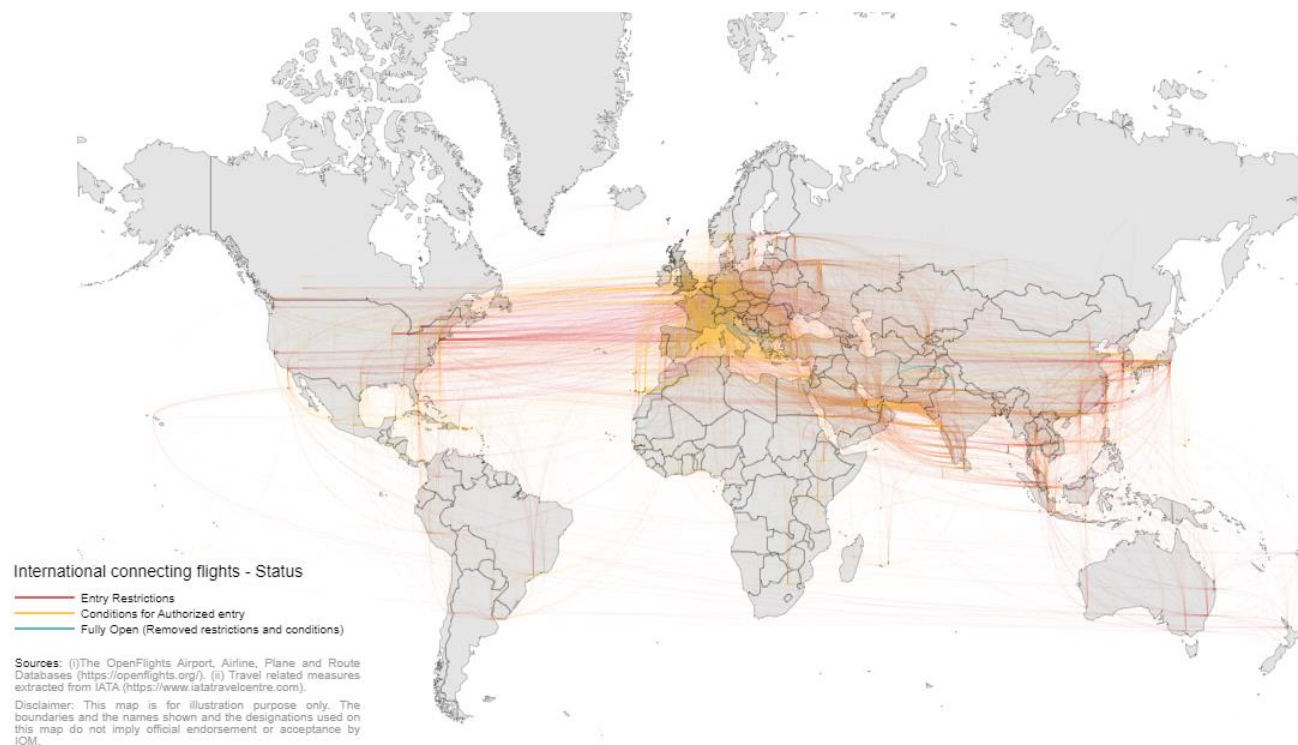


# Global Mobility Restriction Overview





Weekly Update • 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021



COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series  
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## 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](#).

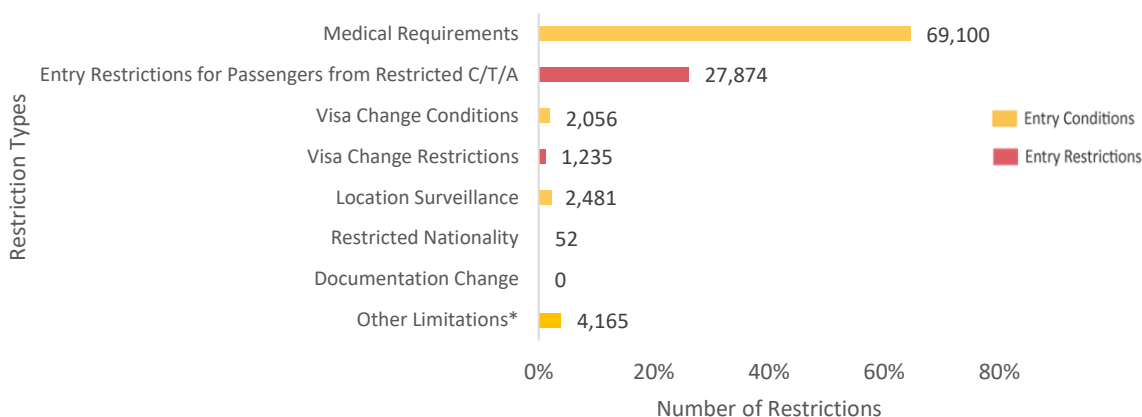
Disclaimer: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe mobility restrictions in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities 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

As the global number of reported COVID-19 cases has exceeded 100 million and 2 million deaths as per the [World Health Organization](#) on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, travel related measures to mitigate the spread of new infection remain in place.<sup>i</sup> As of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, a total of 227 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 106,963 travel related measures indicating a decrease of 7 per cent from 114,490 travel related measures reported on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Of these, 29,161 were reported as entry restrictions and 77,802 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was a decrease of 9 per cent in conditions for authorized entry and a 2 per cent increase in entry restrictions. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a decrease of 18 per cent in visa requirements and a 10 per cent decrease in medical requirements such as quarantine or medical certificates. There was a two per cent increase in entry restrictions such as restrictions on passengers arriving from specific destinations issued between 25<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 183 countries, territories or areas have issued 751 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 25<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, 21 countries, territories or areas issued 46 new exceptions whilst 16 countries, territories or areas removed 48 exceptions.

## Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

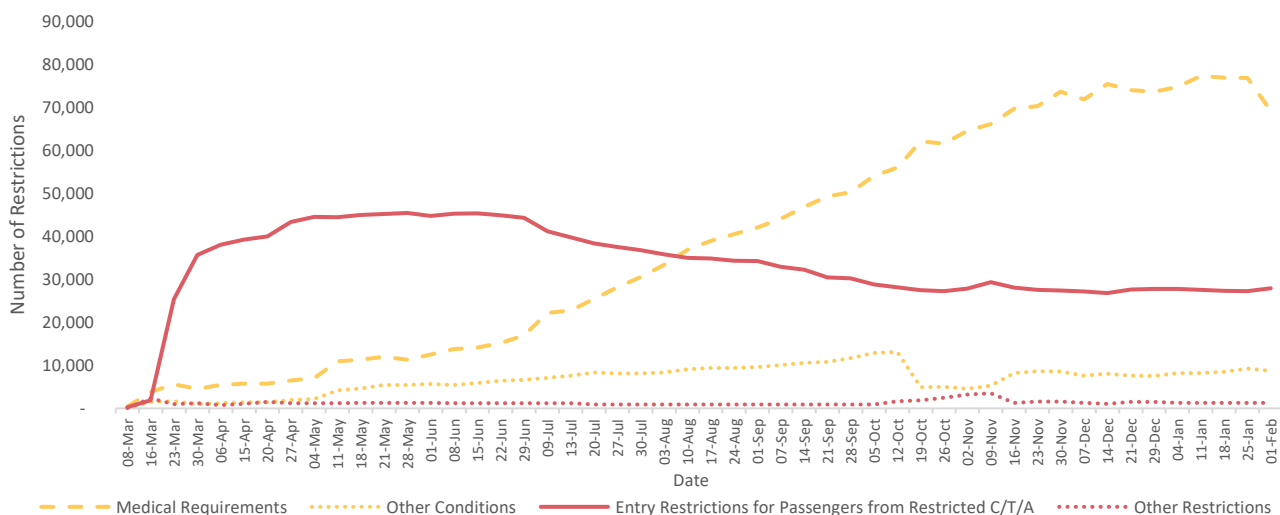
Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry



\*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.

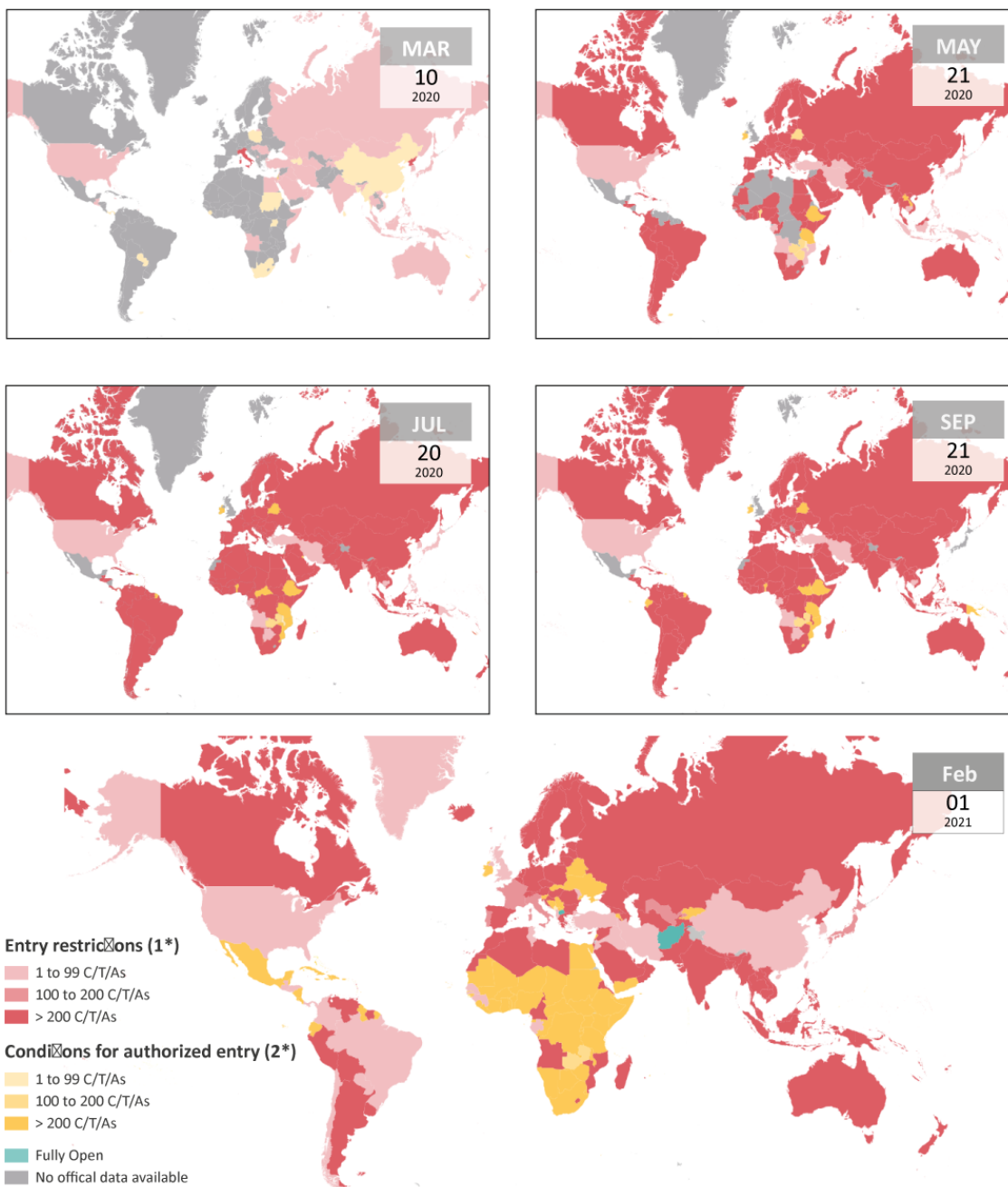
As of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, 227 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 26 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common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

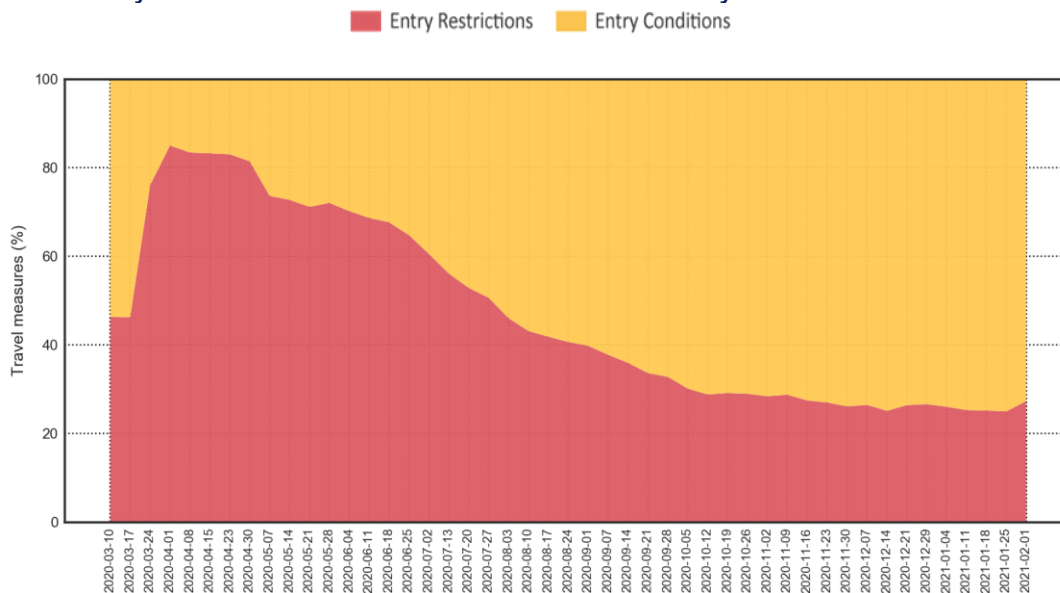


(1\*) Restricted entry on passengers coming from other countries, territories and areas (C/T/A).

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

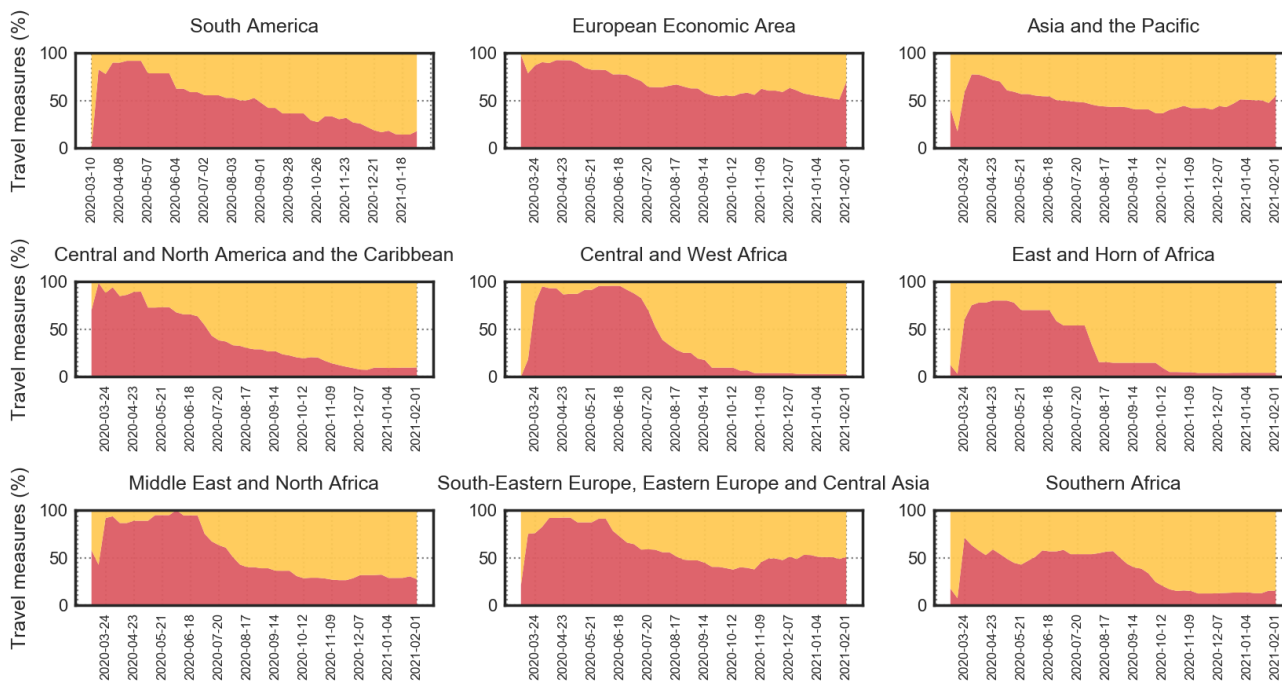
The chart below shows the shift from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' over time. In April 2020, entry restrictions constituted 80 per cent of all COVID-19 related measures (coloured in red), but this proportion has gradually decreased to 25 per cent, as of 1<sup>st</sup> February 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 January 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

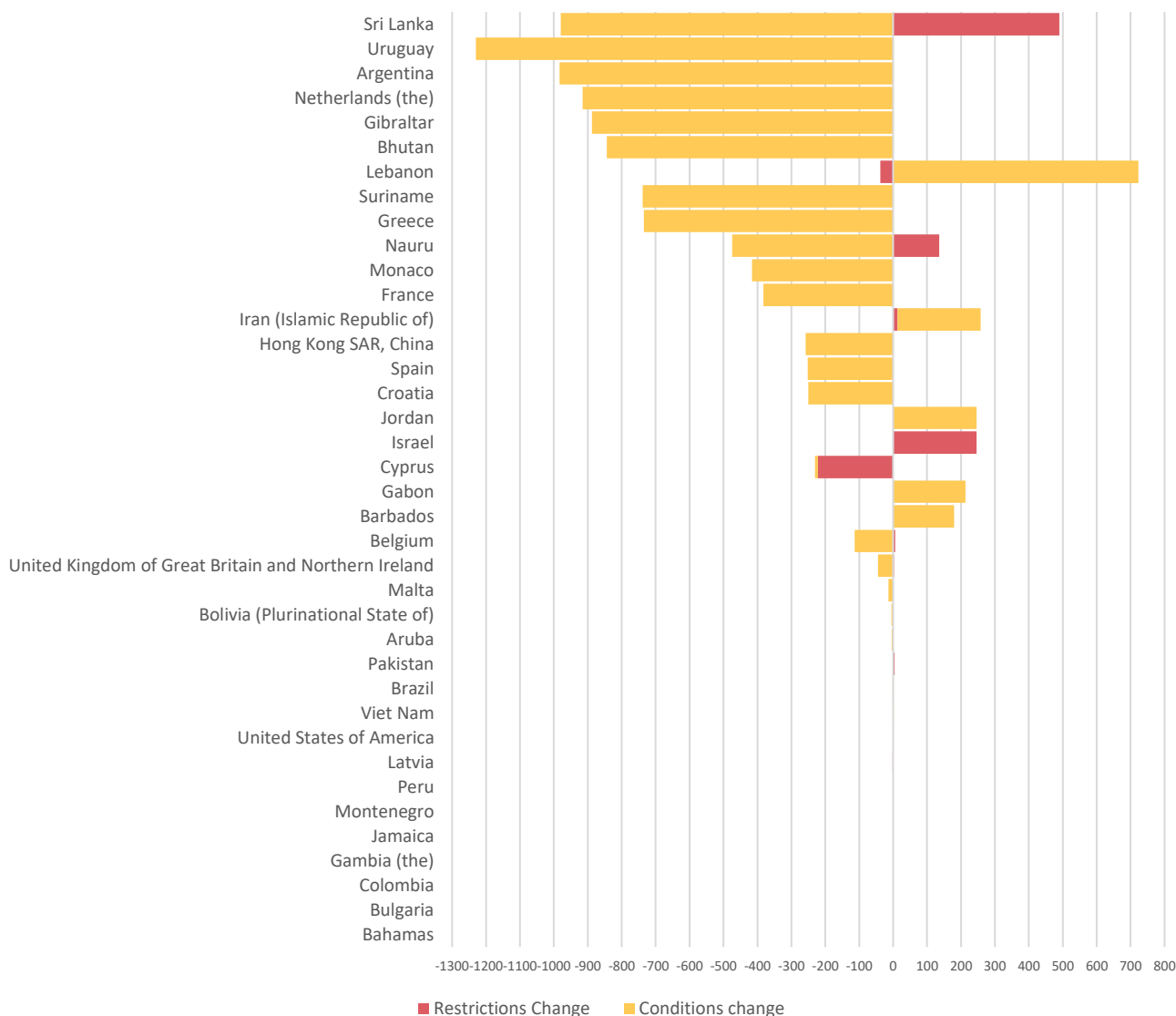
### Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Regional overview



## ■ 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 25<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, 38 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 15 of them made minor changes. While 24 C/T/As removed existing conditions for authorized entry, 7 C/T/As removed new total restrictions. There were 7 and 13 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



### Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>

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 1st February 2021, a total of 98 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 28th January and 1st February 2021, no new C/T/A added restrictions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

<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 1st February 2021 at 15:00 GMT.

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

- The Authorities issued a passenger ban on travellers arriving from Burundi, Rwanda, United Arab Emirates.
- Flights from the United Arab Emirates are suspended.
- Changes to conditions for authorized entry were issued, passengers entering or transiting through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Antigen, Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most three days before departure of the last direct flight to the United Kingdom. The certificate must be in English, French or Spanish.

## Changes in Existing COVID-19 Measures

- Finland lifted the flight suspension on flights arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Jordan issued an end date (7th February 2021) for the temporary flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- The United States of America removed a specific restriction stipulating that passengers arriving from the United Kingdom must complete a disclosure and attestation form before departure. The form can be obtained online or at the departure airport in the United Kingdom.
- The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Philippines extended the flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an unspecified period.
- Bulgaria lifted both the passenger band and flight suspension for British nationals and flights accordingly.
- Nationals and residents of Montenegro arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland without a medical certificate with a negative Coronavirus (COVID-19) PCR test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival are subject to self-isolation for 14 days, while passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must have a medical certificate with a negative Coronavirus (COVID-19) PCR test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival (this does not apply to nationals and residents of Montenegro).

## Key Highlights

- Sri Lanka issued a flight suspension until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021. However, humanitarian and medical evacuation flights are exempt. Exceptions for nationals, dual nationals and tourists were also issued.
- Netherlands issued a temporary suspension on flights from Argentina, 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<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. The Netherlands also issued new conditions for authorized entry for all passengers and airline crew entering or transiting through the Netherlands, they must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 antigen or Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) rapid test, which must have been taken at most 4 hours before departure from the first embarkation point (or before departure of the last direct flight to the Netherlands). However, exceptions were issued for passengers below the age of 13 years, passengers with a diplomatic passport, merchant seafarers (with a seaman book traveling on duty), passengers with a NATO Travel Order or a NATO-2 visa, and to airline crew who do not leave the aircraft in a country other than Aruba, Australia, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, People's Republic of China, Curaçao, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China, Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Macao Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, Sint Maarten or Thailand.
- New conditions for authorized entry were issued by Lebanon. Passengers and airline crew are subject to COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test upon arrival. Exceptions were issued for airline crew who stay for a maximum period of 24 hours and for children.



- France has issued a new entry restriction in which passengers need to complete a declaration on honour to state that they do not have symptoms of COVID-19, that 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. Exceptions were issued for passengers arriving from Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland or Holy See.
- The Islamic Republic of Iran issued a passenger ban on travellers who are arriving from or who have been in the past 14 days in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Japan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Zambia or Zimbabwe, they are not allowed to enter the country.
- Passengers arriving to People's Republic of China from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China and Macao Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result issued at most seven days before departure.
- Croatia issued new conditions for authorized entry for passengers from Brazil who must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival and they are subject to self-isolation for 14 days.
- New conditions for authorized entry were issued. Jordan requiring all exempt passengers to present a completed "Passenger Health Declaration Form" and a "Locator Form" upon arrival.
- Israel has issued a flight suspension until the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, although medical evacuation flights are exempt.
- Passengers entering Gabon are now subject to COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction testing upon arrival. This was added to existing entry conditions which include quarantine for 14 days and a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test issued five days before departure.
- Colombia issued a flight suspension with Brazil whereas Aruba issued a passenger ban on travellers arriving from Brazil in effect from 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- Pakistan issued a passenger ban on travellers who have been in or transited through Brazil, Ireland, the Netherlands and Portugal. However, exceptions for nationals of Pakistan with a visa issued by Brazil, Ireland, the Netherlands and Portugal were issued. Such passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test taken at most 72 hours before departure, are subject to COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction PCR test upon arrival and are subject to quarantine for 14 days.
- Brazil issued a flight suspension on flights from South Africa on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021. However, nationals of Brazil who have transited through South Africa in the past 14 days are subject to mandatory quarantine for 14 days upon return home.
- Viet Nam has updated its restrictions for passengers travelling on business. They are now subject to quarantine for 14 days.
- As of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the United States of America issued a passenger ban on travellers who have transited or have been in South Africa in the past 14 days.
- Latvia lifted the flight suspension on flights arriving from Andorra and Luxembourg as of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- As of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021, Peru issued a temporary passenger ban on travellers who have been in Brazil in the last 14 days, valid until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021. While nationals and residents of Peru are exempt, flights from Brazil to Peru are also suspended, until 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- The Gambia lifted conditions for authorized entry for passengers arriving from Nigeria. They are no longer subject to COVID-19 tests on arrival and do not have to quarantine until results are available.

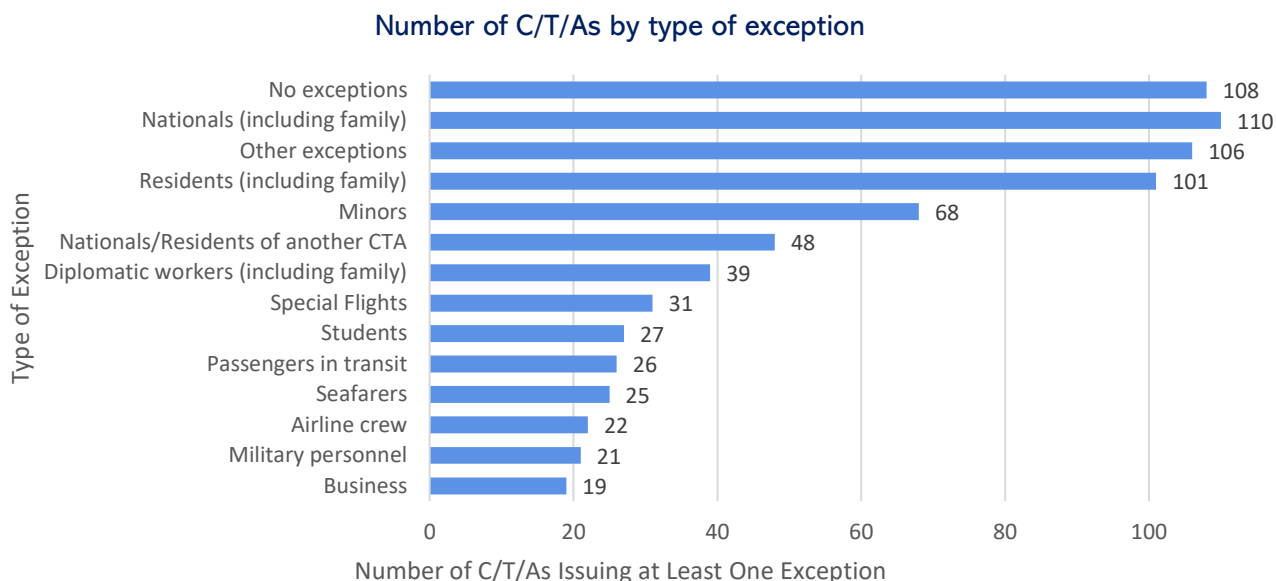
- On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Finland lifted the flight suspensions on incoming flights from Ireland and South Africa.
- Flight suspensions were extended by Lesotho until 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, Tajikistan until 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- Azerbaijan extended the passenger ban from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, Bulgaria extended the passenger ban until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, whereas Iceland extended the passenger ban for an indefinite period.
- Finland updated its medical requirements stating that passengers without a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival are subject to a COVID-19 test upon arrival and subject to self-isolation. Authorities also issued an exception for passengers with a medical discharge of a COVID-19 infection, which occurred at most 6 months before arrival.
- United States of America issued new conditions for authorized entry that requires passengers to have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 viral antigen, Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP), Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and Reverse Transcriptase- Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR), Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) or molecular test (TMA) test result. The test must have been taken at most three days before departure from the first embarkation point. At the same time, all passengers must now complete a disclosure and attestation form before departure, which can be found [online](#) or at the departing airport.
- Nationals and residents of Maldives are now subject to mandatory self-quarantine for 10 days.
- Measures on airline crew were issued. Zambia now requires all airline crew to undergo COVID-19 screening upon arrival whereas Norway issued new measures on airline crew arriving from Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Portugal and the Netherlands, who are subject to COVID-19 testing upon arrival.
- All passengers arriving to Luxembourg, (except children under the age of 6 or travellers in transit) must present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid or a COVID-19 rapid antigen, issued at most 72 hours prior to arrival.
- Indonesia has extended the medical certificate requirement (passengers and airline crew must have a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 PCR test result, which must be in English and must have been taken at most 7 days before departure from the first embarkation point) from the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- Extensions of permits were issued. Residence permits issued by Italy which expired or will expire between the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2020 and the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are considered valid until the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- Airline crew not residing in New Zealand must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result (tests accepted are antigen, Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP), Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and Reverse Transcriptase- Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) which must have been taken at most 7 days before arrival; or a medical certificate issued at most 7 days before arrival. The certificate must confirm that they have no COVID-19 symptoms, or they cannot take a COVID-19 test due to particular needs; or a medical certificate stating that they are not infectious with COVID-19 if they were tested positive at most 7 days before arrival.
- Nationals of Republic of Korea arriving from Brazil without a printed medical certificate of a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point are subject to quarantine for 14 days at their own expense.
- If passengers with a Chinese Taipei passport or with an Alien Resident Certificate travelling to Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China arrive without a medical certificate with a COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result issued at most 3 working days before departure from the first embarkation point, they must complete an "Entry Quarantine Affidavit" before departure and are subject to an Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test upon arrival at their own expense.
- Russian Federation lifted the entry ban on nationals and residents of Qatar, Finland, India and Viet Nam. They must arrive from their country of nationality and residency.
- Islamic Republic of Iran requires all passengers to fill and complete a "Passenger Commitment Letter" which must be presented upon arrival. The form can be found [online](#). Likewise, all passengers entering or transiting



through Barbados must complete a Sworn Statement obtained online. For entry to Lebanon, passengers must complete an "Airport Tracking Registration Form" before departure, which will generate an approval e-mail or SMS that must be presented upon arrival.

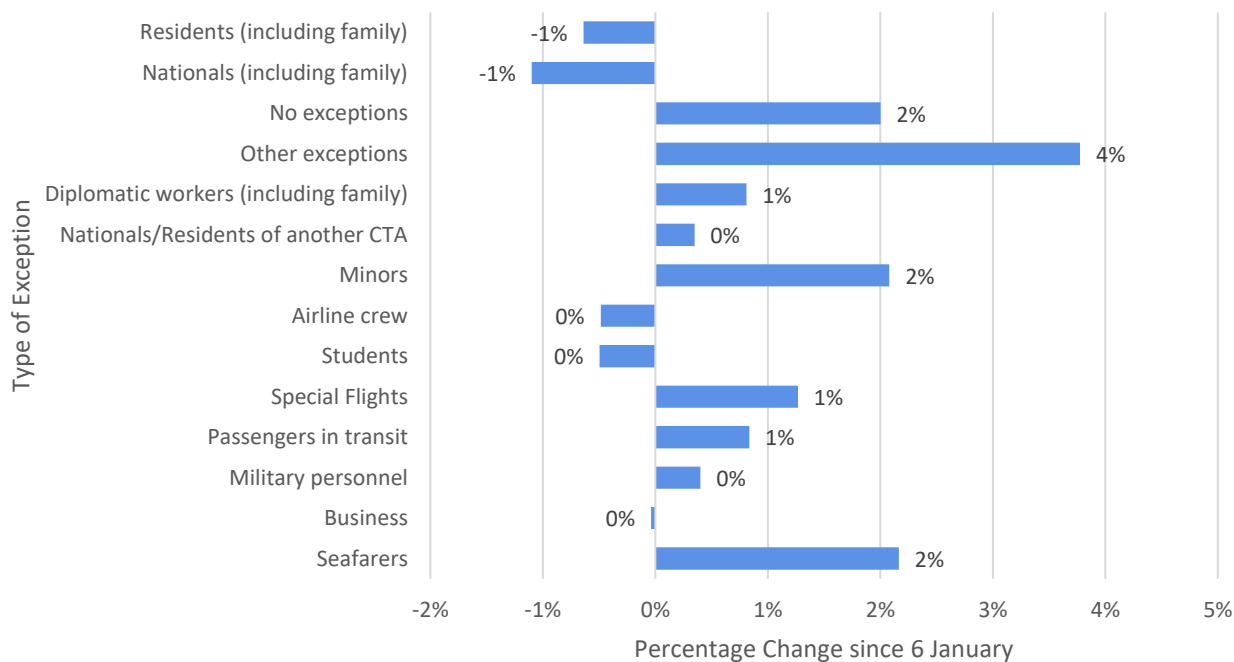
- Reduction in the validity period of the COVID-19 test necessary for medical certificates to fulfil conditions for authorized entry were issued. Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan reduced the validity period of the test result for the medical certificate from 96 hours to 72 hours.
- When arriving to Angola, passengers now require a COVID-19 test upon arrival in addition to a COVID-19 certificate and must quarantine from 7 to 10 days. Additionally, residence permit, refugee cards, temporary stay visas and study visas issued by Angola which expired after the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 are considered valid until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

## ■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions



C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (110) and for Residents (101) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 68 different CTAs, and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

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



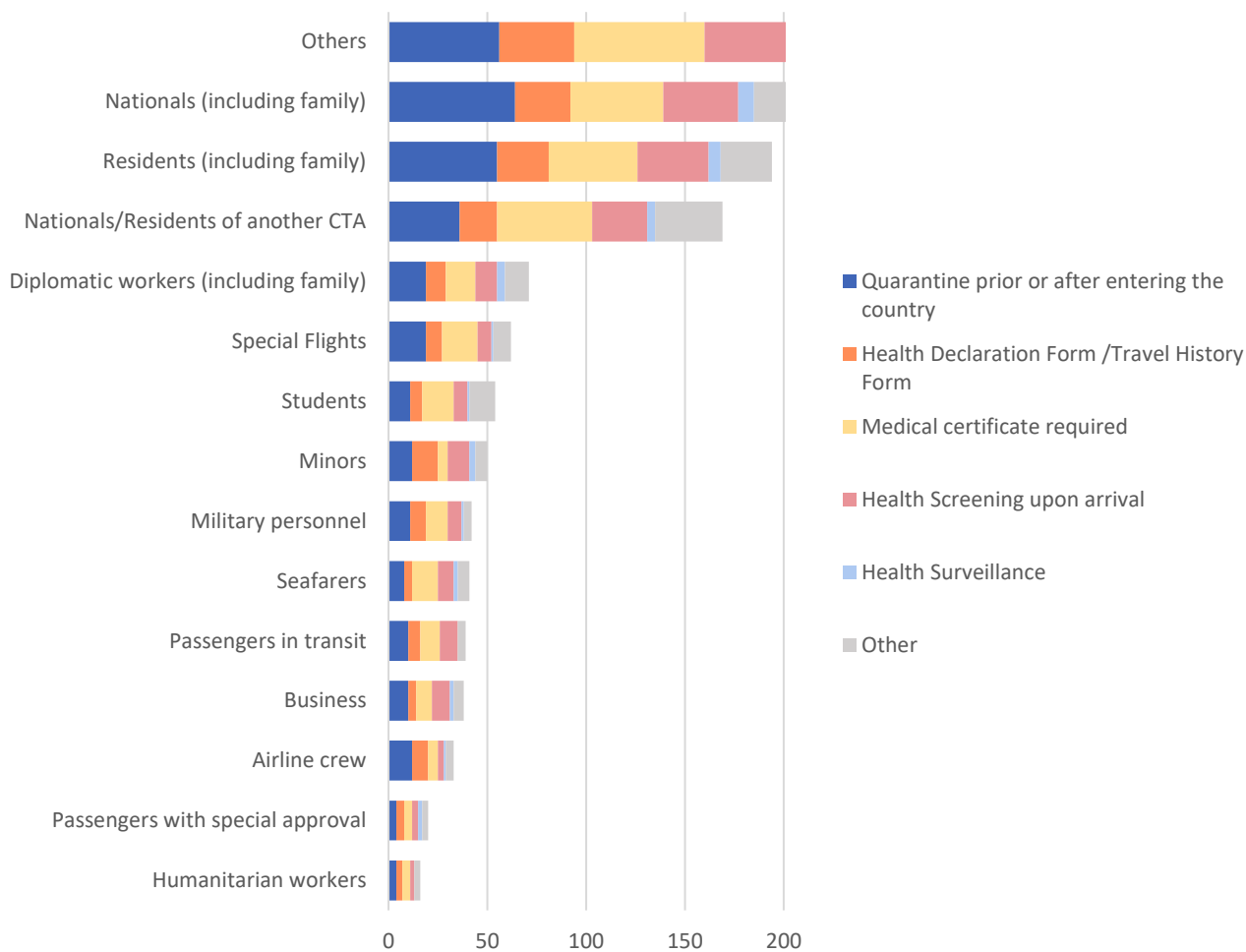
### Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 751 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 183 C/T/As.
- The C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were the Singapore (15), Switzerland (14), Austria (13), Finland (13), Bulgaria (13), Lebanon (13), Croatia (12), and Chile (12).
- Between 26th January and 1st February 2021, 21 countries, territories or areas issued 46 new exceptions whilst 16 countries, territories or areas removed 48 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 183 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 138 have issued 1,305 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, Belgium (42), Philippines (40), Finland (39), Singapore (37), India (35), and Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (32).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was quarantine prior or after entering the country, which was issued 331 times. This was followed by medical certificates (315) and health screening (226).

## ■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Finland removed exceptions to the entry requirements of passengers travelling for business.
- Latvia removed passengers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate from its list of categories exempted from the entry ban.
- Russian Federation has updated its exceptions for passengers that are not allowed to enter. Now nationals and residents of Qatar, Finland, India and Viet Nam, if arriving from their country of nationality and residency, are allowed to enter.
- Nationals and residents of Turkey are no longer an exception for the suspension of flights arriving from Brazil, Denmark, South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Only humanitarian and repatriation flights are currently exempted.
- Sweden added a new exception to the existing passenger ban for passengers younger than 18 years traveling to meet a parent residing in Sweden and accompanying persons.
- Bulgaria issued an exception for passengers arriving from Andorra, Australia, Canada, Croatia, European Union Member States, Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Rwanda, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay or Holy See are allowed to enter Bulgaria and they do not need to present a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result.