

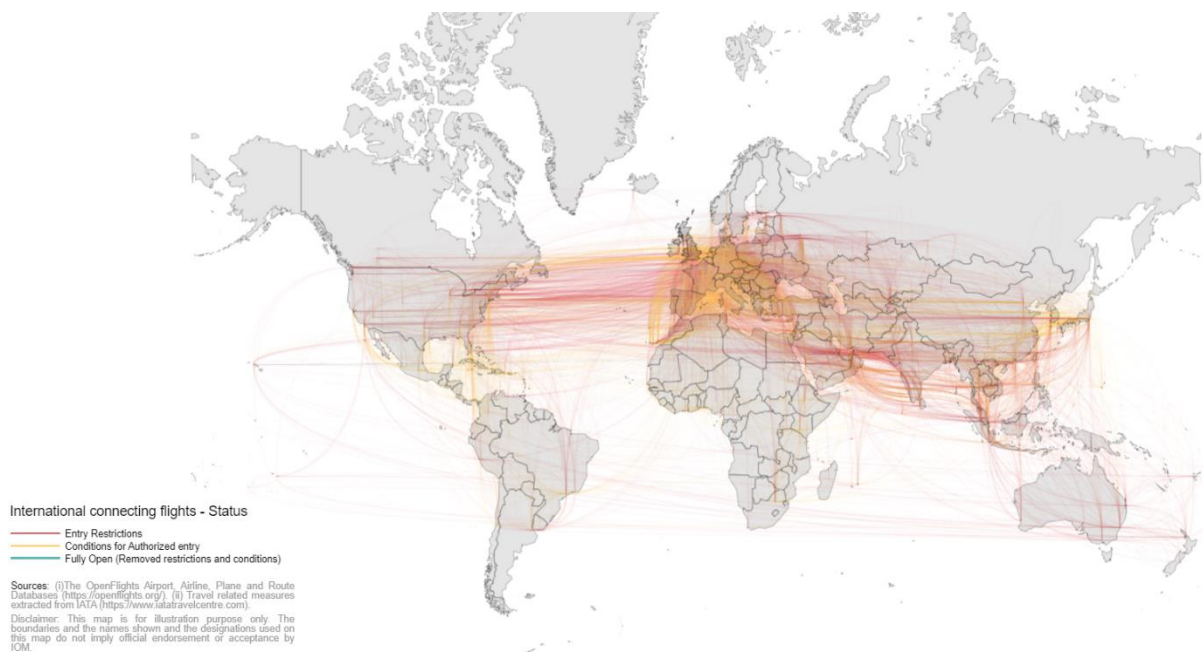
Global Mobility Restriction Overview



Special Edition: Marking One Year of COVID-19 Travel Restrictions 8th March 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 to ensure consistency of information in the database repository.

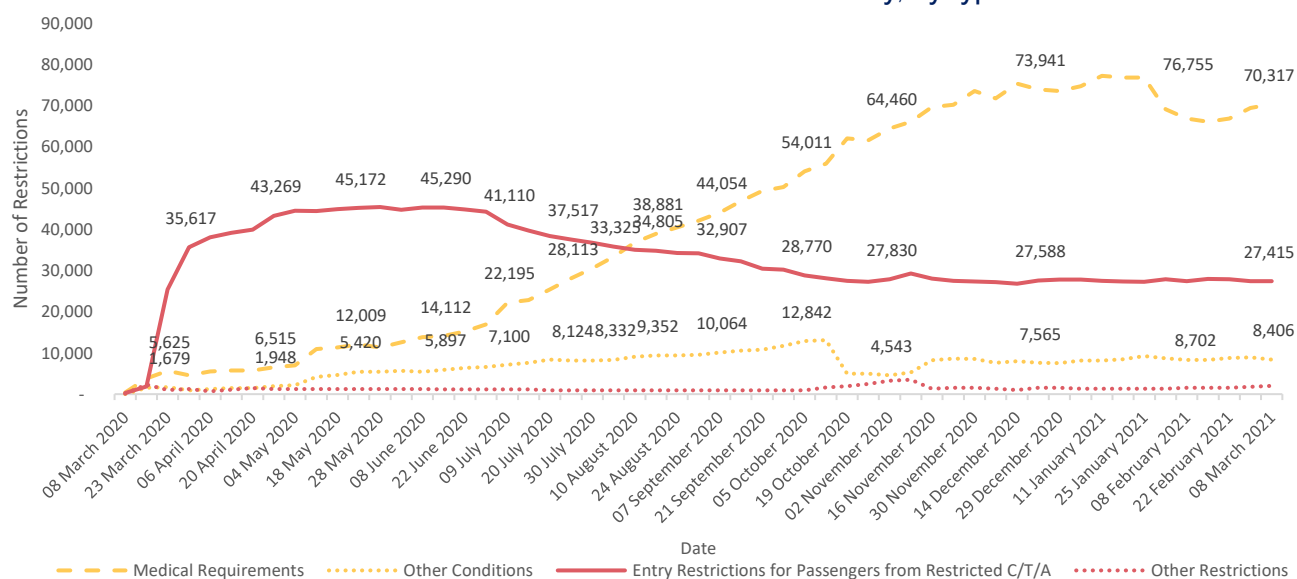
■ One Year of COVID-19 Travel Restrictions

On 11th March 2020, COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the [World Health Organization](#), a year on, as of 8th March 2021, there have been 116 million cases¹ of COVID-19 recorded globally, including more than 2.5 million deaths, and close to 350 million vaccine doses have been administered. Over the past year, the rapidly evolving epidemiological conditions have translated to a dynamic mobility context, whereby new travel restrictions, exceptions and conditions for authorized entry have been issued, altered or revoked. More recently, concerns over new variants of the virus have also led to new border closures and renewal of passenger bans by Governments and authorities. In general, due to unprecedented numbers of stringent COVID-19 related travel measures, global mobility and migration has been adversely affected by the global pandemic.

Since 10th March 2020, DTM has been tracking and analysing COVID-19 related air travel restrictions such as airport closures, flight suspensions and passenger entry bans. While COVID-19 related travel restrictions brought global human mobility and migration almost at a standstill, exceptions for returning nationals were issued to facilitate the return of those stranded abroad. Hence, from April 2020, DTM also began tracking exceptions to travel restrictions such as exceptions for nationals, residents, specific types of visa holders; or specific groups, like diplomats, healthcare workers, seafarers, airline crew or nationals of a specific country, territory or area. As countries, territories or areas across the world began reopening borders, allowing carefully managed mobility under stringent conditions, from October 2020, DTM also included tracking new conditions for authorized entry that included *inter alia* health surveillance apps, passenger locator forms, medical health forms, medical certificates with negative COVID-19 test results, quarantine at designated facilities and COVID-19 testing upon arrival. More recently in 2021, with the discovery and administration of various COVID-19 vaccinations, some countries, territories or areas have also begun to issue exceptions allowing for conditional entry of passengers with proof of vaccination or with proof that they have already tested positive for COVID-19 in the last six months.

This report also provides insights and analysis on some of the key trends observed in the last year and new noticeable trends as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve.

Restrictions and conditions for authorized entry, by type

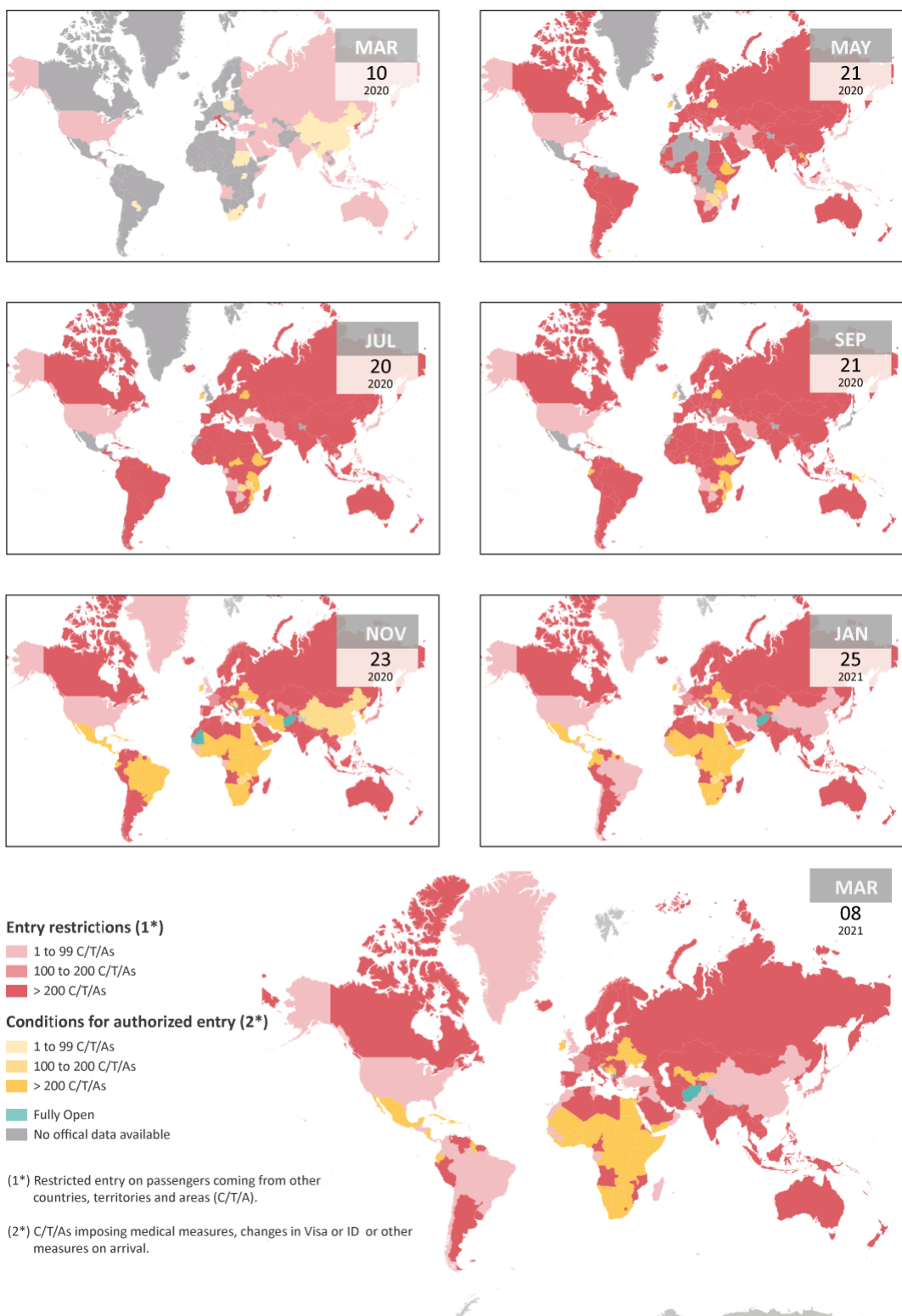


In March 2020, with the declaration of global COVID-19 pandemic C/T/As responded by issuing multiple entry restrictions for nationals of specific C/T/As, airport closures and flight suspensions. This trend increased sharply until the beginning of May and followed an increasing trend until the end of June. After June, entry restrictions started to decrease gradually and since then appear to have plateaued as of March 2021. Meanwhile, it is worth noting that throughout the pandemic, medical requirements for entry have followed an increasing trend. As of 8th 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 25 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.

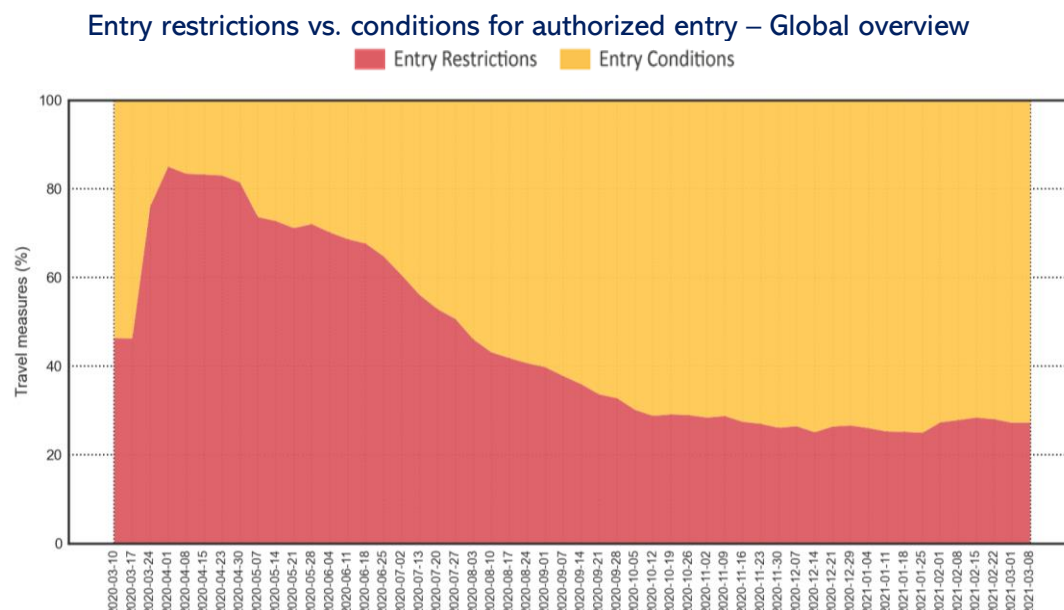
¹ WHO defines the confirmed case as "a person with laboratory confirmation of 2019-nCoV infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms."

■ 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 10th 2020, only 90 Governments and authorities across the world had announced COVID-19 related travel measures, by May 21st 2020 this number increased to 221 whereas as of 8th March 2021 almost all the C/T/As have issued some form of entry restrictions or conditions for authorized entry at international airports.

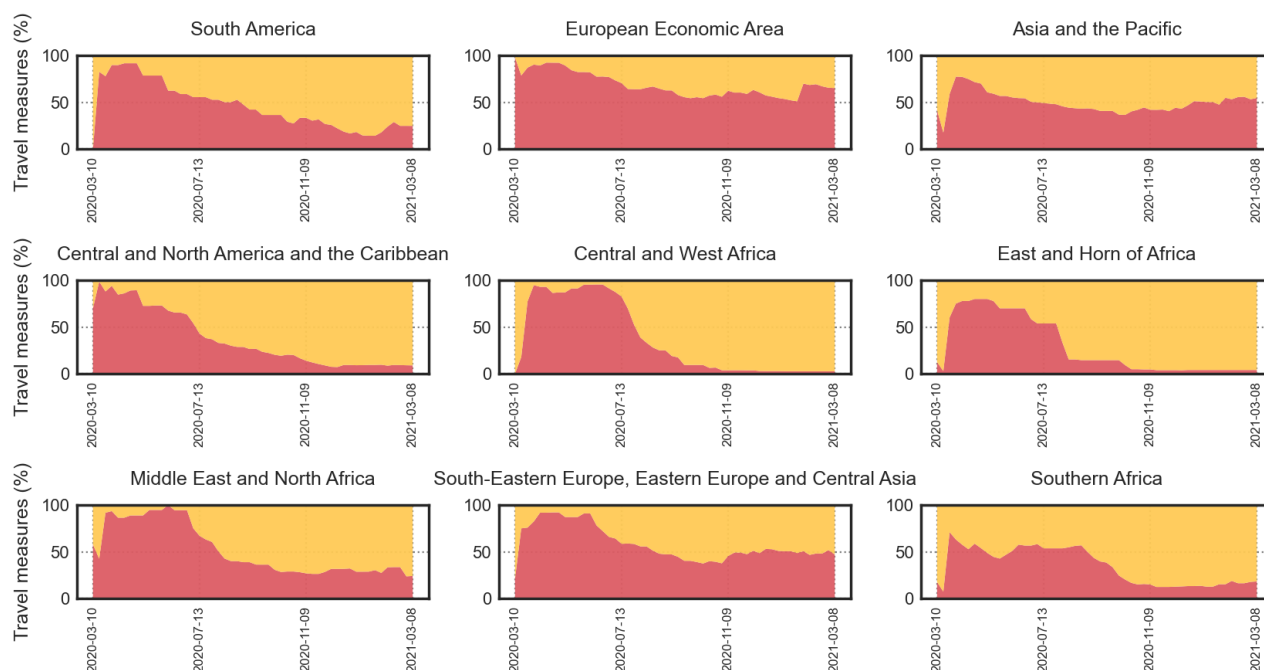


The chart below shows the shift from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' over time. In April 2020, entry restrictions constituted 80 per cent of all COVID-19 related measures (coloured in red), but this proportion has gradually decreased to 25 per cent, as of 8th March 2021.

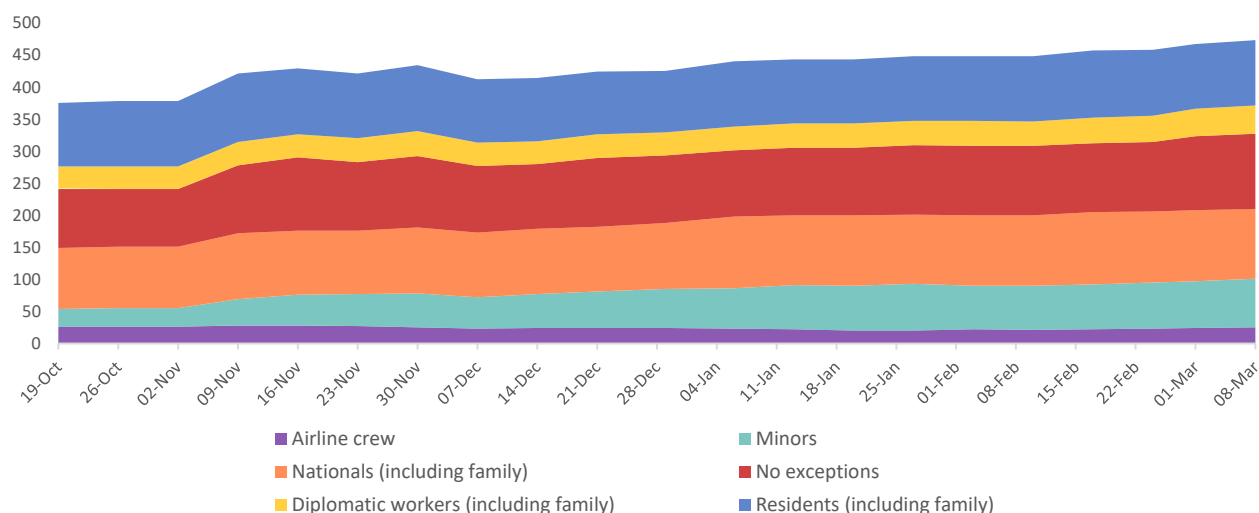


Although most of the IOM regions have gradually shifted from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' there are important differences in terms of timing and severity of measures. For instance, the IOM regions of *Central and West Africa* and *East and Horn of Africa* have seen the sharpest shift from restrictions to conditions, with strict entry restrictions representing less than 5 per cent of the total travel related measures as of 8th March 2021. On the other hand, since October 2020, IOM regions of *Asia and the Pacific* and *South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia* have 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



Changes in Top Exception Categories, Over Time



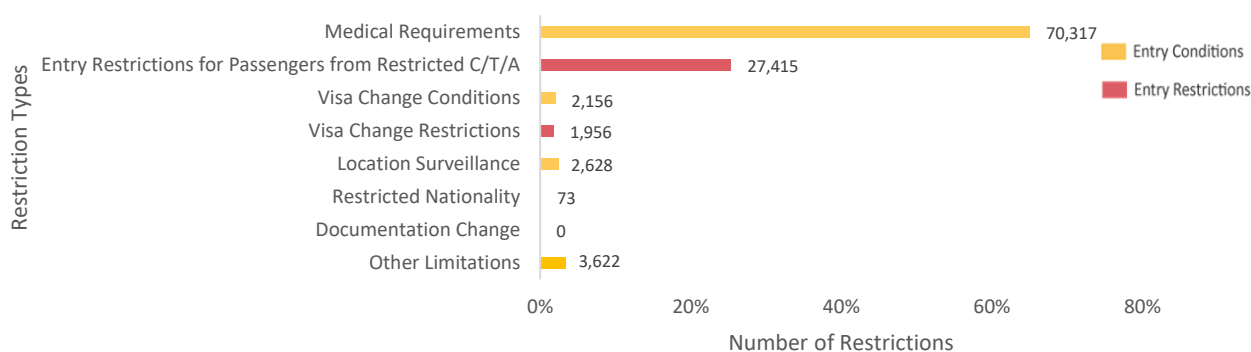
From April 2020, since the inclusion of DTM analysis on exception groups, it was observed that nationals, residents and their families, minors, diplomatic workers including their families and finally the airline crew have been the most common groups receiving exceptions. In addition, a large proportion of C/T/As did not issue any exceptions for their mobility restrictions or conditions. There were also C/T/As that issued exceptions for other groups or for particular types of movements namely flights such as humanitarian flights, repatriation flights, students, individuals travelling for business purposes, military personnel, passengers in transit, passengers with a special approval issued by the government or other entity and finally seafarers.²

Updates from 8th of March

As of 8th March 2021, a total of 227 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 108,167 travel related measures indicating an increase of almost one per cent from 107,483 travel related measures reported on 1st March 2021. Of these, 29,444 were reported as entry restrictions and 78,723 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was a slight increase of almost one per cent in entry restrictions and in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a 2 per cent increase in visa requirements for conditional entry and an almost 2 per cent increase in medical requirements such as quarantine and medical certificates with negative COVID-19 test results. There was a 15 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 830 exceptions enabling mobility. Between 1st and 8th March 2021, 14 countries, territories or areas issued 33 new exceptions whilst 7 countries, territories or areas removed 20 exceptions.

Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry

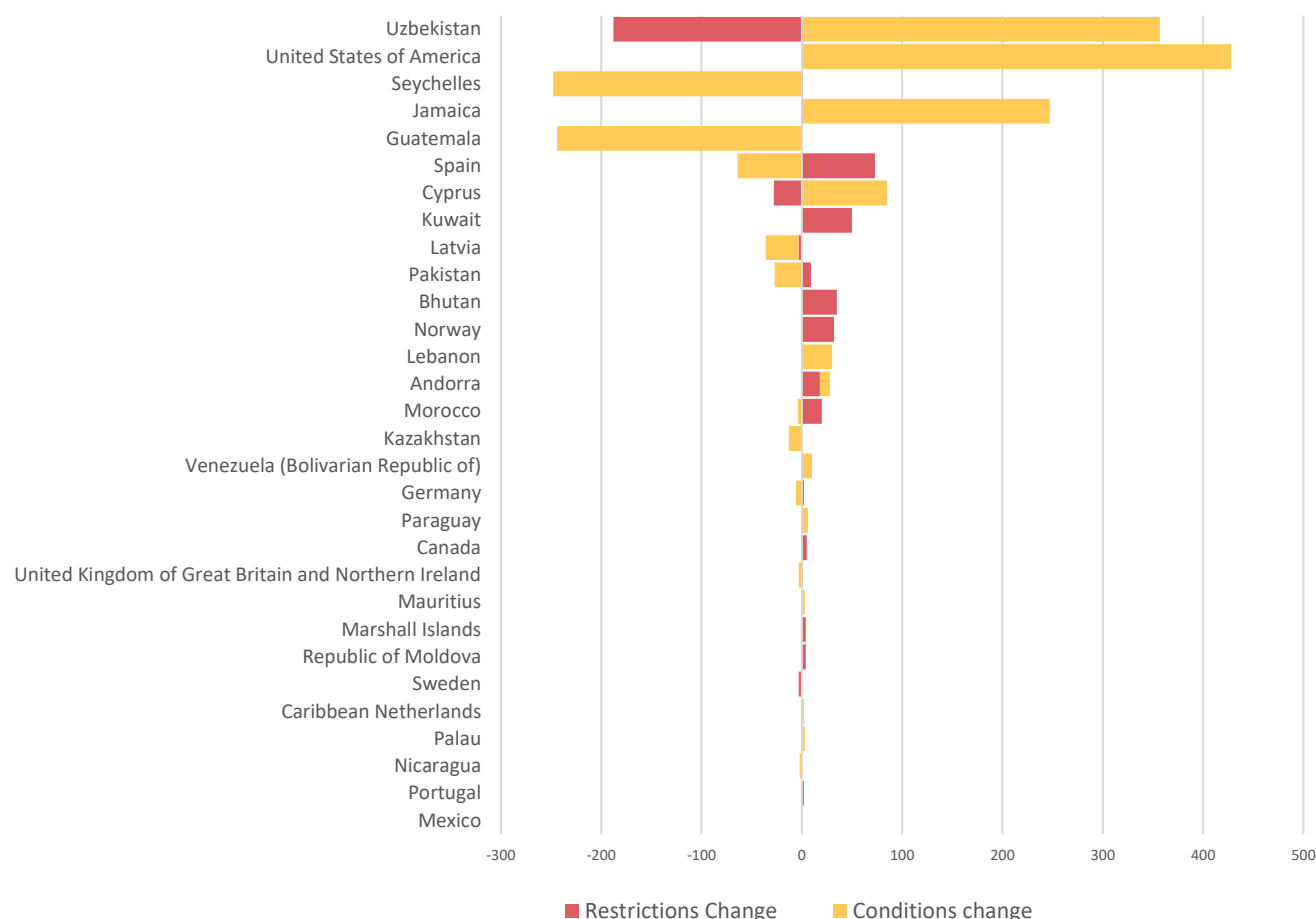


² DTM changed its data collection methodology for exceptions on 19th of October. Since, there was no data collection for some exception categories before time series analysis starts with 19th of October.

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 1st and 8th March 2021, 30 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 13 of them made minor changes. While 10 C/T/As removed existing conditions for authorized entry, 6 C/T/As removed new total restrictions. There were 12 and 15 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 Ireland⁴

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 8th March 2021, a total of 92 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 as of 8th March 2021, no new C/T/As added restrictions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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

- Peru, Portugal and Austria extended the flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 14th, 16th and 21st March 2021, respectively.

³ 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.
⁴ This was last updated on 8th March 2021 at 15:00 GMT.

- Passengers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Croatia must provide a certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival. They are also subject to mandatory 14 days of quarantine. Passengers with a positive COVID-19 Antigen or Polymerase Chain Reaction test result, in the last 14 days to 3 months are exempt.
- Mauritius lifted the ban on passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Jordan issued an exception to the ongoing passenger ban. Residents of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with an Investment Card (A, B) and who are traveling to Amman (AMM) can enter. However, such passengers are subject to quarantine for 14 days.
- Republic of Moldova lifted the passenger ban on travellers who have been in or transited through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- India no longer requires exempt passengers who can travel from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to arrive via only direct flights.
- Denmark lifted the restrictions for passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland who are an exception to Denmark's passenger ban. This includes boy/girlfriends of a person residing in Denmark, passengers returning directly via Denmark to their country of residence; passengers with diplomatic passports and their families, and merchant seafarers.
- Germany issued a new measure requiring that passengers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland who are transiting through Germany must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result taken at most 48 hours before departure.

Key Highlights on Restrictions, Conditions for Authorized Entry and Exceptions

Issuance of travel related measures in attempts to contain the spread of the virus, as Governments and authorities implement a broad range of COVID-19 mitigation measures or vaccination programs, continues. Peru has extended the passenger ban until the 14th March 2021 for those passengers 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, Ireland Republic, 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, Holy See or Kosovo⁵. On 5th March 2021, Portugal suspended all incoming flights from Brazil until 16th March, however, humanitarian and return flights for nationals remain exempt. Authorities also extended the passenger ban on all travellers from 1st March to 16th March 2021. Austria extended the ban on flights from Brazil and South Africa on 5th March until 21st March 2021. Germany issued a ban on passengers arriving from Tyrol in Austria (excluding Jungholz, Lienz and Rissstal valley) or the Moselle department of France, travellers from these regions are not allowed to enter. Germany also issued a ban on passengers from Czechia and Slovakia, however, nationals and residents of Germany are exempt. Pakistan issued a passenger ban for travellers who in the last ten days have stayed or transited through Botswana, Colombia, Comoros, Ghana, Peru, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya and Mozambique. This passenger ban has been issued until 14th March 2021. Kazakhstan re-issued a passenger ban on nationals of the Netherlands.

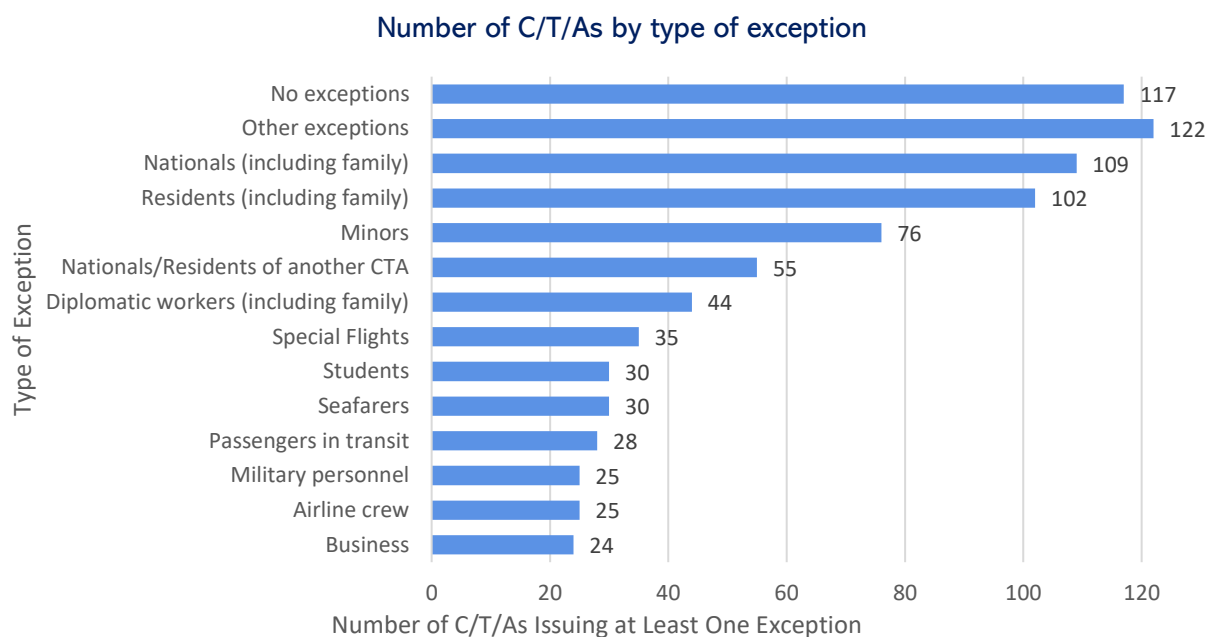
- Targeted or general passenger and flight bans issued from the beginning of the pandemic continue to be reissued, lifted or extended:
 - As seen from the onset of the pandemic, flight suspensions on all flights continue to be extended, specifically by Suriname until 9th March 2021 and by India until 31st March 2021.
 - Flight suspensions on specific countries, territories or areas were issued by Morocco which issued new flight suspensions on flights arriving from Belgium and Italy, until 21st March 2021. Latvia suspended flights from Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, indefinitely.

⁵ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

- Extension of existing ban on all passengers were issued by Argentina until 12th March 2021, Malta until 24th March 2021, by Spain and Thailand until 31st March 2021, by Marshall Islands until 5th April 2021, by Italy until 6th April 2021 and Sri Lanka for an unspecified period.
 - While bans based on specific nationalities have decreased since the beginning of the pandemic, the extension of passenger bans on specific countries, territories or areas were issued. Morocco issued a passenger ban on passengers arriving from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, until 21st March 2021.
 - Republic of Moldova issued a new passenger ban on travellers who have been in the last 14 days or transited through Brazil, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Peru, the Netherlands are not allowed to enter.
- Exceptions to passenger and flight bans have been issued in conjunction with travel restrictions, ensuring essential or carefully managed mobility of individuals or groups:
 - New exceptions to passenger bans were issued. Singapore issued exceptions allowing passengers with a Business Travel Pass (BTP) or a Pre-Approved Business Pass (PBP) to be allowed conditional entry. Passengers with a travel history to South Africa or United Kingdom of Great Britain within the past 14 days prior to departure for Singapore, are excluded from this exception. Latvia issued an exception to allow conditional entry to passengers who complete a "COVIDpass" form [online](#) before departure, which will generate a QR code to be presented before departure and upon arrival.
 - New exceptions to passenger bans were issued by Thailand for certain nationals with an authorized exempt visa and for passengers transiting through Bangkok. Fiji issued an exception for residents of Fiji with a written approval issued by the Immigration Department in Fiji.
 - Exceptions for nationals of another C/T/As were issued by Kazakhstan for nationals of Tajikistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Georgia.
 - Cyprus issued new exceptions to its passenger ban for passengers arriving from Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, or Holy See, however passengers are subject to a COVID-19 test upon arrival at their own expense.
 - Argentina extended the validity of national ID cards issued to nationals and residents of Argentina which expired on 17th March 2020 or later, until 20th March 2021.
 - Since the peak of the pandemic more entry requirements are changing or are being removed all together. Previously issued entry requirements were removed for select arrivals by Republic of Moldova. The passenger ban on travellers who have been in the last 14 days or transited through Bahrain and Lebanon was lifted.
 - Seychelles removed the condition for entry previously requiring all arrival passengers to undergo a 10-day quarantine. Passengers must still provide an approved health travel authorization, and are subject to medical screening upon arrival.
 - New types of conditions for authorized entry issued
 - Since October 2020, conditions for authorized entry have been issued more frequently. New conditions for authorized entry were issued by Somalia, requiring all passengers to provide a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. The certificate must be in English.
 - New exceptions were issued to conditions for authorized entry. Norway issued a new exception for nationals and residents, who no longer require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or Rapid Antigen test result, taken 24 hours before departure from the first embarkation point to enter.

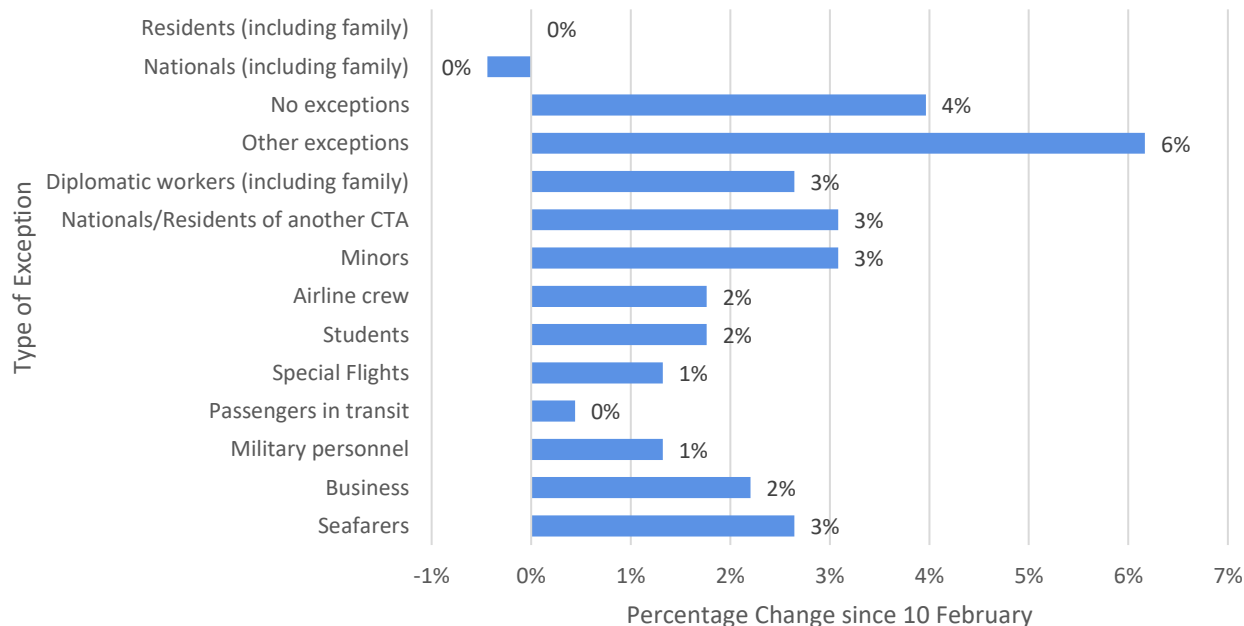
- Changes and/or extensions in mandatory quarantine at designated locations were made by Kuwait, issuing a new exception to the mandatory hotel quarantine measure for students who are nationals of Kuwait studying abroad.
- New conditions for authorized entry requiring a negative medical test result were issued. Jamaica extended their medical requirement of a negative COVID-19 which previously only applied to residents of Brazil, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and United States of America, to apply to all arrival passengers. The test must be taken at most three days before departure from the first embarkation point. Passengers younger than 12 years are exempt from this measure. Cook Islands issued a measure requiring passengers entering the country to have medical clearance based on a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 72 hours before departure from Auckland.
- New exceptions to existing conditions for authorised entry were issued. Nationals and residents of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela are exempt from having an international medical insurance in Paraguay. Sri Lanka issued an exception for passengers younger than 12 years with a tourist visa who are exempt from providing a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter.
- Passengers arriving to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela must complete a travel history form and are subject to a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test upon arrival at their own expense.
- New exceptions for passengers with a positive COVID-19 test results in the last six months were issued by Hungary, such passengers are exempt from the passenger ban and can enter Hungary, although they must also present a recovery certificate. Croatia issued the same exception for passengers arriving from Tyrol in Austria, Brazil, South Africa, Zanzibar and the United Republic of Tanzania. They also no longer require a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival and are also subject to self-isolation for 14 days.
- Spain issued new conditions for entry for exempt passengers arriving from Botswana, Colombia, Comoros, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Peru, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia or Zimbabwe who are subject to quarantine and must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 (Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT – PCR), Reverse Transcription Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP) or Transcription-Mediated Amplification test (TMA)) test result which must have been taken at most 72 hours before arrival (the certificate must be in English, French, German, Spanish or accompanied by a certified Spanish translation). Passengers younger than six years and passengers arriving from Australia, Denmark, Guyana, Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China), Iceland, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Macao, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, Martinique, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore or Thailand are exempt of presenting this test result upon arrival.
- Passengers arriving from Lithuania and Spain to Germany are now subject to a COVID-19 test upon arrival whereas passengers arriving from Malta, St. Lucia, Seychelles, Slovakia and Bahrain are no longer subject to the same. Additionally, all passengers above the age of six, and arriving from Bahrain, Malta, Hungary, Jordan, Sweden, Seychelles, Slovakia and St. Lucia are now required to have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result (PCR, RT-LAMP, TMA) taken at most 48 hours before arrival.
- Germany lifted conditions for authorised entry for passengers from Afghanistan, Lithuania, Namibia, Panama, Spain, and the United States of America who are no longer required to have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result (PCR, RT-LAMP, TMA) taken at most 48 hours before arrival. However, such passengers will still be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival.
- Uzbekistan lifted previously issued flight suspension and passenger ban as of 2nd March 2021. All passengers wishing to enter must now provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, taken at most 72 hours before departure, and subject to a COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test upon arrival at their own expense.
- New conditions for passengers in transit were issued by Germany for passengers transiting through Germany from Botswana, Brazil, Czechia, Eswatini, Ireland, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Portugal, Slovakia, South Africa, Zambia or Zimbabwe must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result (PCR, RT-LAMP, TMA) taken at most 48 hours before arrival.

Exceptions to Entry Restrictions



C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (109) and for Residents (102) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 76 different CTAs, and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter



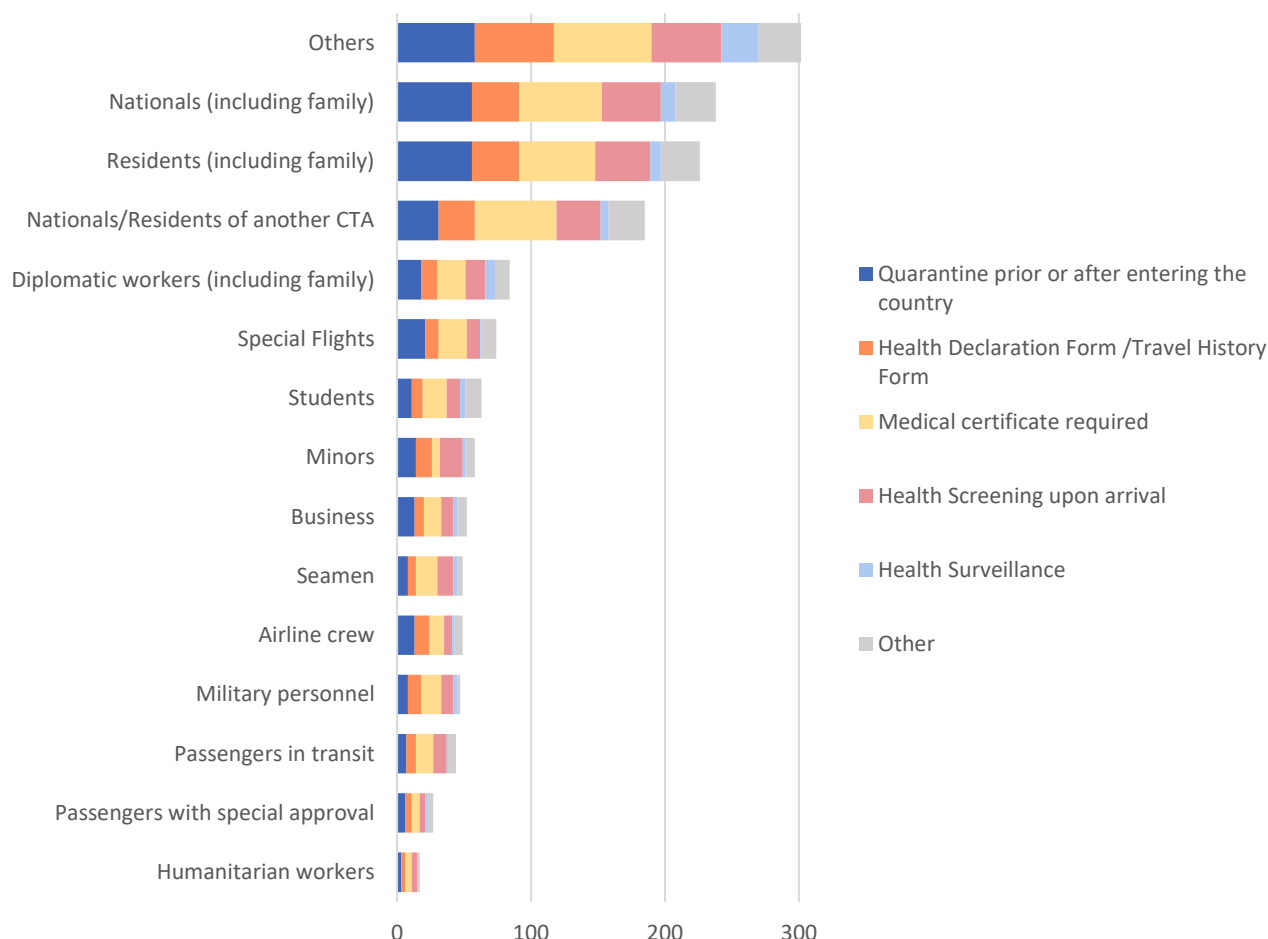
Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 830 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 188 C/T/As.
- The C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were the Croatia (13), Finland (13), Guadeloupe (12), Austria (11), Belgium (11), the Netherlands (11), Norway (11), and Romania (10).
- Between 1st March and 8th March 2021, 14 countries, territories or areas issued 33 new exceptions whilst 7 countries, territories or areas removed 20 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 145 have issued 1,540 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 Singapore (57), Guadeloupe (44), Philippines (44), Finland (39), Andorra (36), Spain (36), 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 398 times. This is the second month (fifth consecutive week) that quarantine prior or after entering the country has not been the top condition, currently listed 323 times, and followed by medical screening (276).