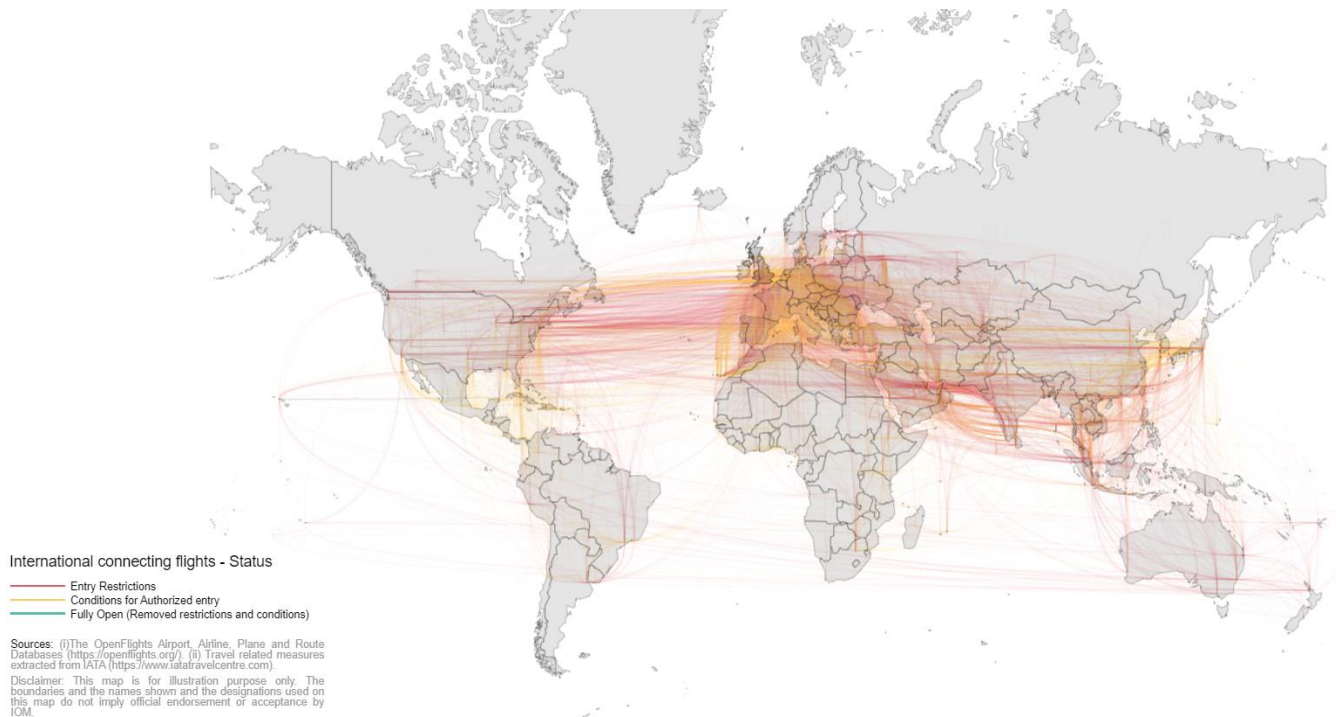


# Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Weekly Update • 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021



COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series  
<https://migration.iom.int> • [dtmccovid19@iom.int](mailto:dtmccovid19@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.iatairvelocentre.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](#).

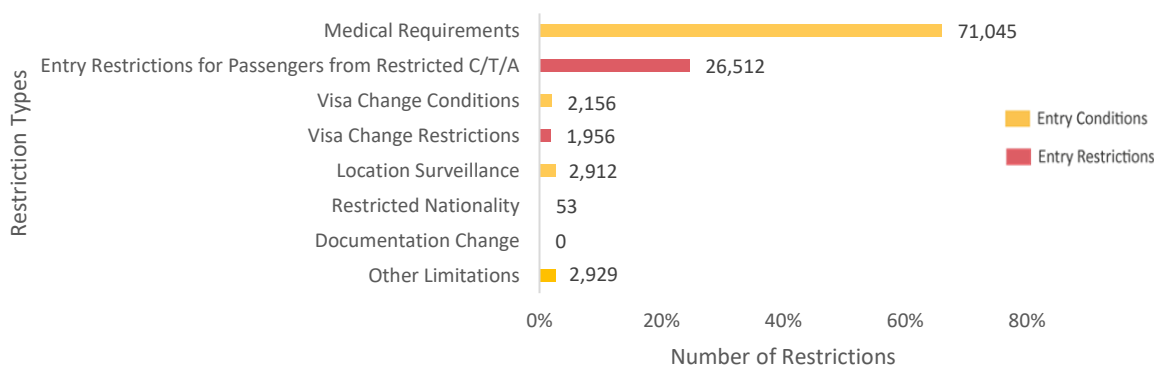
Disclaimer: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe mobility restrictions in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities 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 [dtmccovid19@iom.int](mailto:dtmccovid19@iom.int) to ensure consistency of information in the database repository.

## Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to have an impact on global mobility and migration as Government's and authorities continue to reissue, extend or in very few cases, limit travel restrictions. As of 12th April 2021, there have been 135,446,538 cases of COVID-19 recorded globally, including 2,927,922 deaths, and as of 12th April 2021, a total of 669,248,795 vaccine doses have been administered globally as reported by the [World Health Organization](#). Relatedly, the impact on mobility remains stable, with a total of 227 countries, territories, or areas issuing 107,563 travel related measures as of 12th April 2021. This indicates almost no change from 107,504 travel related measures reported on 6th April 2021. Of these, 28,521 were reported as entry restrictions and 79,042 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was a decrease of almost one per cent in entry restrictions and an increase of less than one per cent in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a decrease of 14 per cent in health surveillance measures such as contact tracing apps and a decrease of 8 per cent in other limitations such as proof of travel insurance or passenger locator forms. Finally, there was also an increase of one per cent in medical requirements such as medical certificates with negative COVID-19 test results and quarantine. In the reporting period, there was a one per cent decrease in restrictions on passenger bans. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 193 countries, territories or areas have issued 859 exceptions enabling mobility. Between 6th and 12th April 2021, 12 countries, territories or areas issued 17 new exceptions whilst 6 countries, territories or areas removed 11 exceptions.

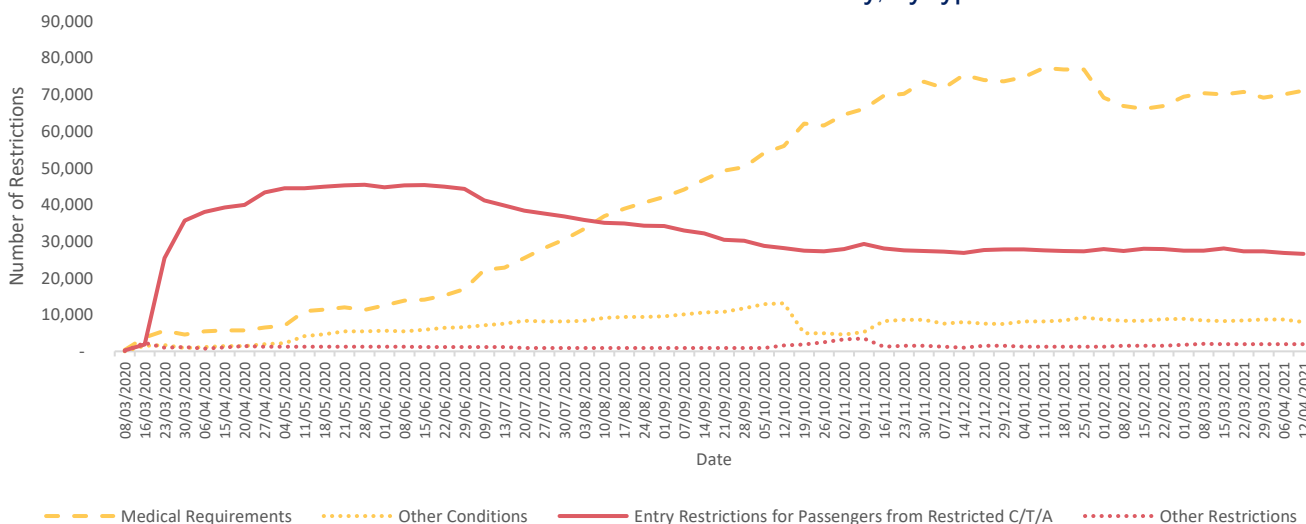
## Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry



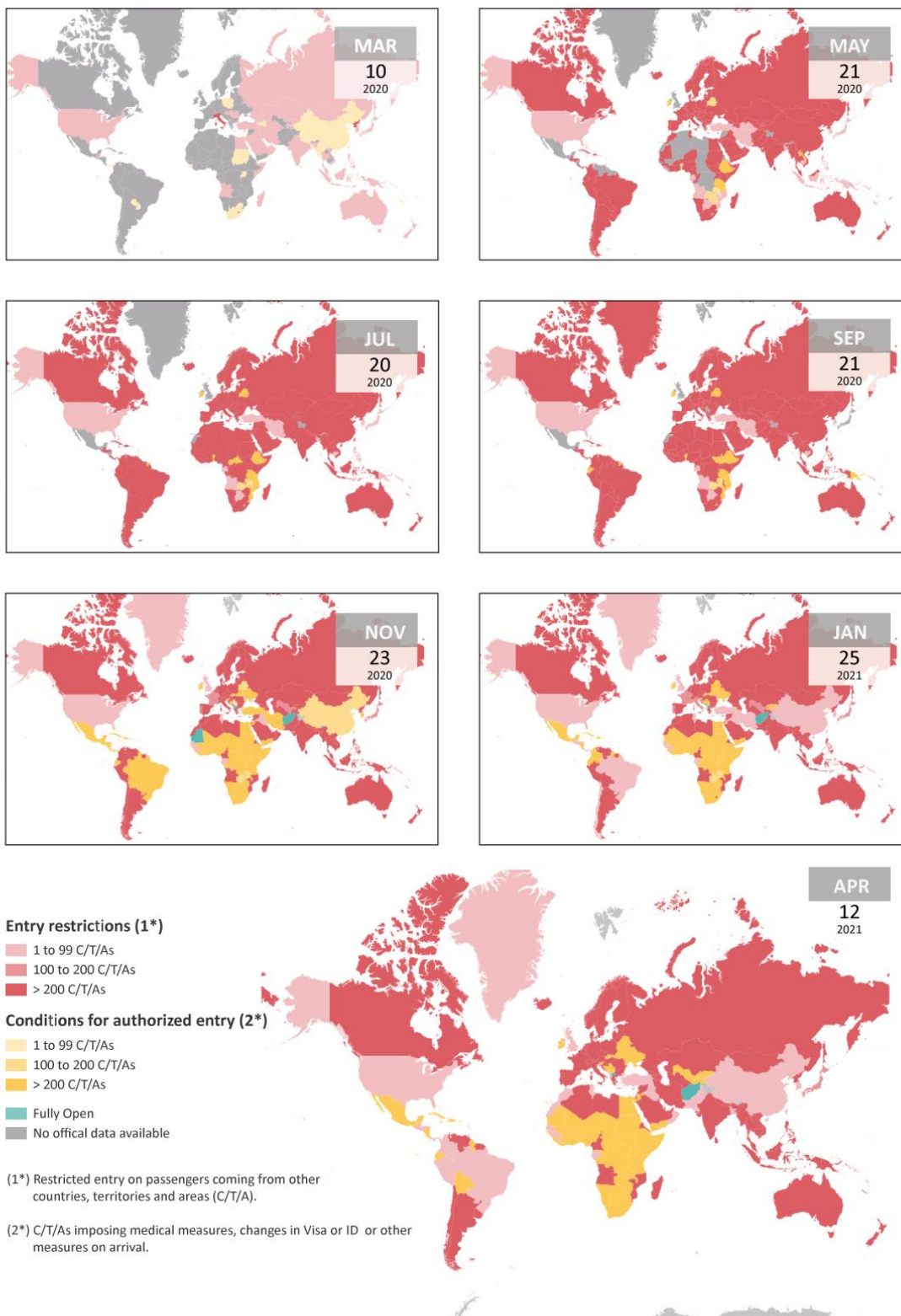
As of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 227 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 25 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition for authorized entry representing 66 per cent of conditions. In contrast, visa requirements represent 4 per cent of total restrictions and conditions.

Restrictions and conditions for authorized entry, by type

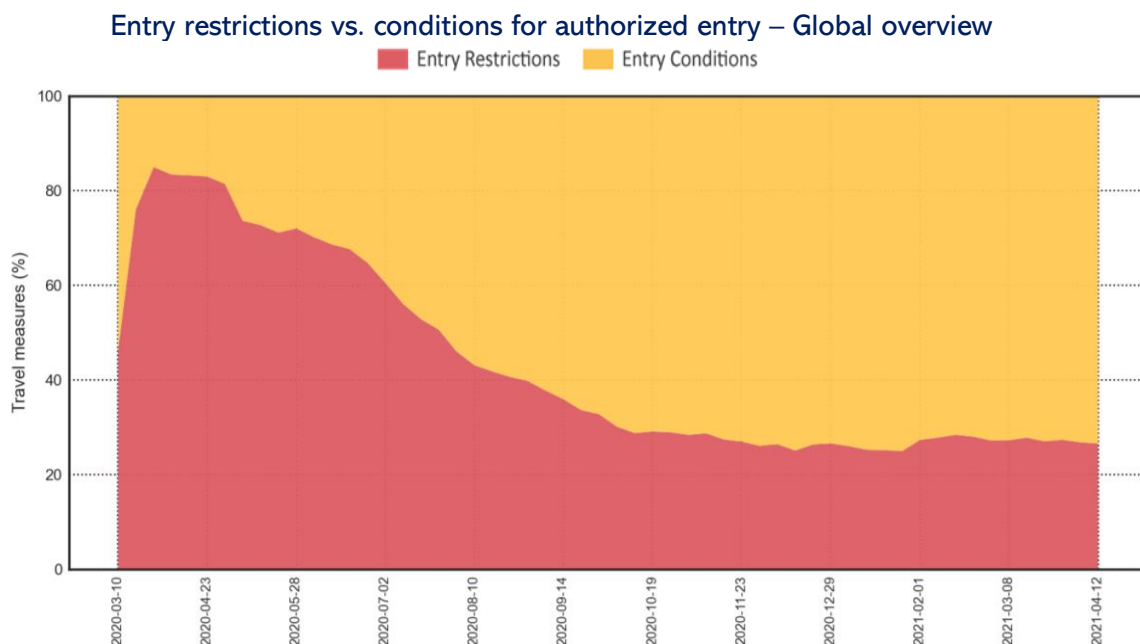


## ■ Changes in Entry Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry, Over Time

The map below provides a global overview of the changes between the type of measures issued by C/T/As and gradual increases in the issuance of 'entry restrictions' (e.g. total entry restrictions for passengers) and/or 'conditions for authorized entry' (e.g. medical requirements in the form of PCR test, quarantine, etc.). In March 10<sup>th</sup> 2020, only 90 Governments and authorities across the world had announced COVID-19 related travel measures, by May 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 this number increased to 221 whereas as of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 227 out of 247 C/T/As (91%) 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 25 per cent, as of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.



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 severity of measures. 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 strict entry restrictions representing less than 5 per cent of the total travel related measures as of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. On the other hand, since October 2020, IOM region of *Asia and the Pacific* has reversed previous trends observed (shift from restrictions to conditions) and started reissuing restrictions again. These regional differences over time reflect the dissimilar evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in different geographical areas.

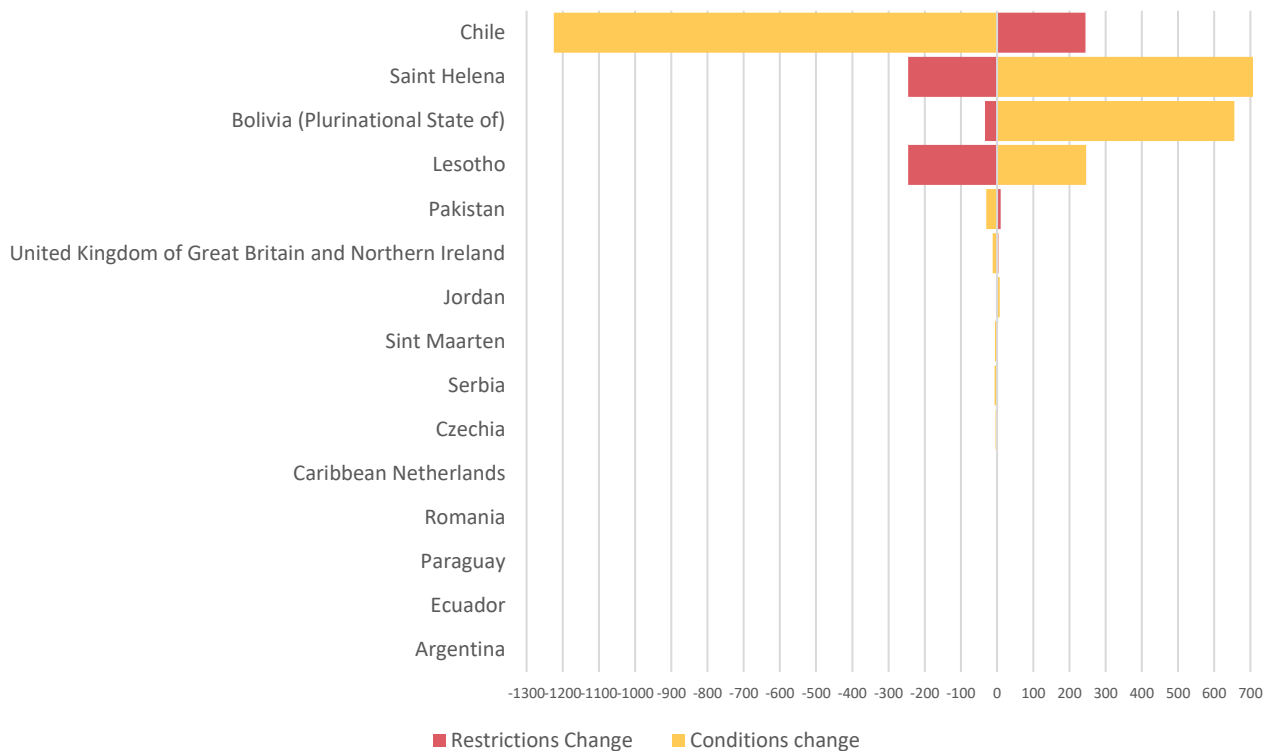
### Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Regional overview



## ■ 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 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 15 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 9 of them made minor changes. While 6 C/T/As removed existing conditions for authorized entry, 5 C/T/As removed new total restrictions. There were 7 C/T/As issuing new conditions and restrictions separately.

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



### Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland<sup>2</sup>

With Brexit in effect as of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021, a total of 86 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 such that between 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021, no new C/T/As added new restrictions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

### Changes in Existing COVID-19 Measures

- Argentina extended the flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 30th April 2021.
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland issued a passenger ban on travellers arriving from Bangladesh, Kenya, Pakistan and the Philippines.
- Jordan lifted the passenger ban and flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, however, all passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

<sup>1</sup> 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.  
<sup>2</sup> This was last updated on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 15:00 GMT.

- Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba lifted its flight ban with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. However, passengers must have a negative COVID-19 test result taken at most 24 hours before departure from the first embarkation point and a completed Health Declaration Form to be presented upon arrival.
- Colombia extended the flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an indefinite period.
- Chile restarted flights with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. However, exempt passengers must provide a certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test taken at most 72 hours before departure of the last direct flight to Chile. This is because a general passenger ban until 30th April 2021 remains in place.
- The Plurinational State of Bolivia also restarted flights with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. However, passengers older than six years, who have been in the past 14 days in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must have a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. They must also provide a completed Health Declaration Form /Travel History Form upon arrival, passengers must have insurance to cover COVID-19 expenses and passengers are subject to self-isolation for 10 days.
- Greece added exceptions for nationals and residents of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the existing passenger entry ban. Conditions for authorized entry such as providing a Passenger Locator Form, medical certificate with negative COVID-19 test result 72 hours prior to travel.

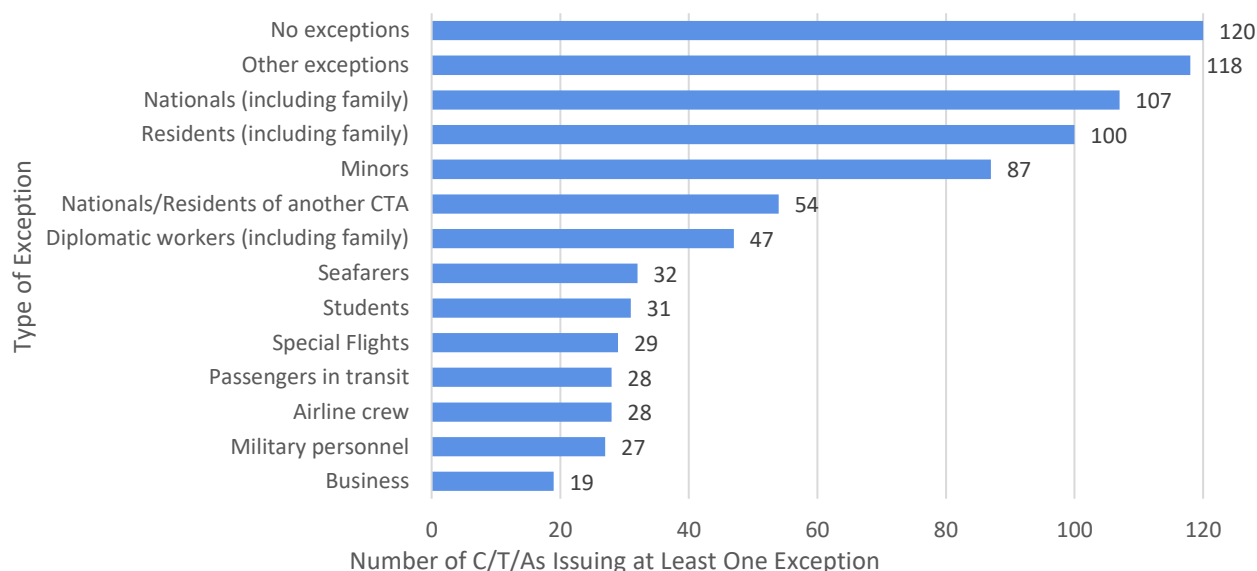
## Key Highlights

- Saint Helena removed its passenger ban but issued conditions for authorized entry for all passengers including COVID-19 testing upon arrival, 14-day quarantine upon arrival and the provision of proof of medical insurance covering medical evacuation.
- As of 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the Plurinational State of Bolivia restarted flights arriving 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.
- Lesotho lifted the flight suspension but issued conditions for authorized entry requiring all passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result 72 hours prior to travel. Nationals who have been outside the country for less than 14 days are exempt.
- Pakistan issued a new passenger ban until 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 on passengers arriving from Chile, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, the Seychelles, Somalia, Suriname, Uruguay, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zimbabwe.
- Czechia lifted the ban on travellers arriving from Belgium and the Netherlands but issued one on travellers arriving from Malta.
- Colombia extended the flight suspension with Brazil, whereas Paraguay and Ecuador issued quarantine measures for seven and 10 days, respectively.
- Argentina extended the flight suspension for flights arriving from Brazil, Chile and Mexico.
- From 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021, New Zealand banned the entry of passengers who in the past 14 days have been in or transited through India.
- Flight suspensions for all flights were extended by Suriname until 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021, Israel until 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021, Malta until 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Italy until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, and Lao People Democratic Republic until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.
- Existing entry bans on all passengers were extended by Marshall Islands until 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.
- Lao People's Democratic Republic issued measures requiring that airline crew are subject to medical screening and quarantine until their next flight.

- Rwanda and Nigeria issued a specification for the condition for authorized entry requiring that instead of a medical certificate, passengers must present a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result at the first point of departure.
- Iceland issued a new measure for nationals and residents of Iceland who arrive without a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test taken at most 72 hours before departure, they are subject to a fine upon arrival.
- Changes in quarantine requirements were issued by Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China. Passengers who have only spent time in the past 21 days in Australia, New Zealand or Singapore must have a hotel reservation confirmation in Chinese or English for a minimum of 14 nights, instead of 21 nights.

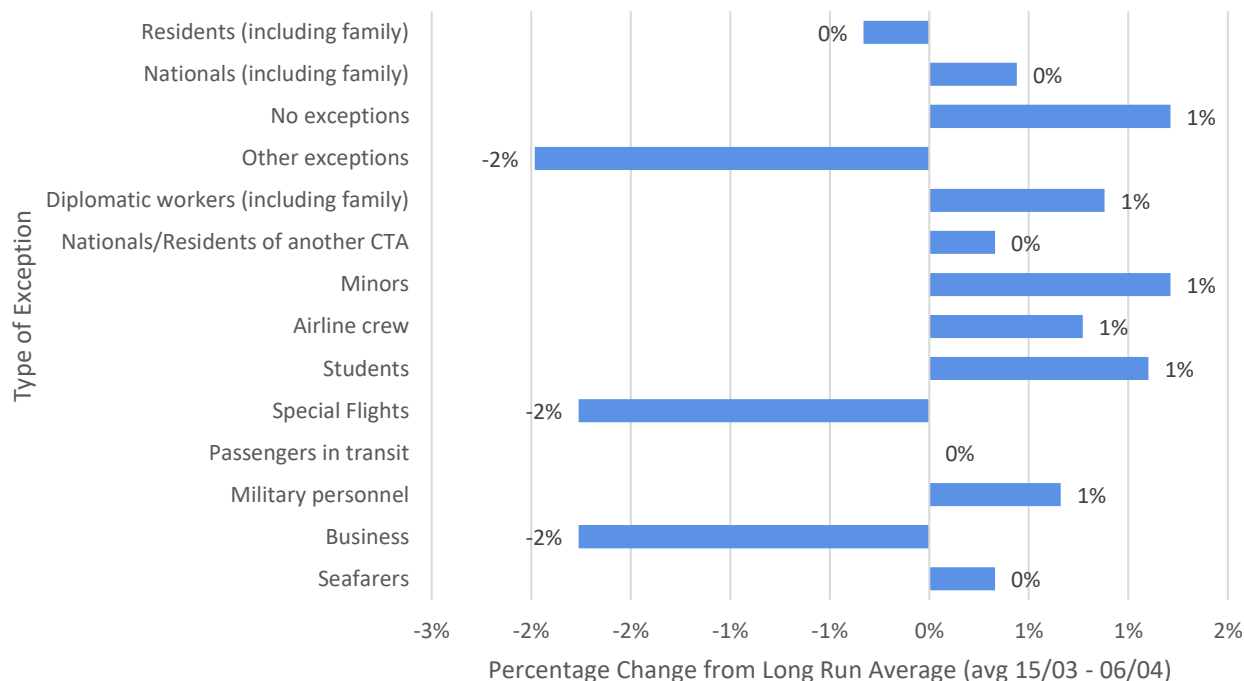
## ■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions

Number of C/T/As by type of exception



C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (107) and for Residents (100) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 87 different C/T/As, and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter



### Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

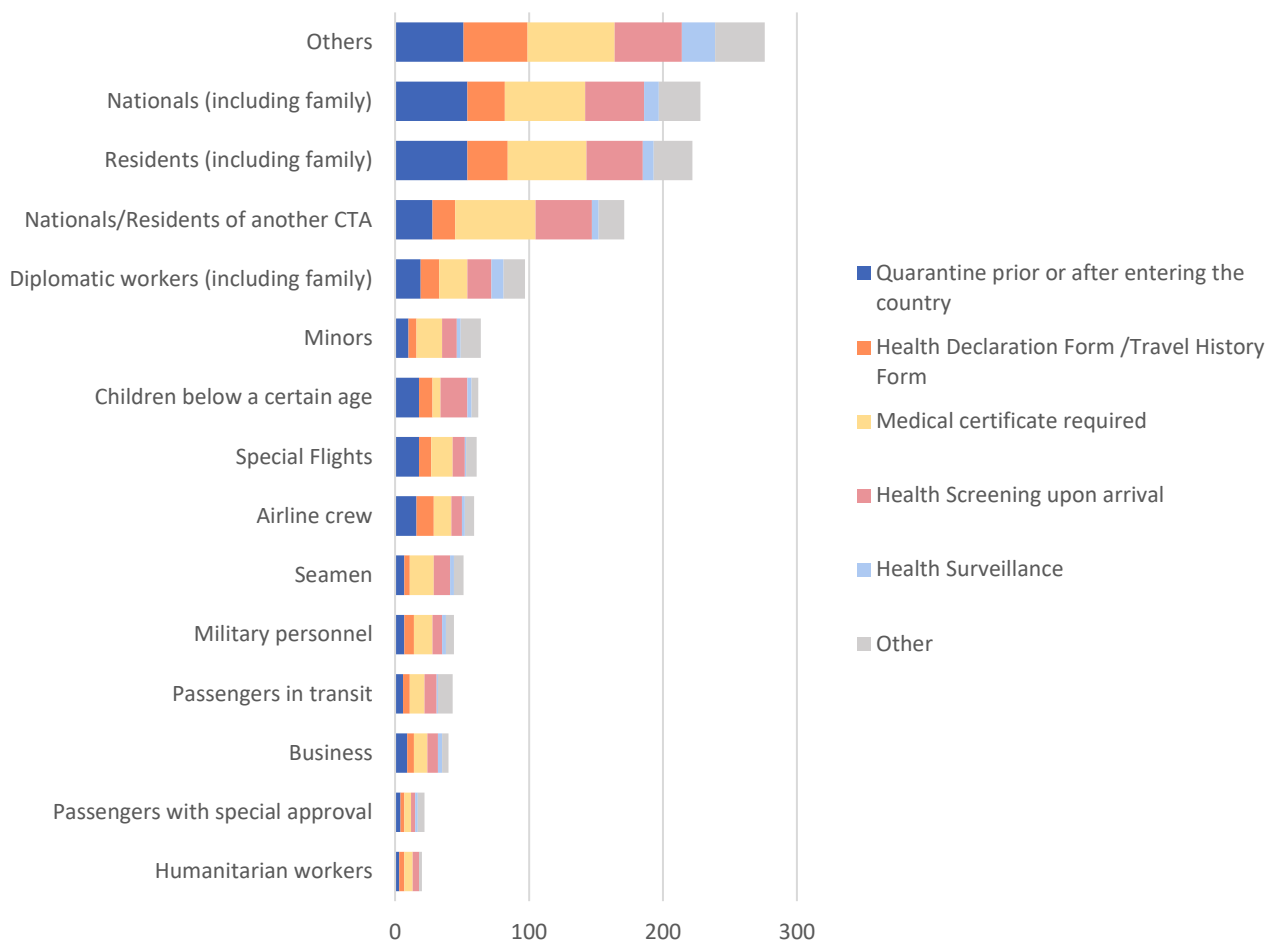
- A total of 865 exceptions, enabling mobility, have been issued by 191 C/T/As.
- The C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were the Finland (13), Guadeloupe (12), the Netherlands (12), Austria (11), Belgium (11), Norway (11), Croatia (10), India (10), and Romania (10).
- Between 6th April and 12th April March 2021, 12 countries, territories or areas issued 17 new exceptions whilst 6 countries, territories or areas removed 11 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 191 C/T/As issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 144 have issued 1,489 conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups.
- The top eight C/T/As issuing the highest number of conditions for authorised entry for exempted groups were Guadeloupe (44), Finland (39), Andorra (36), Singapore (33), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (32), Indonesia (32), Philippines (31), and the Netherlands (30).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was to provide a medical certificate upon arrival, which was issued at least 383 times. This is the second month that quarantine prior or after entering the country has not been the top condition, currently listed 304 times, and followed by medical screening (288).

## ■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Changes to exception groups were issued. Bangladesh removed exceptions for merchant seafarers and passengers travelling on business with a return/onward ticket. There are no exceptions to this suspension of visas. India issued exceptions to the existing passenger ban for e-visa holders.
- Exceptions for passengers arriving from specific C/T/As were changed. New Zealand will allow passengers arriving from Australia if they in the past 14 days have only been in Australia. The exception will be in force from 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 onwards.
- Exceptions for hotel quarantine were issued. Qatar issued changes to the mandatory requirement for quarantine at a designated hotel to allow passengers arriving from non-green list C/T/As entry if they have an *en-suite* accommodation. Furthermore, diplomatic personnel are also exempted from this requirement. Previously, only citizens, United States of America military or NATO personnel and vaccinated passengers were also exempt from this requirement. Green list countries include Oman, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, Macao, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Japan, Myanmar, Maldives ("safe travel bubble" package only), Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Cuba, Mauritius, Iceland and Ireland.
- Exceptions to the passenger ban were added for merchant seafarers, military personnel and students by Greece. Conditions for authorized entry such as providing a Passenger Locator Form, medical certificate with negative COVID-19 test result 72 hours prior to travel.
- Exceptions pertaining to the requirement of provision of a negative COVID-19 medical certificate were issued. Both Ukraine and Mongolia issued an exception for children under the age of 12 and under the minimum age required for a COVID-19 test in the departure country, respectively. Cyprus issued an exception to this measure for passengers arriving from Australia, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore or Thailand.
- Exceptions to medical certificate requirements for passengers with a certificate of previous infection of COVID-19 or proof of vaccination were issued by Kuwait. Passengers no longer require a confirmed hotel reservation booked for seven days if they provide a COVID-19 vaccination certificate (if they received two vaccine doses at least two weeks before arrival; passengers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate if they received the first vaccine dose at least five weeks before arrival; or passengers with a COVID-19 recovery certificate and a vaccination certificate if they received the first vaccine dose at least two weeks before arrival).
- New exceptions for nationals were issued by Oman. Nationals of Oman are no longer required to have a hotel reservation confirmation and are permitted to quarantine at their homes. However, nationals are still subject to conditions for authorized entry and must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test taken at most 72 hours before arrival, must register online, undergo a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test upon arrival, and download two applications on their personal devices (one of which is GPS tracking).
- Romania issued a new exception to its passenger ban for passengers arriving from People's Republic of China and removed a previously issued exception to its passenger ban for arrivals from Japan and Uruguay. Sint Maarten issued a new exception for passengers arriving from Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao.