Global Mobility Restriction Overview
Weekly Update • 22nd February 2021

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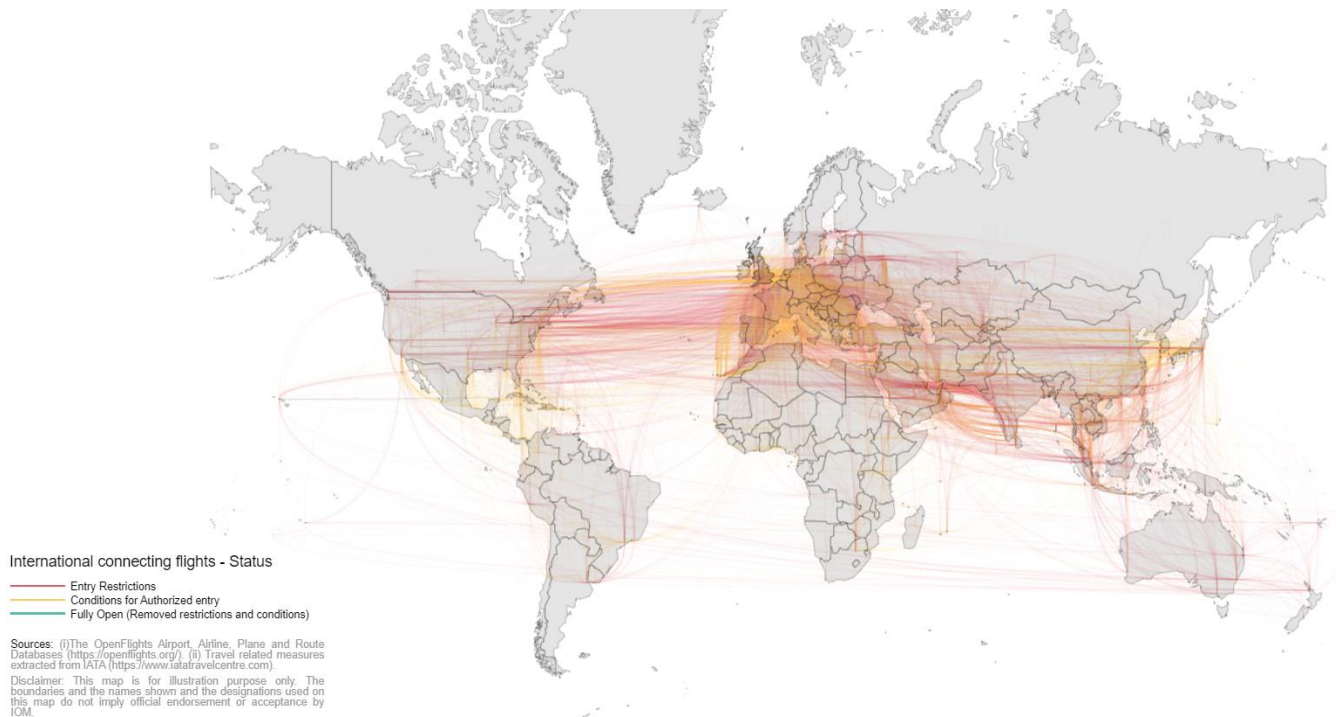
International connecting flights - Status

— 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

The World Health Organization recorded more than 110 million COVID-19 cases globally on 22nd February 2021.[i] As the challenges of the global pandemic continue to intensify, measures to control the spread of new infection cases and subsequent variants of the virus remain stringent. As of 22nd February 2021, a total of 227 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 104,990 travel related measures indicating an increase of one per cent from 103,834 travel related measures reported on 15th February 2021. Of these, 29,371 were reported as entry restrictions and 75,619 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was a decrease of close to one per cent in entry restrictions and an increase of two per cent in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a 22 per cent increase in location surveillance such as Passenger Locator Forms or downloading contact tracing apps on personal devices. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 189 countries, territories or areas have issued 795 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 15th and 22nd February 2021, 10 countries, territories or areas issued 23 new exceptions whilst 4 countries, territories or areas removed 8 exceptions.

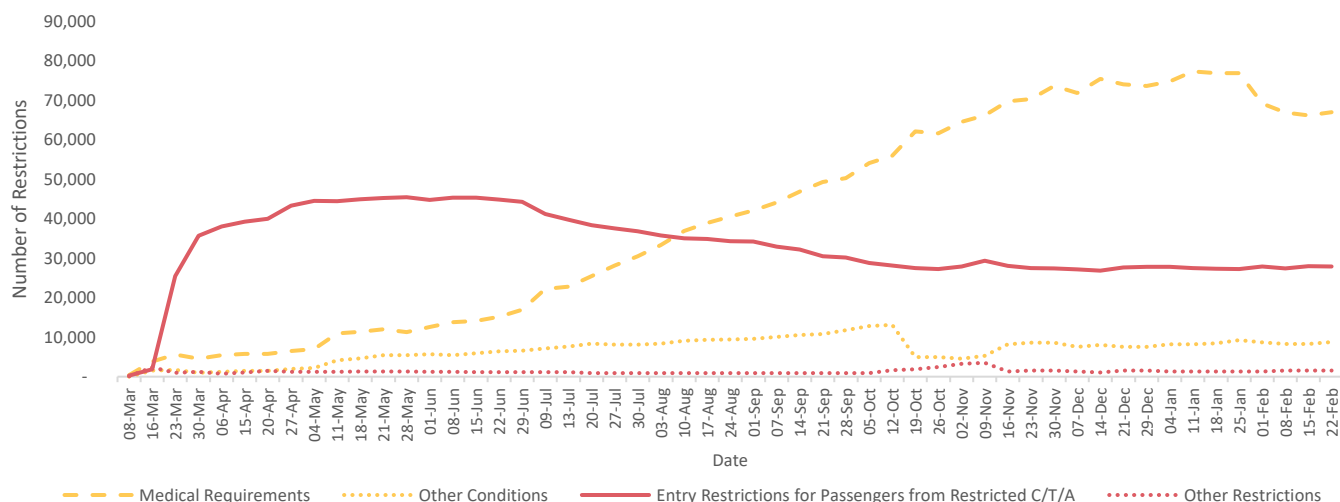## ■ Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry
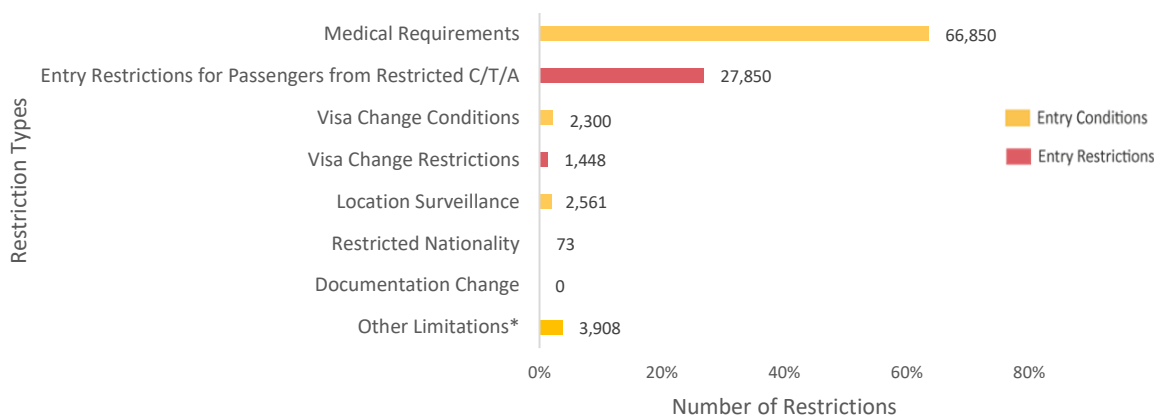
*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.
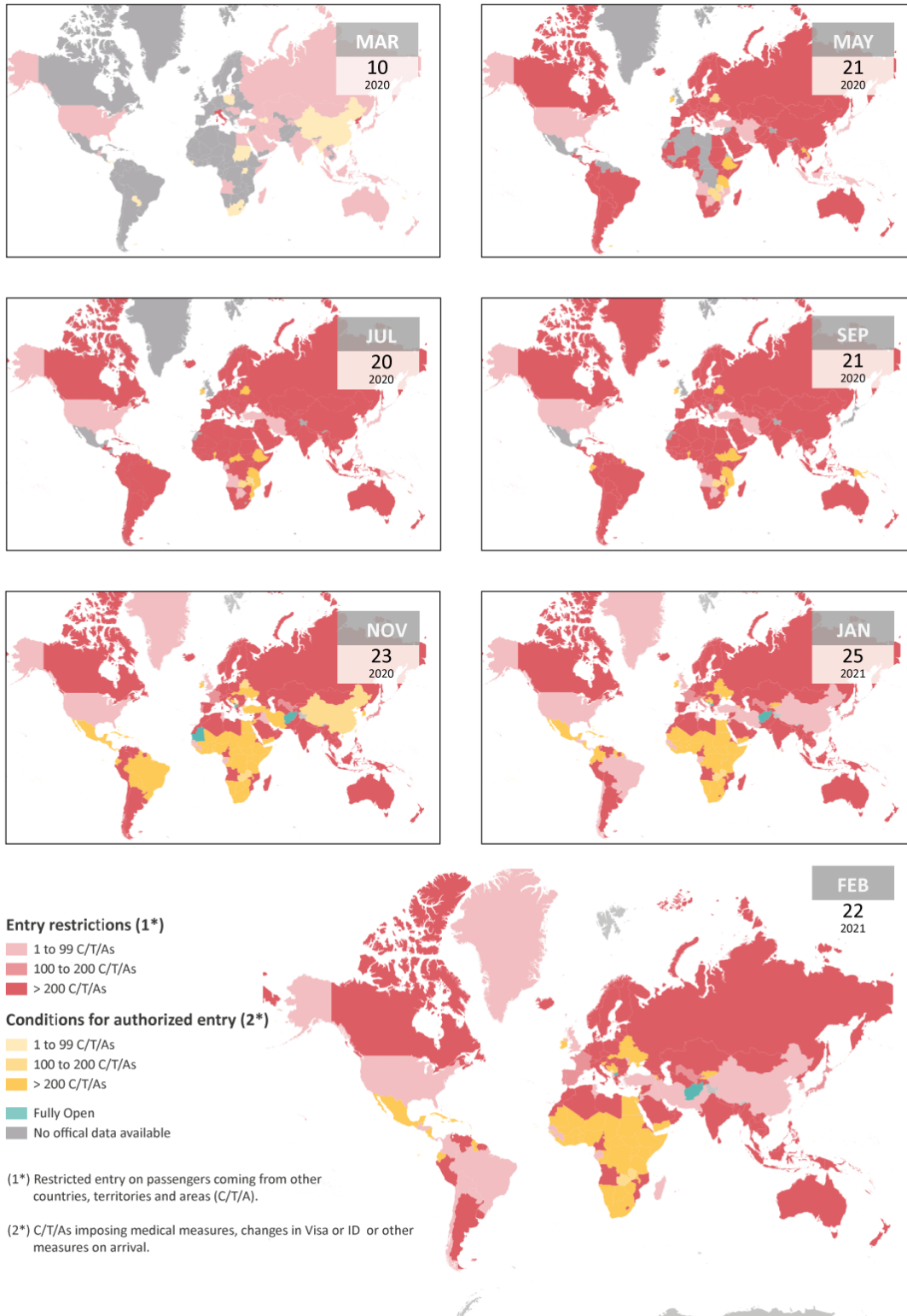
As of 22nd February 2021, 227 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 27 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition for authorized entry representing 64 per cent of conditions. In contrast, visa requirements represent 3 per cent of total restrictions and conditions.

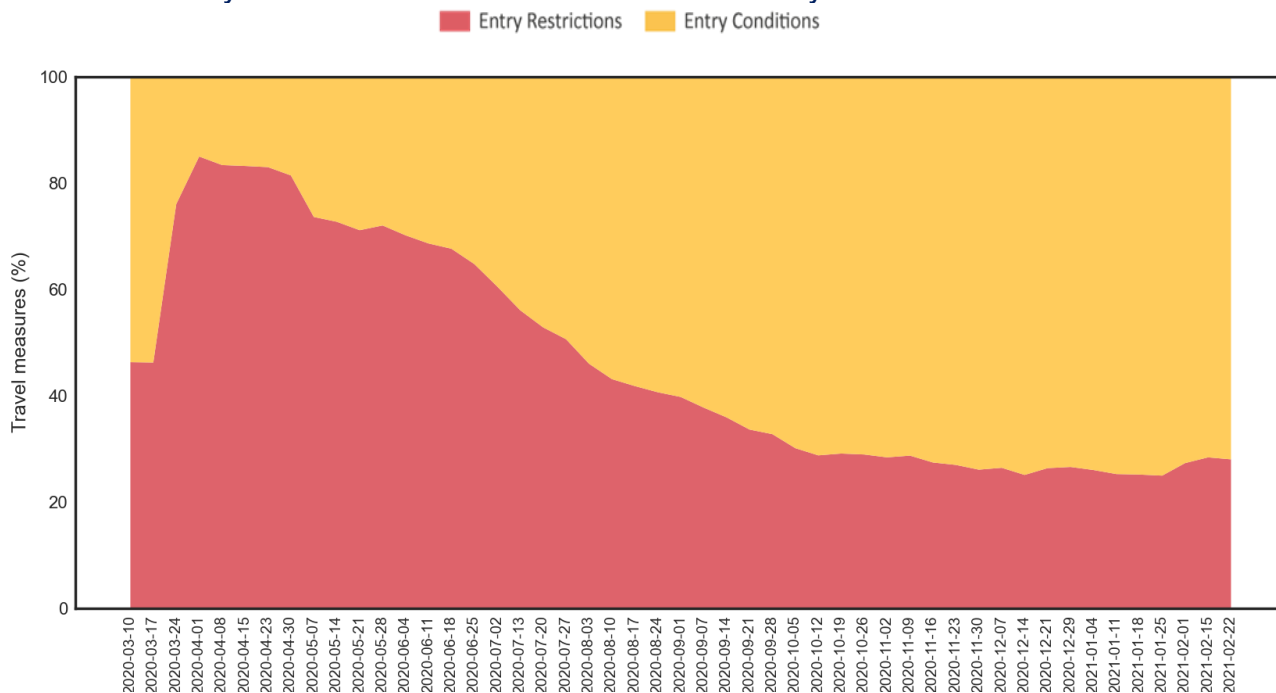### Restrictions and conditions for authorized entry, by type

■ 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 February 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 22nd February 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 22nd February 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
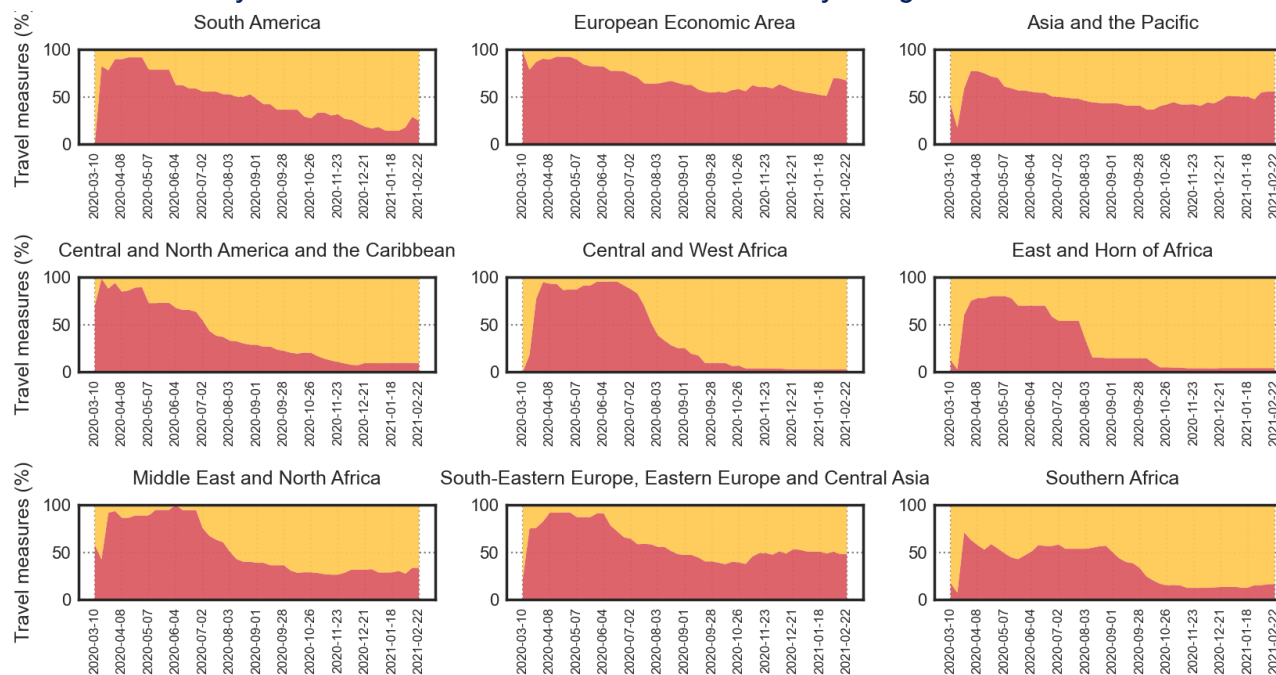
■ Key Highlights on Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

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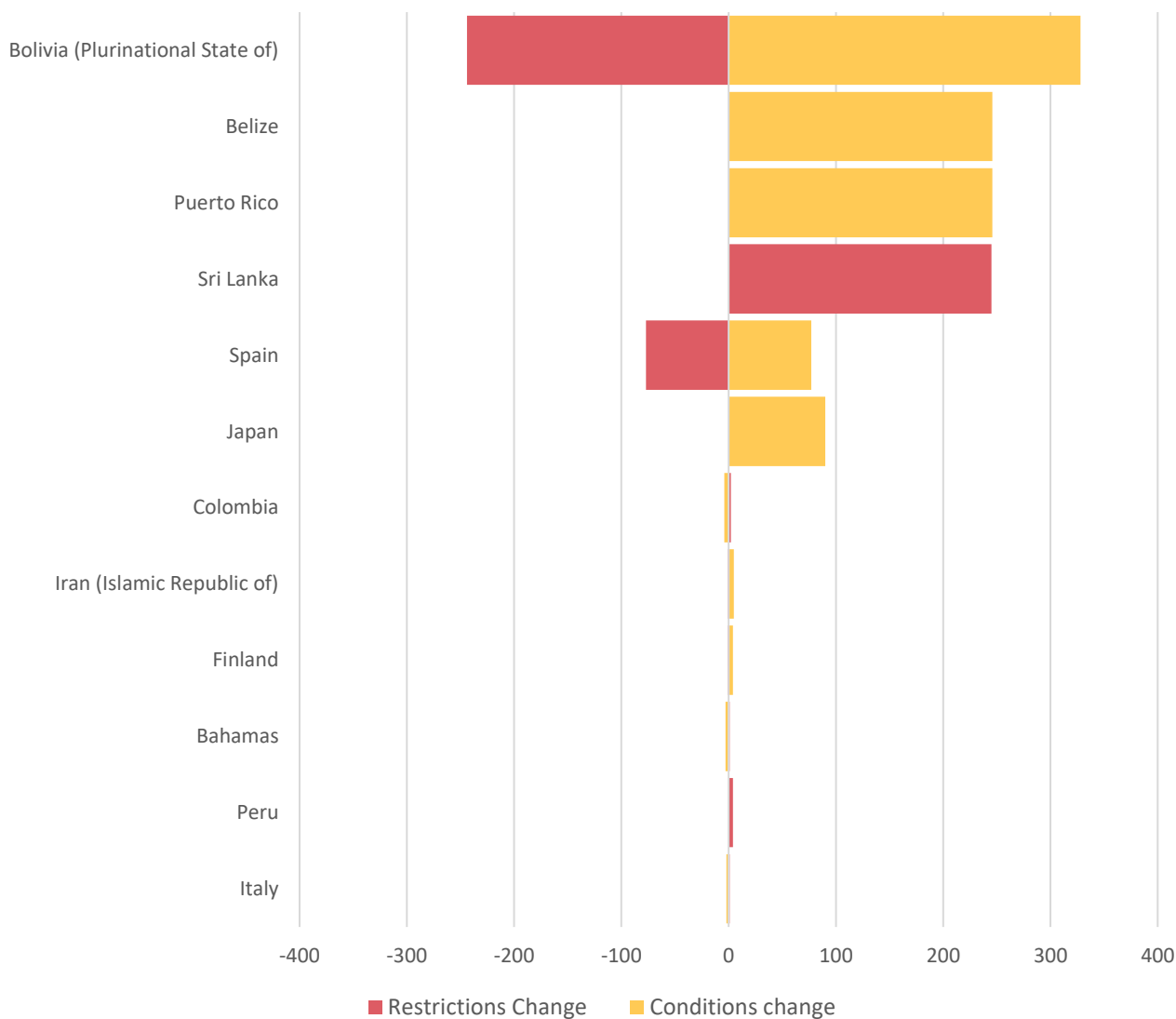
Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[2]

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 between 15th and 22nd February 2021, no new C/T/A added restrictions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and two C/T/As have been removed.

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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 22nd February 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 conditions for entry for passengers arriving to England and Scotland. Passengers arriving in England who have been in or transited through Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chile, Bolivarian Republic of Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Eswatini, French Guiana, Guyana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Zambia or Zimbabwe in the past 10 days must have proof of a hotel quarantine package for 11 nights, and arrive at Birmingham (BHX), Farnborough (FAB), Gatwick (LGW), Heathrow (LHR) or London City (LCY). This measure also applies to all passengers arriving to Scotland.

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.
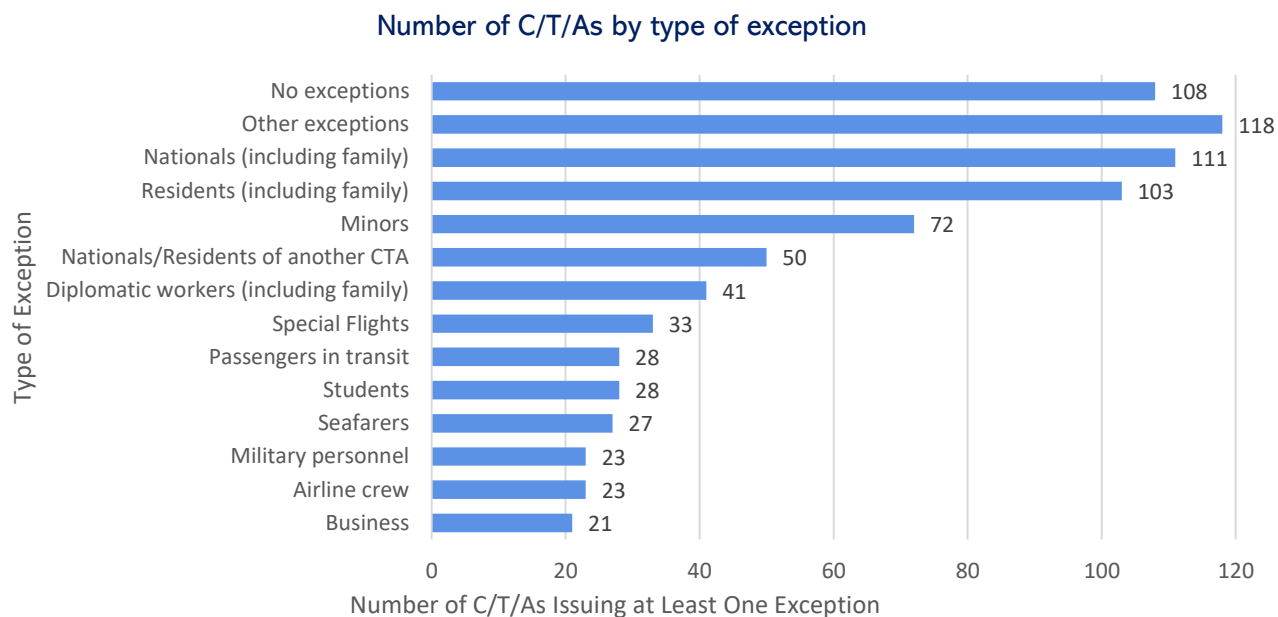
Key Highlights

- Flight suspensions were issued or extended. The Plurinational State of Bolivia extended the flight suspension until 15th March 2021 for flights coming from the European Union Member States and Switzerland.

- Changes to the duration for validity of the mandatory COVID-19 test results for medical certificate were made. Zambia reduced the validity of the test from 14 days to 7 days prior to departure for the medical certificate, the Islamic Republic of Iran increased the validity of the duration of test from 72 to 96 hours prior to departure for the medical certificate, and Belize reduced the validity of the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result from 96 hours to 72 hours. Gabon also reduced the validity of the COVID-19 test result from 7 days to 5 days before departure.

- Puerto Rico updated conditions for authorized entry, previously all passengers were subject to mandatory quarantine upon arrival, however, as of 19th February 2021, only passengers without a medical certificate (in Spanish or English) with a negative COVID-19 test result are subject to quarantine.

- As of 15th February 2021, Spain has extended the flight suspension for flights from Brazil and South Africa until 2nd March 2021. However, this does not apply to nationals and residents of both Andorra and Spain.

- Amidst new cases of the second variant being reported, the Islamic Republic of Iran closed its land border crossings with Iraq until further notice.

- Finland removed passenger the ban for passengers arriving from Iceland and Holy See, however they must present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 antigen or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival. Passengers without a certificate are subject to COVID-19 testing upon arrival and self-isolation.

- Bahamas issued a passenger ban on travellers until 7th March 2021, who are arriving from or have transited through Haiti.

- Peru extended the passenger ban for travellers who have been in the past 14 days in Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Italy, 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, the Holy See or Kosovo[1]. However, this does not apply to passengers who are nationals and residents of Peru.

- Changes in measures were issued by Italy, authorities lifted the temporary passenger ban on travellers who had been in or transited through Brazil in the last 14 days on 15th February 2021. Now, exempt passengers who have been in or transited through Brazil in the past 14 days, must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 molecular or antigen test, taken at most 72 hours before arrival. Passengers are also subject to COVID-19 test upon arrival; and are subject to self-isolation for 14 days. Additionally, Italy also issued the same conditions for authorized entry for passengers who have been in or transited through Austria for more than 12 hours in the past 14 days. The only difference is that the validity of the negative test result for the medical certificate for travellers from Austria is 48 hours.

- Canada extended travel restrictions for passengers arriving from the United States of America until 21st March 2021, and for passengers arriving from any other country, territory or area, this passenger ban has been extended until 21st April 2021.

- As of 17thFebruary 2021, Czechia issued a passenger ban on travellers from Iceland and issued exceptions for the passenger ban for travellers arriving from Portugal and Luxembourg.

- On 21st February 2021, Israel extended the suspension of all flights from 20th February to 6th March 2021, and extended the total passenger ban on all travellers to 6th March 2021, (previously 1st March 2021). Additionally, nationals and residents of Israel, as well as diplomats are no longer exempt from this passenger ban.

- Portugal has set 1st March 2021 as the end date for the current ban on all incoming passengers, previously this date was unspecified.

- In some cases, certain travel restrictions have been carefully lifted. Authorities in Vanuatu and New Caledonia announced a new 'travel bubble' on 19th February 2021, which will come into effect from April to allow the resumption of business-related travel, and for students from Vanuatu to return for studies in New Caledonia.

- The closure of the borders between the United States of America and Mexico, and the United States of America with Canada has been extended from 21st February until 21st March 2021. Meanwhile, Denmark closed its land border with Germany on 19th February 2021 after infection cases were reported in a border region.

- An extension of the passenger ban was issued by Malta until 4th March 2021, the previous passenger ban was until 18th February 2021.

- Changes to passenger bans were also noted during the reporting period. Republic of Moldova lifted the passenger ban on travellers who have been in or transited through Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Panama in the last 14 days. However, authorities issued a passenger ban on travellers arriving from Bahrain, Albania and Serbia. Whereas Cyprus reissued a passenger ban to bar the entry of passengers arriving from, or have been in Japan, Rwanda, San Marino or Holy See in the last 14 days.

- New measures on airlines staff were issued. Zambia requires all airline staff to undergo mandatory COVID-19 screening upon arrival. Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region People's Republic of China require all airline staff who have been in or transited through Ireland and Brazil in the last 21 days must undergo mandatory quarantine of 21 days upon arrival.
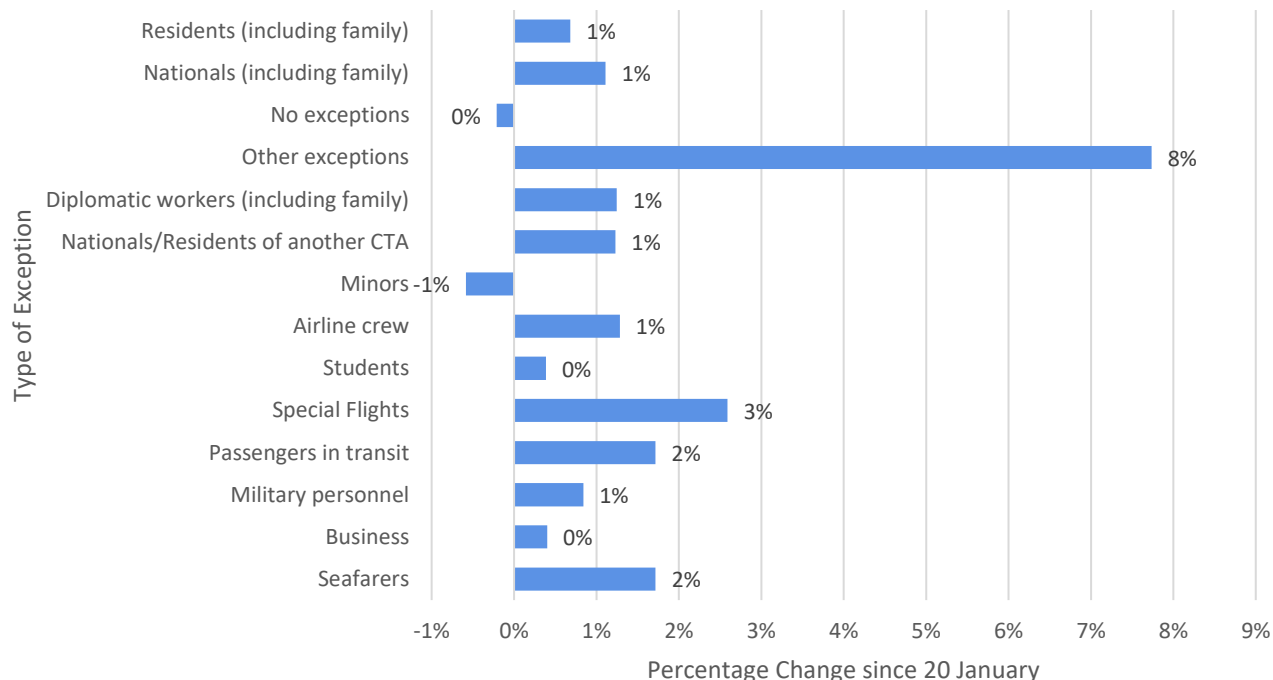
- Passengers arriving to India from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Brazil, France, Germany, Iraq, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Oman, Qatar, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates are subject to a COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival at their own expense and quarantine for up to 14 days.

- New conditions for authorized entry requiring online registration were issued. New Caledonia issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring that passengers travelling to Noumea (NOU), Wallis Island (WLS) and Futuna Island (FUT), register online before departure. Romania issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring passenger to present a completed passenger locator for upon arrival. The form can be obtained online.

- Canada added new conditions for authorized entry, requiring that all passengers present a confirmed hotel reservation for three nights and subject to a COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival as well as to another test during quarantine.

- India issued new conditions for conditional authorized entry requiring that all passengers must complete the self-declaration form online before departure and present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse-transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. Iceland issued a new condition for authorized conditional entry. All arriving passengers must present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before departure, in Danish, English, Icelandic, Norwegian or Swedish.

- Mandatory quarantine with hotel reservation were issued as new conditions for authorized entry. Oman and Qatar require passengers who are exempt from the passenger ban to undergo mandatory quarantine at their own expense and must have a confirmed hotel reservation for at least 7 days. However, for Oman, passengers with diplomatic passports, passengers younger than 16 years or older than 60 years, passengers who are sick and have obtained an authorisation from the Health Authorities, and passengers with a permit for private institutional isolation centres that are pre-approved by the Relief and Shelter Sector are exempt. For Qatar, passengers with a diplomatic ID or Admin card issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar are exempt from providing a hotel reservation. Thailand also issued the same measure specifying that the costs must be covered by travellers.

- Germany lifted conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving from Spain and Lithuania, who no longer require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter.

- Switzerland expanded the list of accepted tests, passengers entering or transiting through Switzerland can now also provide medical certificates with a negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test result if taken at most 24h before departure. Previously, only Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests were permitted.

- Kuwait added three new conditions for authorized entry for exempted passengers who include nationals, residents and domestic workers of nationals. Such passengers must register online before departure. They are subject to 2 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests at their own expense upon arrival. They must have a payment confirmation online. Passengers are subject to quarantine for up to 14 days at their own expense and have a confirmed hotel reservation booked online.

- Authorities in Romania extended the validity of expired residence permits. Residence permits issued by Romania which have expired are considered valid with an extension of 90 days after 13th March 2021 (previously this was 90 days after 13th November 2020).

■ 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	108
Other exceptions	118
Nationals (including family)	111
Residents (including family)	103
Minors	72
Nationals/Residents of another CTA	50
Diplomatic workers (including family)	41
Special Flights	33
Passengers in transit	28
Students	28
Seafarers	27
Military personnel	23
Airline crew	23
Business	21

C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (111) and for Residents (103) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 72 different CTAs, and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter

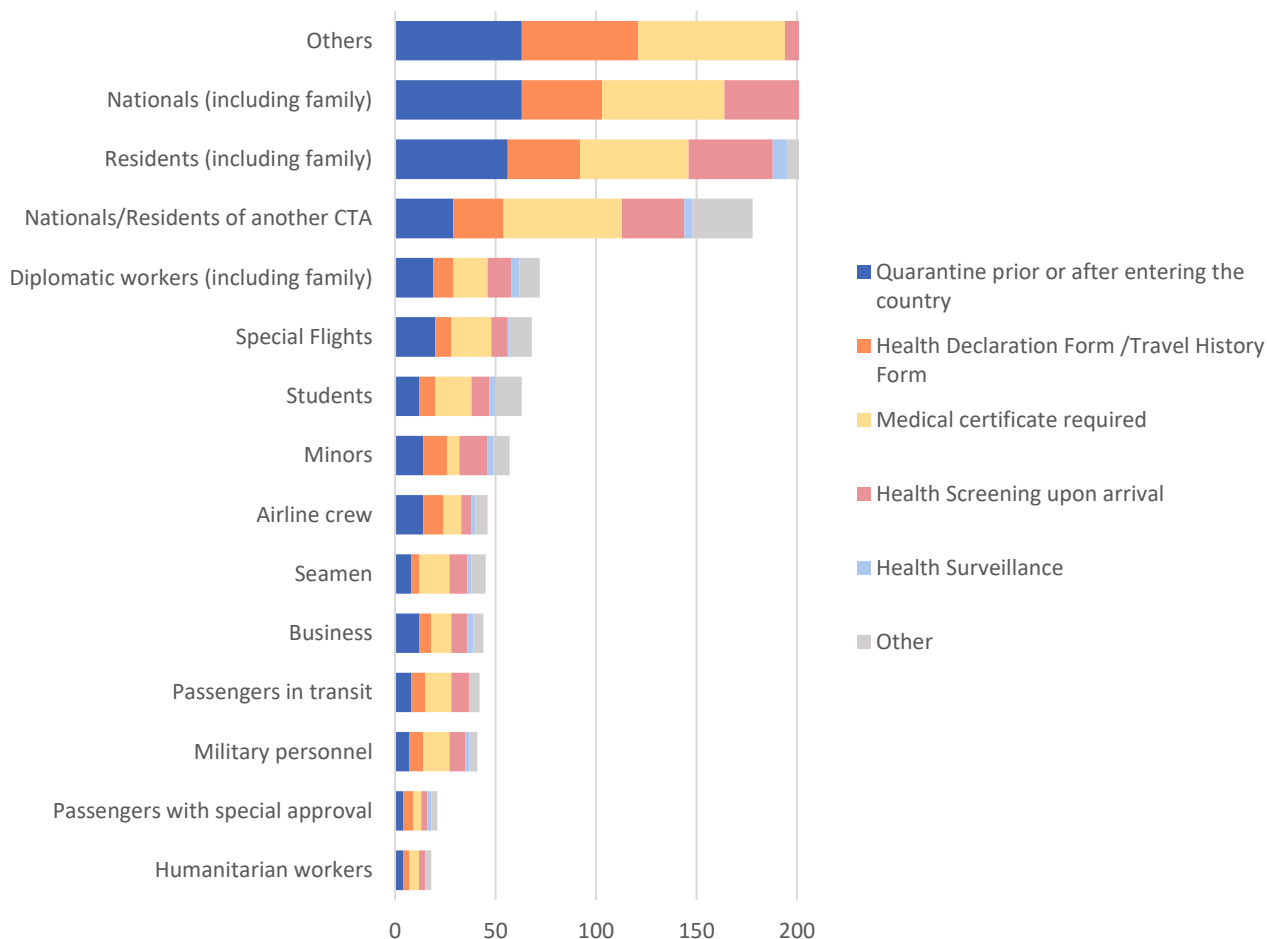| Type of Exception	Percentage Change since 20 January
Residents (including family)	1%
Nationals (including family)	1%
No exceptions	0%
Other exceptions	8%
Diplomatic workers (including family)	1%
Nationals/Residents of another CTA	1%
Minors	-1%
Airline crew	1%
Students	0%
Special Flights	3%
Passengers in transit	2%
Military personnel	1%
Business	0%
Seafarers	2%

Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 795 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 189 C/T/As.
- The C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were the Croatia (13), Finland (13), Guadeloupe (12), Austria (11), Belgium (10), and the Netherlands (10).
- Between 15th and 22nd February 2021, 10 countries, territories or areas issued 23 new exceptions whilst 4 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

Legend:
- ■ Quarantine prior or after entering the country
- ■ Health Declaration Form /Travel History Form
- ■ Medical certificate required
- ■ Health Screening upon arrival
- ■ Health Surveillance
- ■ Other

Noticeable Trends for Conditions for Authorized Entry for Exempted Groups

- Of the 189 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 146 have issued 1,472 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 (41), Finland (39), and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (32).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was to provide a medical certificate upon arrival, which was issued at least 377 times. This is the third time, and third consecutive week, that quarantine prior or after entering the country has not been the top condition, currently listed 333 times, and followed by medical screening (259).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Exceptions to conditions for authorized entry were removed. Passengers arriving from Croatia to Romania are now required to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result.

- Exceptions from entry conditions for nationals and residents were removed, all passengers entering Zambia, including residents and nationals must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter.

- New exceptions to passenger bans were issued by Philippines and Denmark, allowing conditional entry to passengers with a visa issued on or before 20th March 2020 and for diplomats and their families, respectively.

- New exception for vaccinated passengers were issued by Slovenia. Passengers with a vaccination certificate do not need to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter.

- New exception for passengers who have recovered from COVID-19. Slovenia issued an exception for passengers with a positive COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test (in the last 21 days to 6 months) do not need to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter. Singapore also added an exception for passengers with a medical certificate with a positive COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at least 22 days before arrival, are exempt from providing a medical certificate.

- Russian Federation issued new exceptions to the passenger ban allowing entry to nationals of Greece and Singapore arriving directly from these locations.