# Global Mobility Restriction Overview
## Weekly Update • 1st March 2021

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

**IOM ● OIM**
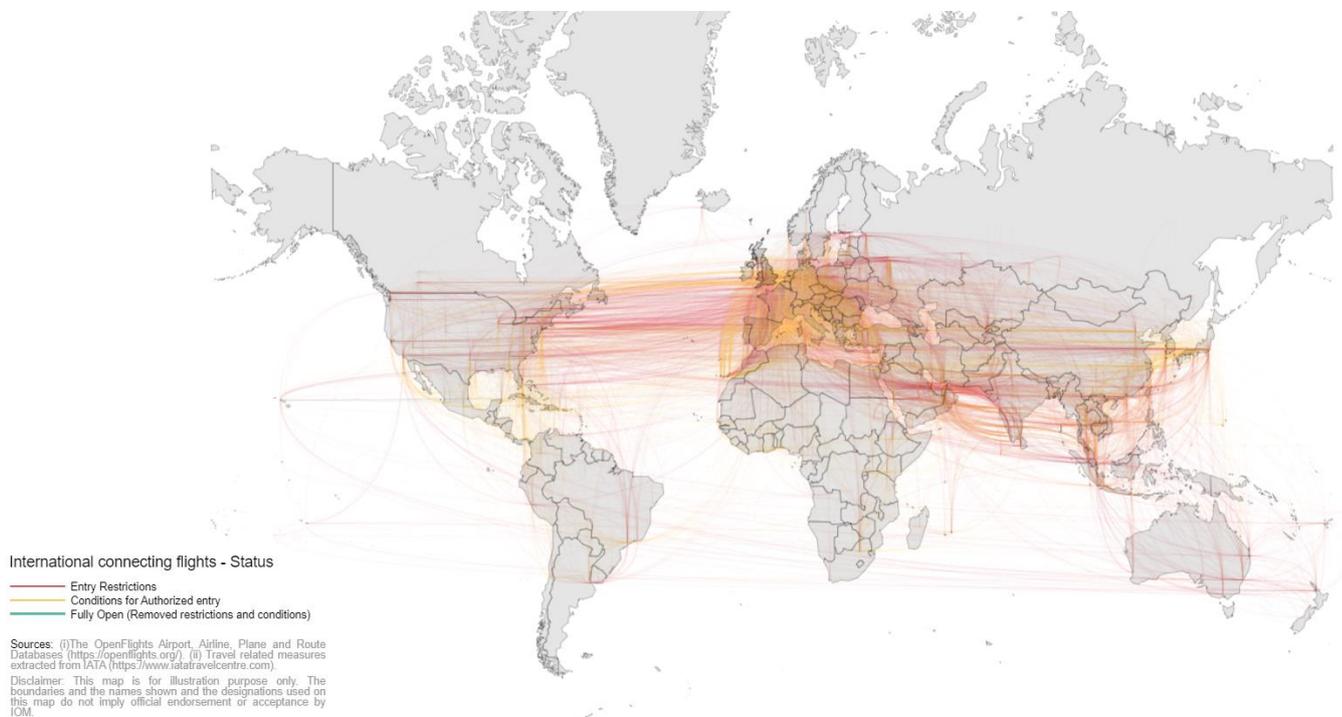


International connecting flights - Status

— 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

Based on the rapidly evolving epidemiological conditions across various parts of the world, COVID-19 related travel measures continue to keep global mobility and migration curtailed. On 1st March 2021, the World Health Organization has reported close to 114 million cases of COVID-19 globally. As of 1st March 2021, a total of 227 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 107,483 travel related measures indicating an increase of two per cent from 104,990 travel related measures reported on 22nd February 2021. Of these, 29,191 were reported as entry restrictions and 78,292 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was a slight decrease of almost one per cent in entry restrictions and an increase of four per cent in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a 5 per cent increase in visa requirements for conditional entry and a 2 per cent increase in medical requirements such as quarantine and medical certificates with negative COVID-19 test results. There was a decrease of 2 per cent in entry restrictions on nationals of specific countries, territories or areas and a 17 per cent increase in visa restrictions such as invalidations and suspensions. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 188 countries, territories or areas have issued 817 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 22nd February and 1st March 2021, 10 countries, territories or areas issued 32 new exceptions whilst 7 countries, territories or areas removed 10 exceptions.
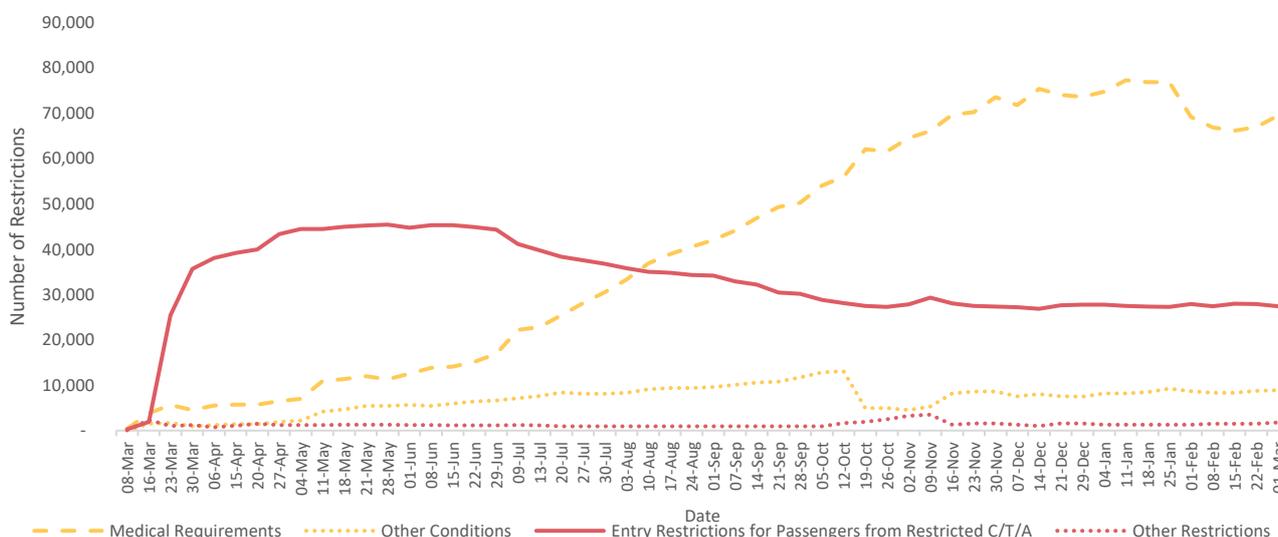
## ■ Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

### Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry
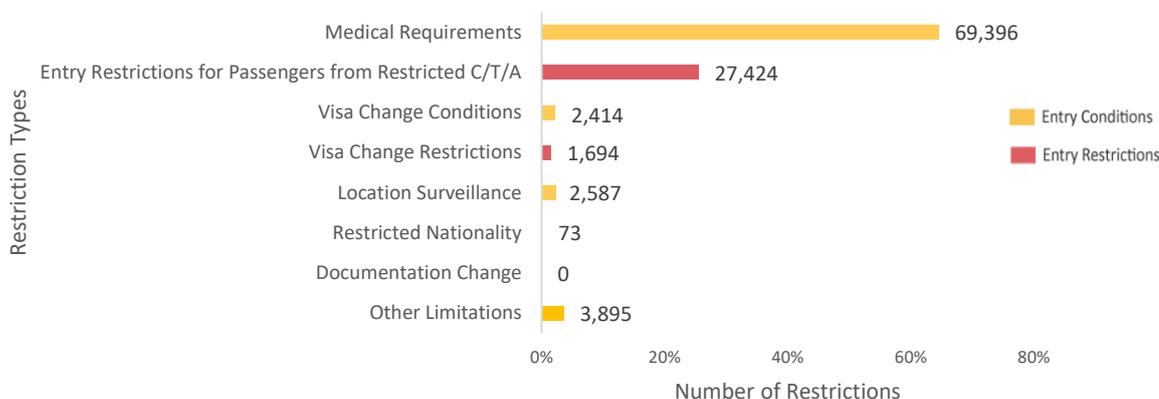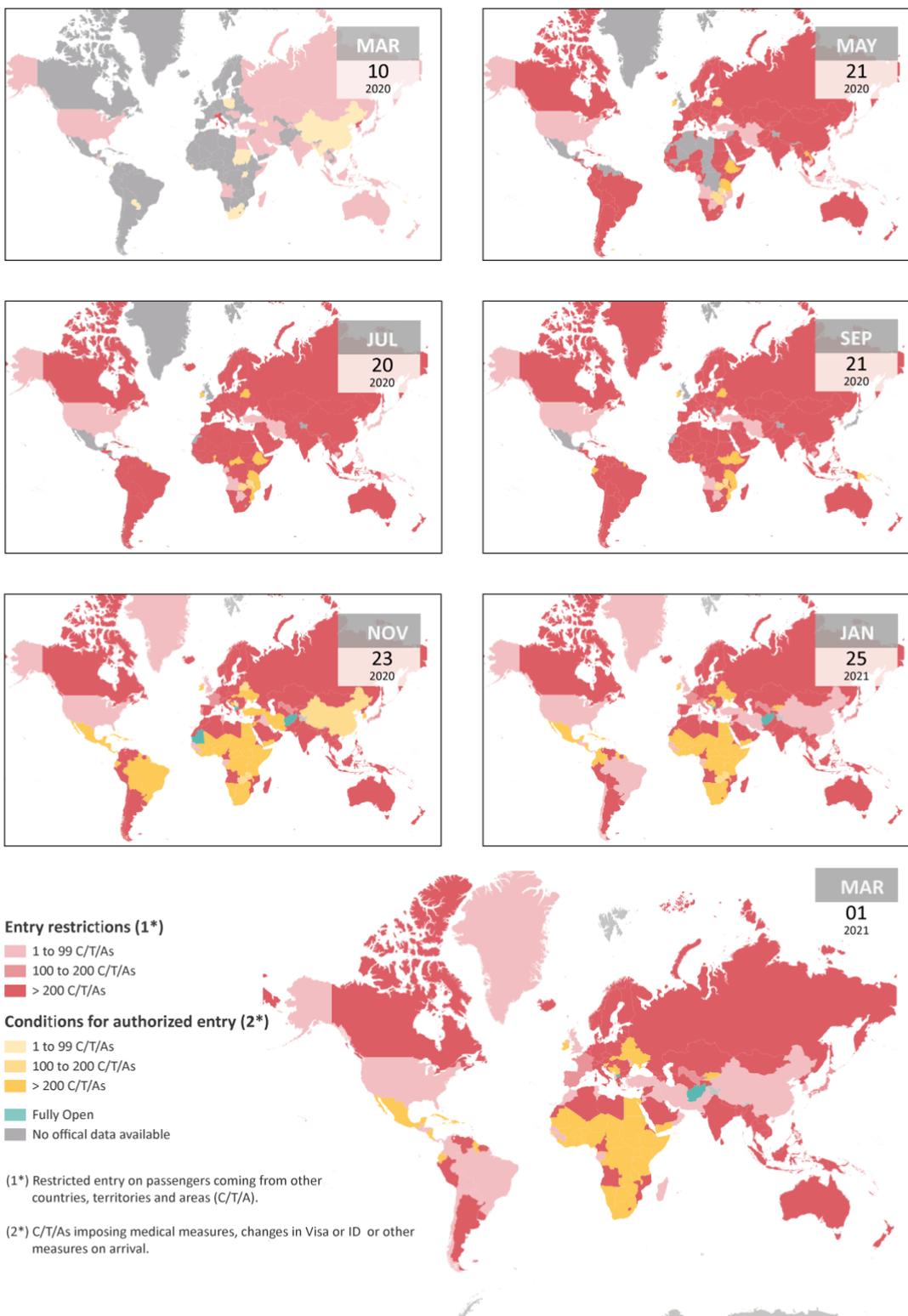


As of 1st March 2021, 227 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 26 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition for authorized entry representing 65 per cent of conditions. In contrast, visa requirements represent 4 per cent of total restrictions and conditions.

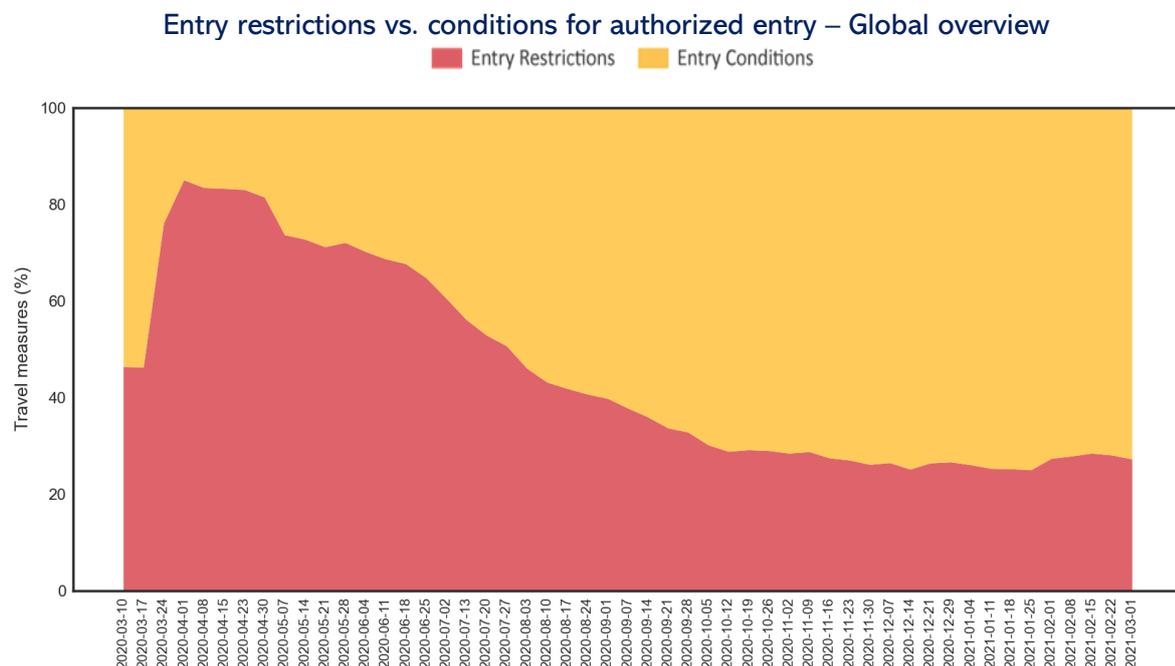### Restrictions and conditions for authorized entry, by type

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

The map below provides a global overview 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 March 2021 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 1st March 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 1st March 2021. On the other hand, since October 2020 IOM region of *Asia and the Pacific* 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
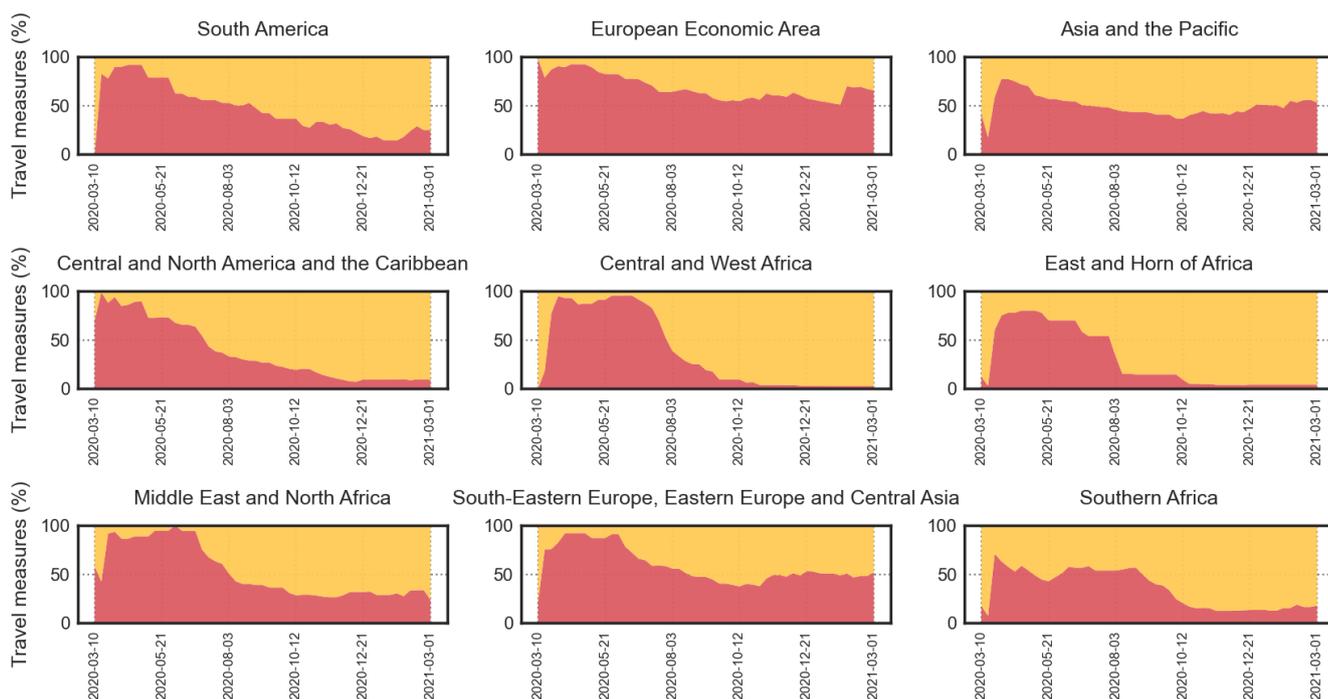
## ■ Key Highlights on Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

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 15th and 22nd February 2021, 12 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 6 of them made minor changes. While 3 C/T/As removed existing conditions for authorized entry, 4 C/T/As removed new total restrictions. There were 7 and 5 C/T/As issuing new conditions and restrictions respectively.

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



Restrictions Change   Conditions change
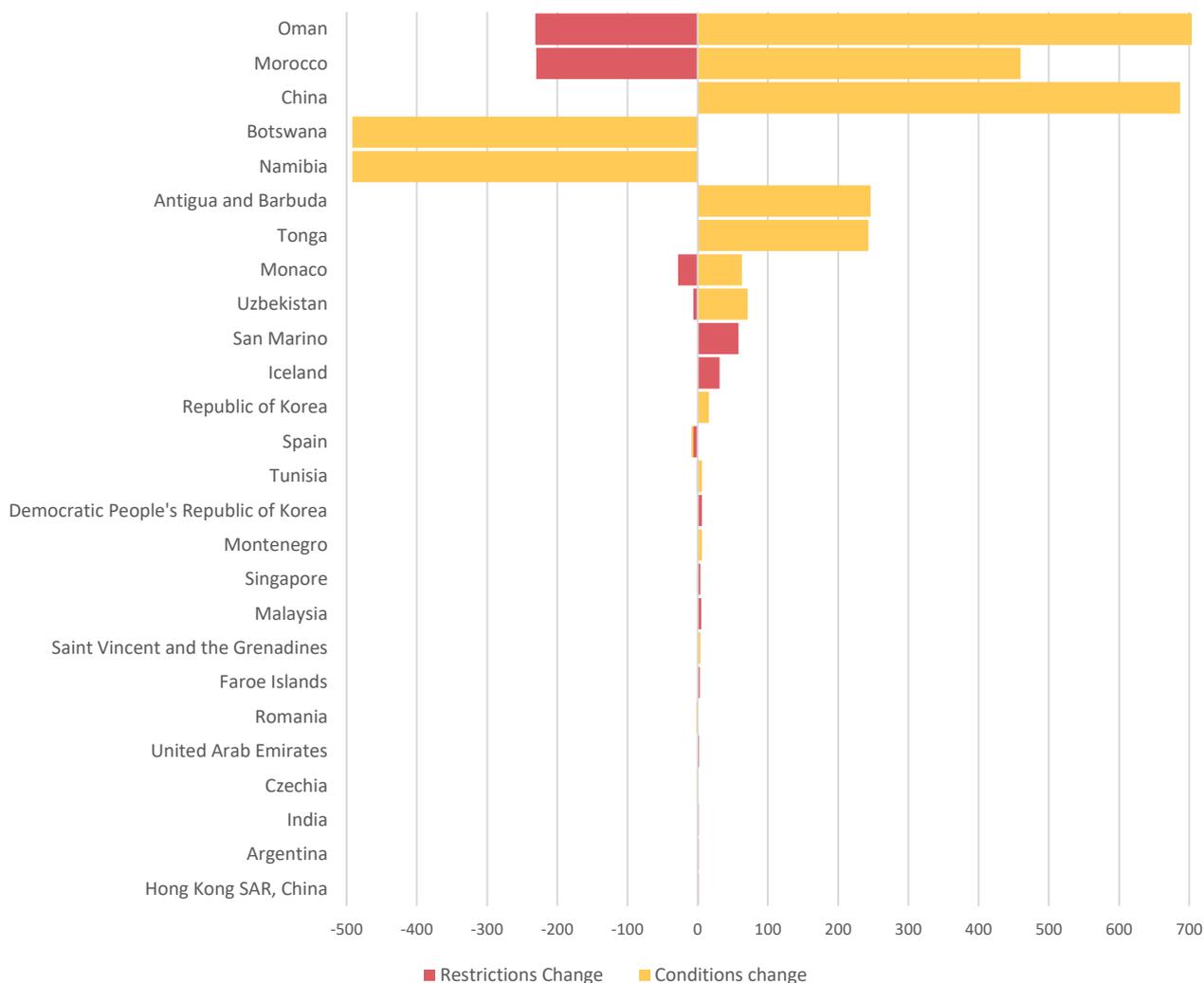
### Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[2]

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 responded with new measures to mitigate and prevent the spread of the new strain. As of 22nd February 2021, a total of 94 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 22nd February and 1st March 2021, no new C/T/A added restrictions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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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.
[3] This was last updated on 1st March 2021 at 15:00 GMT.

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

- Jordan extended the passenger ban on travellers who have been in or transited through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the flight suspension on flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an unspecified period.

- Nepal issued a measure requiring passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland who must present a confirmed hotel reservation (at government approved hotels) for mandatory quarantine of five days, upon arrival.

- The flight suspension on flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was extended by Uzbekistan until 1st March 2021, the Netherlands until 4th March 2021, Italy until 5th March 2021 and Morocco until 21st March 2021.

- India issued new conditions for authorized entry for passengers who are exempt (such as nationals amongst others) from the passenger ban and travelling from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Such passengers must only arrive on a direct flight from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and are subject to a COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival and on day seven after arrival at their own expense.

- Tunisia extended the flight suspension and passenger ban on travellers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 7th March 2021.

## Changes in Existing COVID-19 Measures

- As of 19th February 2021, Colombia issued both, a flight suspension and passenger ban on travellers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- On 18th February 2021, Hungary lifted the flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. However, a general passenger ban remains in place.

- From 22nd February 2021, travellers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to India are subject to are subject to a COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival at their own expense and quarantine for up to 14 days.

- Peru extended the 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 until 28th February 2021.

- As of 15th February 2021, the Plurinational State of Bolivia extended the passenger ban for those who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the last 14 days until 15th March 2021. However, this does not apply to nationals and residents of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, who must present a completed a Health Affidavit for Travelers" upon arrival and are subject to self-isolation for 14 days.

- The Russian Federation also extended the ongoing flight suspension from 16th February to 16th March 2021. Spain extended the ongoing flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 2nd March 2021.

- Sri Lanka lifted the passenger ban on travellers who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. However, all flights to Sri Lanka have been suspended and a passenger ban on all travellers has also been issued as of 19th February 2021.
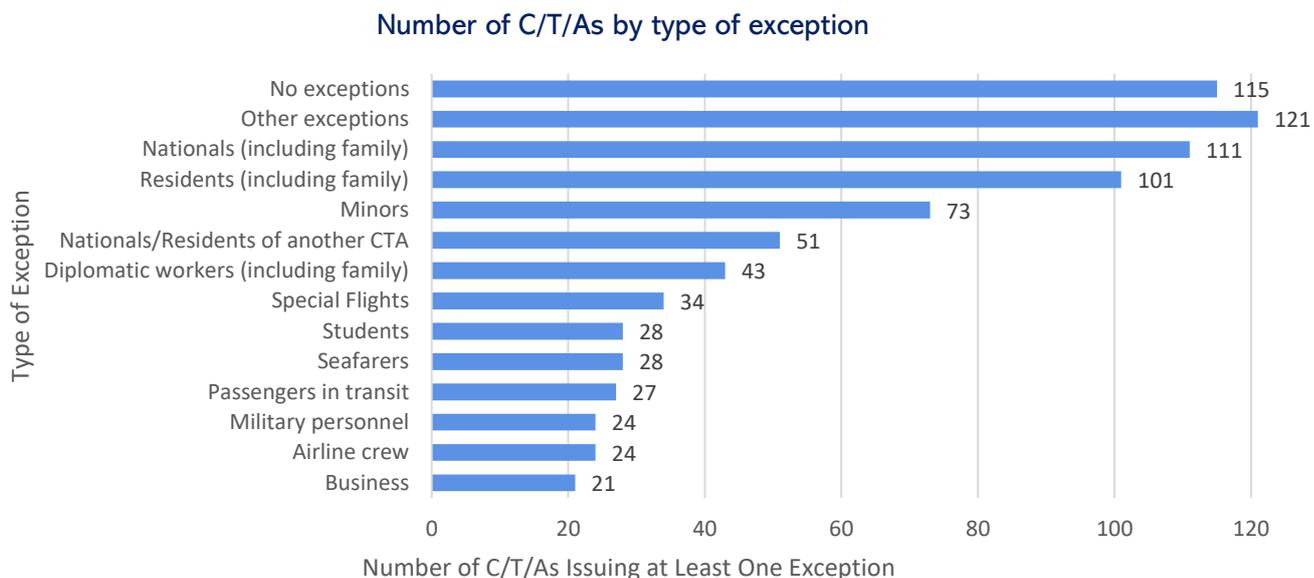
## Key Highlights

- Oman partially lifted its ban on passengers from all countries, territories or areas except for passengers who have spent time in the last 14 days in Brazil, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Lebanon, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan or United Republic of Tanzania, they are not allowed to enter. However new conditions for entry were issued for all other passengers, they must present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, taken at most 72 hours before arrival, subject to a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test upon arrival, pay a fee of OMR 25, present a confirmed hotel reservation for at least 7 day and proof of insurance to cover COVID-19 medical expenses in Oman for a period of one month, submit a travel registration form before departure and download both the Tarassud+ app (a notification COVID-19-related information app) and Humshrif app (GPS tracking app).

- Morocco shifted from a total suspension on all flights to a partial suspension. Per this change, flights arriving from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey or Ukraine are suspended until 21ˢᵗ March 2021.

- Namibia removed the quarantine and health screening measures, previously required for all passengers upon arrival. Arrivals may still be required to undergo quarantine and screening, but only if they are not able to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, taken at most 7 days before arrival.

- Extension of passenger bans on specific countries, territories or areas were issued by Uzbekistan. Passengers who have spent any time in the past 14 days in Australia, Austria, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, South Africa are not allowed to enter or transit until 1ˢᵗ March 2021. Italy extended the passenger ban on travellers who have been in or transited through Brazil until 5ᵗʰ March 2021.

- New tests were accepted for conditional authorized entry, Republic of Korea added Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP), Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Strand Displacement Assay (SDA) and Transcription-Mediated Amplification (TMA) tests results for the mandatory medical certificate. The certificate must have the name of the issuing laboratory. Switzerland added Rapid Antigen test result if taken at most 24 hours before departure as acceptable for the medical certificate of a negative test result. Previously, only Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests were permitted.

- Extensions of existing ban on all passengers were issued by Croatia until 15ᵗʰ March 2021 and by Spain until 31ˢᵗ of March 2021.

- Tunisia issued 7ᵗʰ March 2021 as an end date for the flight suspension on flights from Brazil and South Africa. The ban on passengers arriving from Denmark and Australia has been lifted, however, the ban on passengers arriving from Brazil and South Africa has been extended until 7ᵗʰ March 2021.

- Romania issued new conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Jordan who must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result while passengers arriving are coming from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Botswana, Germany, French Polynesia, Liechtenstein, Malaysia and Kosovo[1], no longer require the same. Montenegro added Andorra, Botswana, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, San Marino, and Slovakia to the list of countries required to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival, as a measure for conditional authorized entry.

- Malaysia issued new conditions for authorized entry specifically for passengers travelling to Sarawak. Passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result taken at most three days before arrival.

- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines re-issued mandatory hotel quarantine measure upon arrival for passengers arriving form Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Taiwan, Province of People's Republic of China, and Cuba.

- As of 26ᵗʰ February 2021, the United Arab Emirates extended the flight suspension on flights from South Africa until 11ᵗʰ March 2021 and issued a new suspension on flights from Nigeria also until 11ᵗʰ March, finally, flights from Yemen have also been suspended for an unspecified period.

- Czechia removed measures for passengers arriving from Holy See, no longer requiring them to present a completed "Public Health Passenger Locator Form" before boarding. Norway removed requirements for passengers arriving from Iceland to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result.

- India extended the suspension on all flights for an indefinite period, previously this was due to expire on 28ᵗʰ February 2021 whereas Malta extended the passenger ban on all travellers until 11ᵗʰ March 2021. Previously, this ban was issued until 4ᵗʰ March 2021.

- From 23ʳᵈ February 2021, Greece extended the ongoing passenger ban on all travellers until 8ᵗʰ March 2021, (previous expiry date was 22ⁿᵈ February 2021). Additionally, authorities extended the temporary flight suspension on flights from Turkey to Greece which was due to expire on 22ⁿᵈ February 2021 to an indefinite period. Humanitarian, medical evacuation, military and return flights for nationals continue to remain exempt.
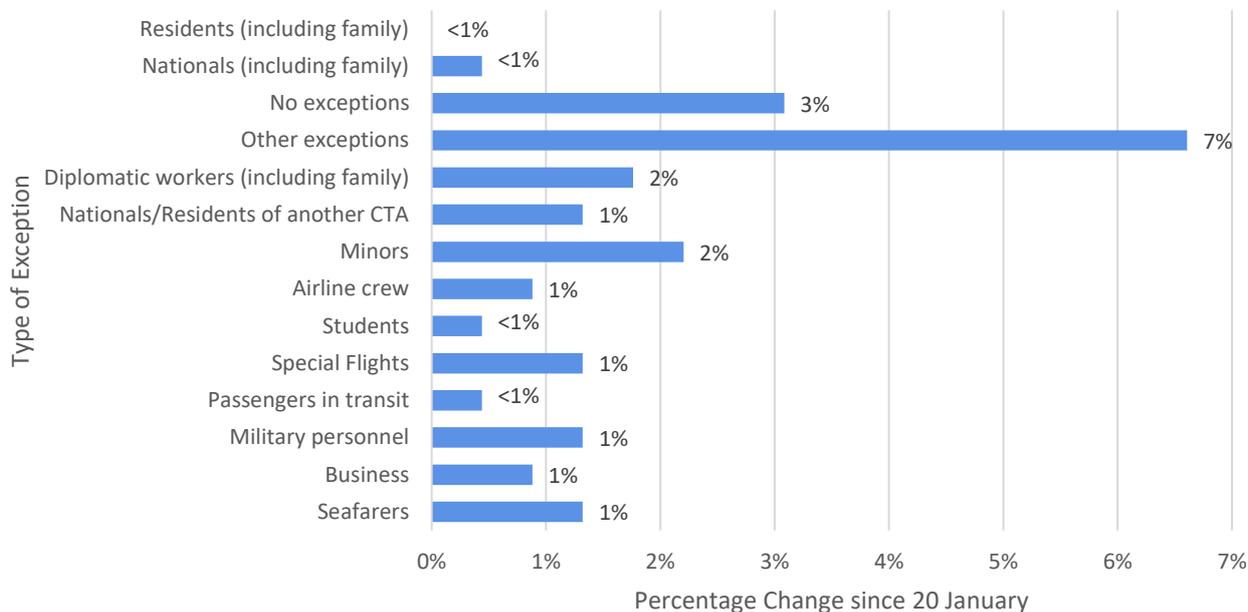
- Kuwait announced the closure of air, land and sea borders (with the exception for shipping operations and workers in neutral zone) from 23rd February until 20th March 2021.

- The Netherlands extended the flight suspension from 22nd February to 4th March 2021, for flights arriving 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 the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

- Flight suspensions on all flights were extended by Tajikistan until 10th March 2021, by Turkmenistan until 1st April 2021.

- Denmark issued a flight suspension of all flights from Iceland to Greenland until 18th April 2021.

- New conditions for authorized entry were issued. Mongolia, Bulgaria and Morocco issued new measures requiring that passengers present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, taken at most 72 hours before arrival. Passengers arriving to Mongolia must also subject to self-isolation, whereas passengers arriving to Morocco must also present a health declaration form, upon arrival.

- Papua New Guinea issued new conditions for authorized entry to include an approved International Air Passenger Travel Form (I-APTF), found here, and a completed e-Health Declaration Form obtained online, required for entry. A generated barcode must be presented.

- India issued new conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving from Afghanistan, Bahrain, France, Germany, Iraq, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Ukraine or United Arab Emirates, who are subject to a COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival and on day seven, at their own expense.

- Changes in measures were issued by Indonesia, which specified that only passengers with an e-visit visa ending in 'LN' would be exempt from the passenger ban.

- Changes and/or extensions in mandatory quarantine at designated locations were made by Nepal and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Nepal changed their mandatory hotel quarantine timeframe from 10 to 5 days, stipulating that passengers who arrive from or have transited through South Africa must present a confirmed hotel reservation for 5 days, from the list of government approved hotels.

- United Arab Emirates issued new conditions for authorized entry for travellers from Turkey who must provide a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result taken at most 72 hours before departure of the last direct flight to the United Arab Emirates.

## ■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions

### Number of C/T/As by type of exception

| Type of Exception | Number of C/T/As Issuing at Least One Exception |
|---|---|
| No exceptions | 115 |
| Other exceptions | 121 |
| Nationals (including family) | 111 |
| Residents (including family) | 101 |
| Minors | 73 |
| Nationals/Residents of another CTA | 51 |
| Diplomatic workers (including family) | 43 |
| Special Flights | 34 |
| Students | 28 |
| Seafarers | 28 |
| Passengers in transit | 27 |
| Military personnel | 24 |
| Airline crew | 24 |
| Business | 21 |

C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (111) and for Residents (101) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 73 different CTAs, and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

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

| Type of Exception | Percentage Change since 20 January |
|---|---|
| Residents (including family) | <1% |
| Nationals (including family) | <1% |
| No exceptions | 3% |
| Other exceptions | 7% |
| Diplomatic workers (including family) | 2% |
| Nationals/Residents of another CTA | 1% |
| Minors | 2% |
| Airline crew | 1% |
| Students | <1% |
| Special Flights | 1% |
| Passengers in transit | <1% |
| Military personnel | 1% |
| Business | 1% |
| Seafarers | 1% |

## Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 817 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 188 C/T/As.
- The C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Croatia (13), Finland (13), Guadeloupe (12), Austria (11), Belgium (11), the Netherlands (11), and Norway (11).
- Between 23rd February and 1st March 2021, 10 countries, territories or areas issued 32 new exceptions whilst 7 countries, territories or areas removed 10 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
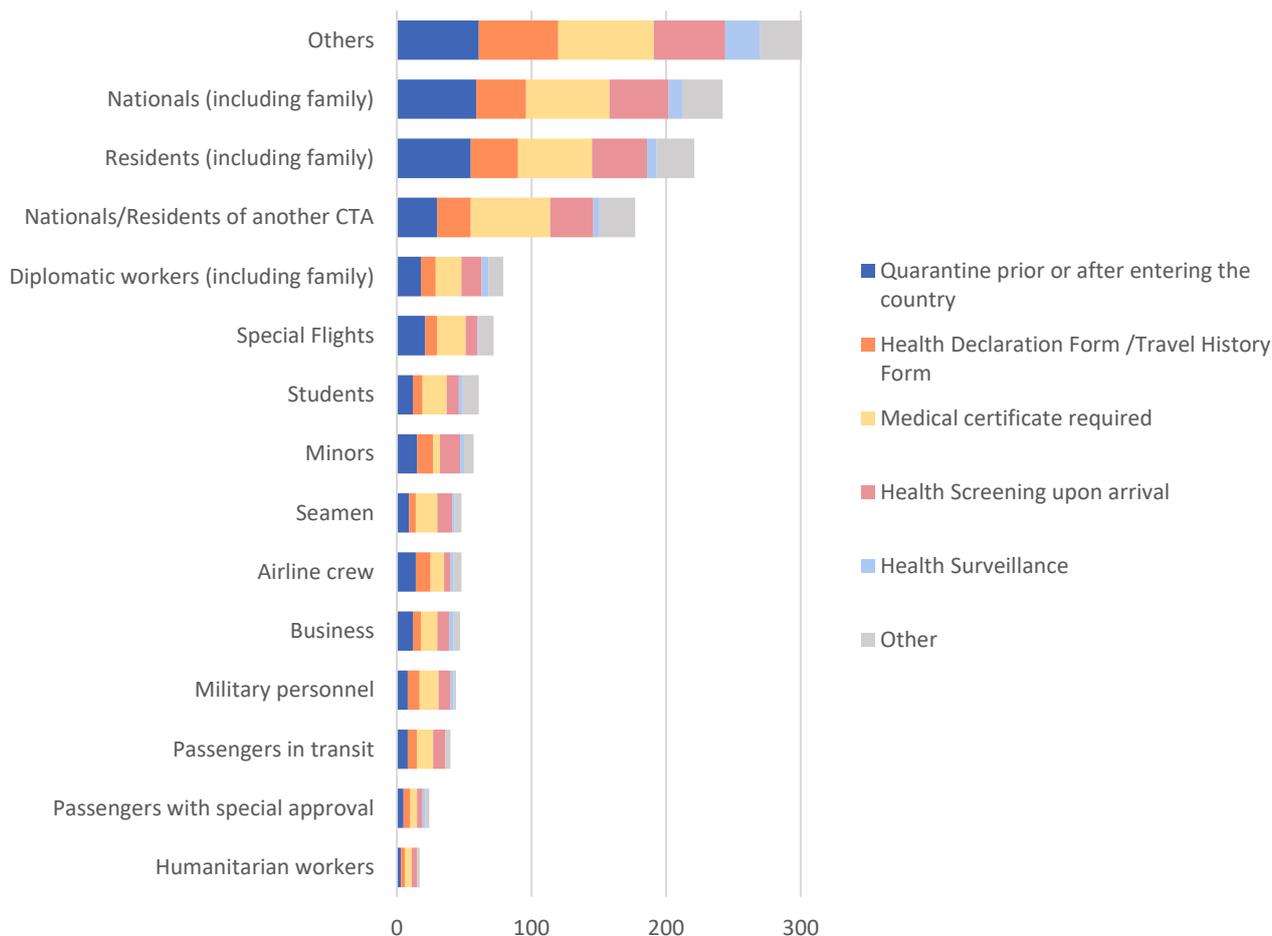


## Noticeable Trends for Conditions for Authorized Entry for Exempted Groups

- Of the 189 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 144 have issued 1,498 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 (53), Guadeloupe (44), Philippines (44), Spain (42), Finland (39), Denmark (32), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (32), and Indonesia (32).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was to provide a medical certificate upon arrival, which was issued at least 384 times. This is the fourth time, and fourth consecutive week, that quarantine prior or after entering the country has not been the top condition, currently listed 330 times, and followed by medical screening.

## ■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- New exceptions to passenger bans were issued by New Zealand for nationals and permanent residents of Australia residing in New Zealand and for passengers arriving from Cook Islands if they have spent the last 14 days in Cook Islands. All arrivals must still subject to medical screening and quarantine for 14 days, presenting a voucher confirming their allocation to a place in managed isolation. Nationals and residents must also present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 antigen, Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP), Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) tests result issued at most 72 hours before first embarkation point, unless they are arriving from Antarctica, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu or Wallis and Futuna Islands.

- New exception for passengers with vaccination certificates were issued by Qatar, they no longer need to provide a hotel booking nor undergo seven days of mandatory quarantine. Slovenia also issued exceptions to the measure requiring the provision of a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, exempting passengers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate. Passengers must provide evidence that they have received the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine at least 21 days before arrival, or the second dose of the Biontech/Pfizer vaccine at least 7 days before arrival or received the second dose of the Moderna vaccine at least 14 days before arrival.

- New exceptions to the conditions for authorized entry were issued. Qatar issued exceptions for passengers who are staff members of NATO. They no longer need to provide a hotel reservation for seven days quarantine upon arrival.