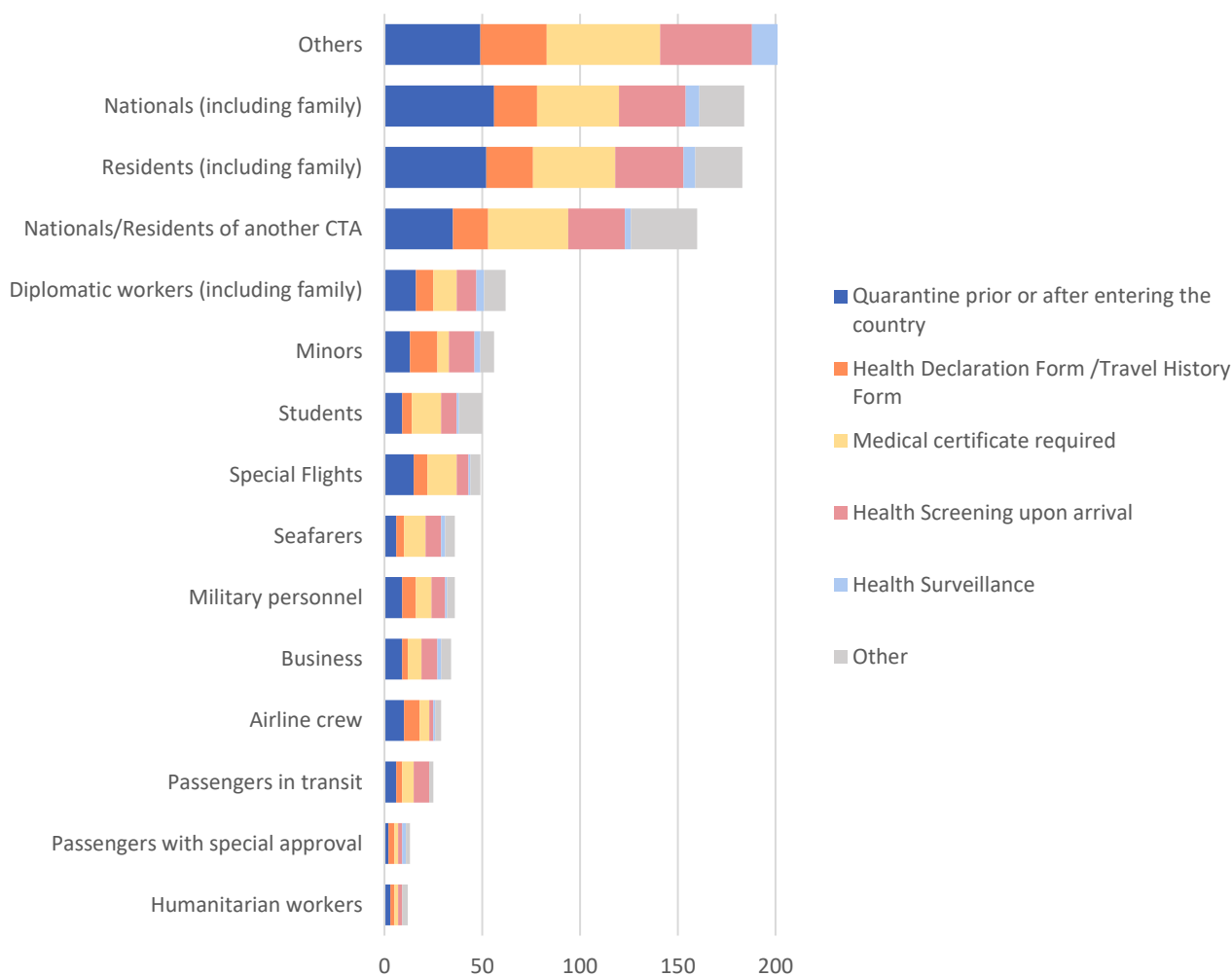
Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 753 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 178 C/T/As.
- The C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were the Netherlands (21), Singapore (15), Bulgaria (14), Croatia (14), Switzerland (14), Austria (13), Uruguay (12), Belgium (11), Gibraltar (11), Germany (11), and India (11).
- Between 18th and 25th January 2021, 15 countries, territories or areas issued 22 new exceptions whilst 17 countries, territories or areas removed 30 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 178 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 132 have issued 1,117 conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups.
- The top six C/T/As issuing the highest number of conditions for authorised entry for exempted groups were, Singapore (37), Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (36), Philippines (36), India (34), Belgium (33), and Norway (33).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was quarantine prior or after entering the country, which was issued 290 times. This was followed by medical certificates (272) and health screening (219).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Kyrgyzstan removed exceptions to the entry requirements which were in place for nationals, as other passengers they now also must present a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result which must have been taken at most 72 hours before departure of the first embarkation point. Only nationals younger than 8 years are exempt.

- Iceland removed exceptions to its passenger ban for passengers with proof of previous COVID-19 infection and issued new exceptions to the passenger ban, allowing conditional entry to passengers in a long-term intimate relationship with a national or resident of Iceland and residents of Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore and Thailand arriving from their country of residence. Such passengers are still subject to a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test upon arrival.

- Reunion, Mayotte and Guadeloupe removed previously issued exceptions for passengers arriving from French Guiana, French Polynesia, French West Indies, New Caledonia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon or Wallis and Futuna Islands, to the measure requiring passengers to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result taken 72 hours before embarkation.