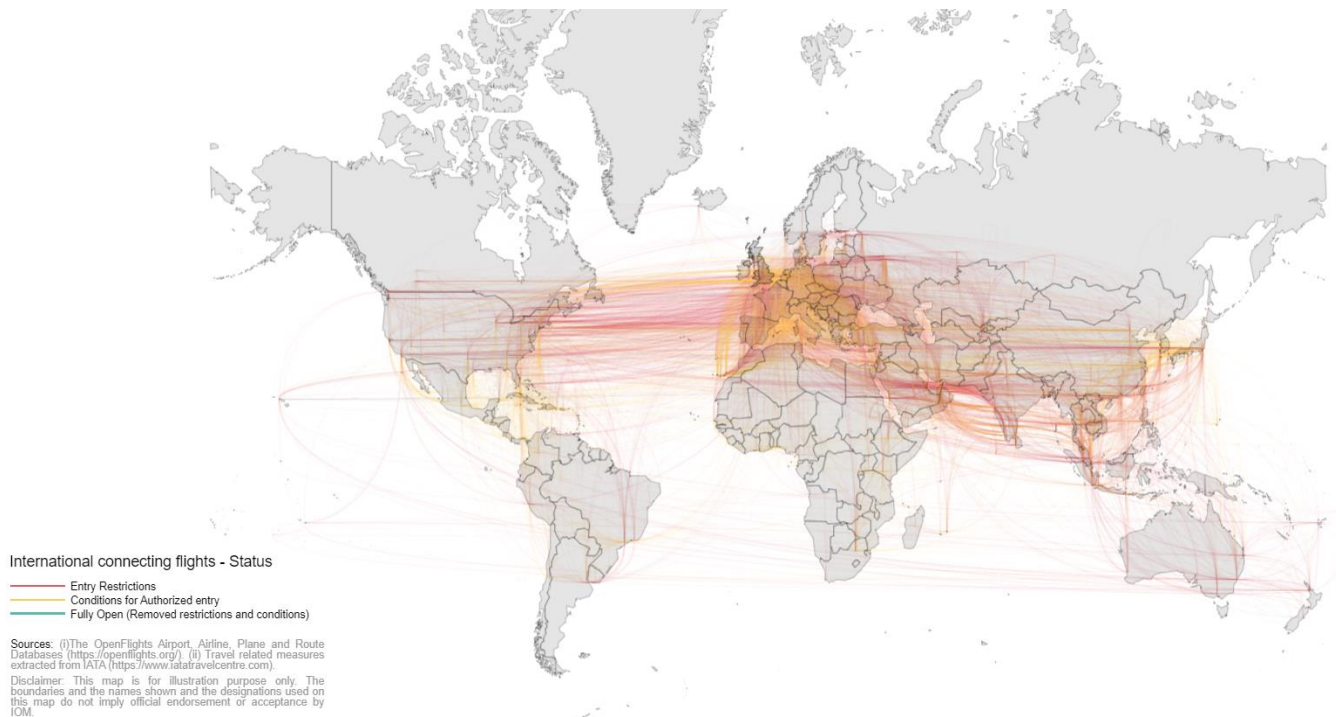


# Global Mobility Restriction Overview





Weekly Update • 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021



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



## 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](#).

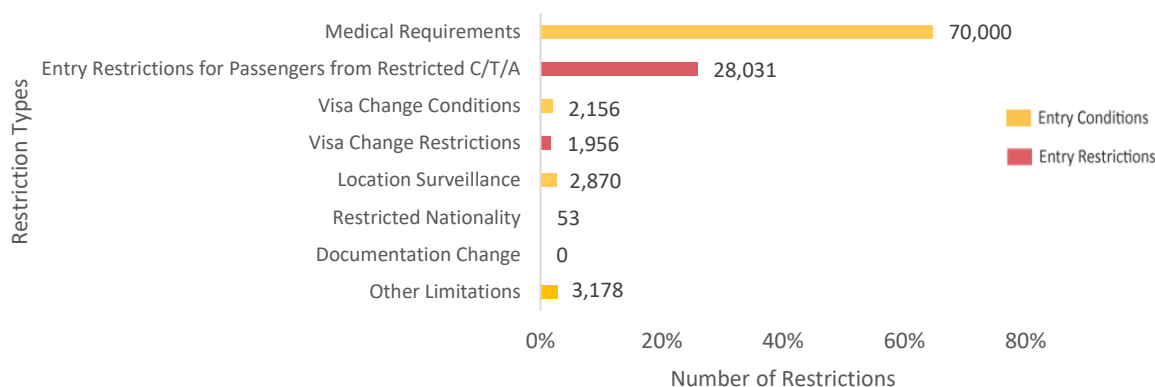
Disclaimer: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe mobility restrictions in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities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

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the [World Health Organization](#), a year on, as of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, there have been 119 million cases of COVID-19 recorded globally, including more than 2.6 million deaths. A total of 227 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 108,244 travel related measures as of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, indicating almost no change from 108,167 travel related measures reported on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Of these, 30,040 were reported as entry restrictions and 78, 204 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was an increase of 2 per cent in entry restrictions and a decrease of nearly 1 per cent in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a 9 per cent increase in location surveillance measures such as submitting Passenger Locator Forms and a decrease of 12 per cent in other limitations such as travel/medical insurance. There was a decrease of 27 per cent in entry restrictions on specific nationalities and an increase of 2 per cent in general passenger bans and flight suspensions. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 190 countries, territories or areas have issued 850 exceptions enabling mobility. Between 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 17 countries, territories or areas issued 36 new exceptions whilst 6 countries, territories or areas removed 16 exceptions.

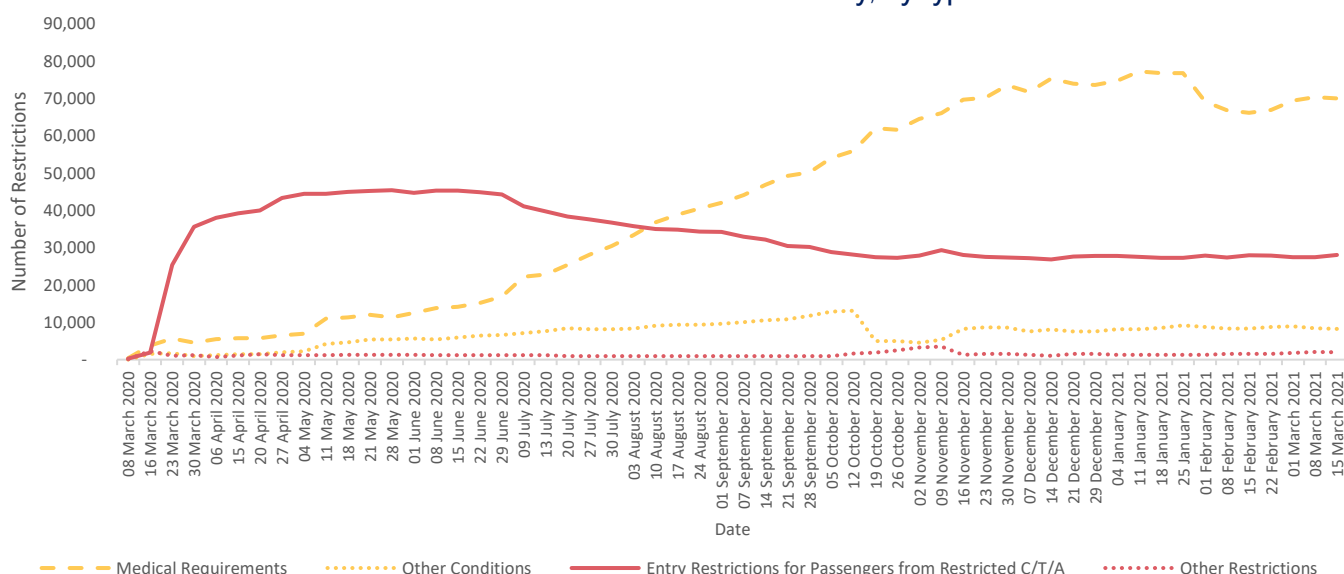
## Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry



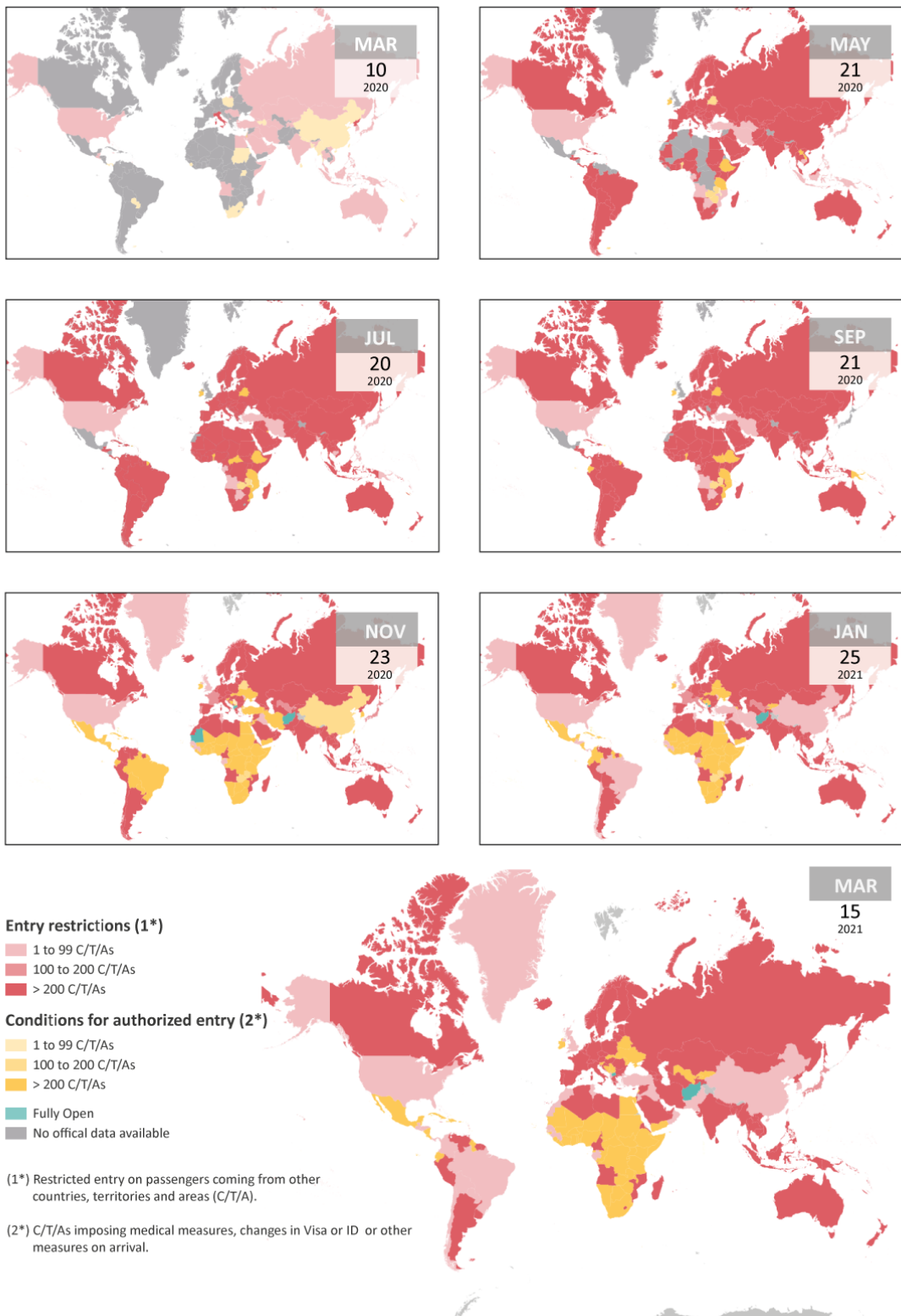
As of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 227 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 26 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common 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



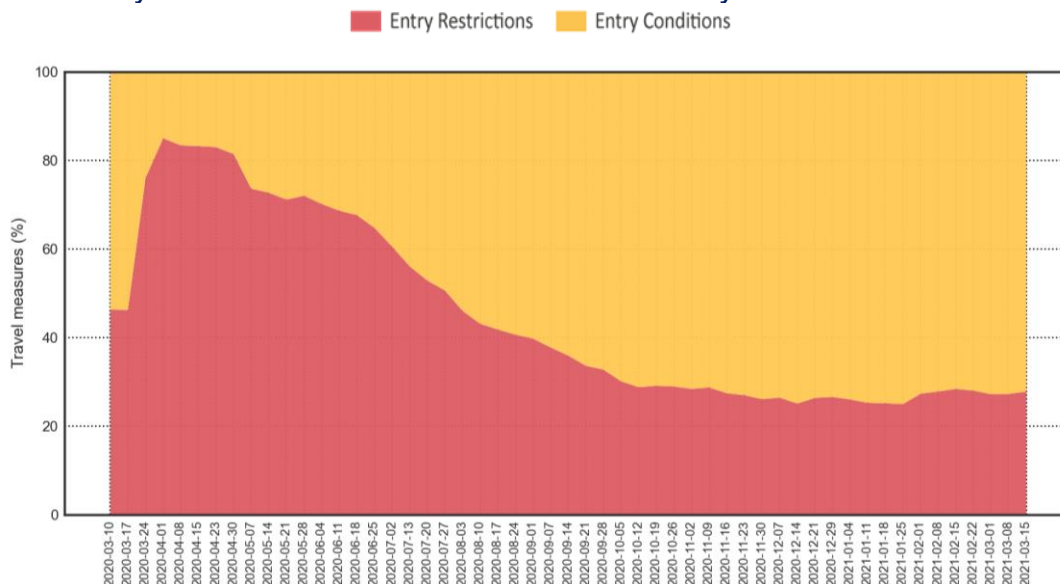
## Changes in Entry Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry, Over Time

The map below provides a global overview of the changes between the type of measures issued by C/T/As and gradual increases in the issuance of 'entry restrictions' (e.g. total entry restrictions for passengers) and/or 'conditions for authorized entry' (e.g. medical requirements in the form of PCR test, quarantine, etc.). In March 10<sup>th</sup> 2020, only 90 Governments and authorities across the world had announced COVID-19 related travel measures, by May 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 this number increased to 221 whereas as of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 almost all the C/T/As have issued some form of entry restrictions or conditions for authorized entry at international airports.



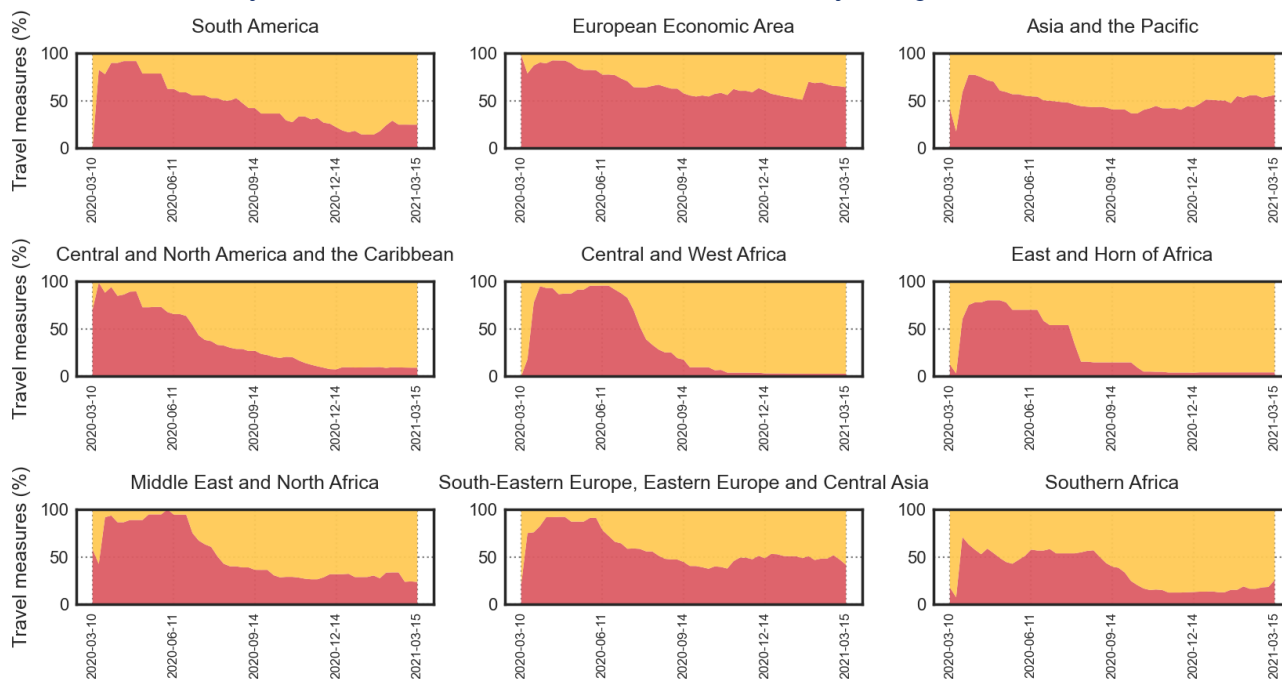
The chart below shows the shift from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' over time. In April 2020, entry restrictions constituted 80 per cent of all COVID-19 related measures (coloured in red), but this proportion has gradually decreased to 25 per cent, as of 15<sup>th</sup> March 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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

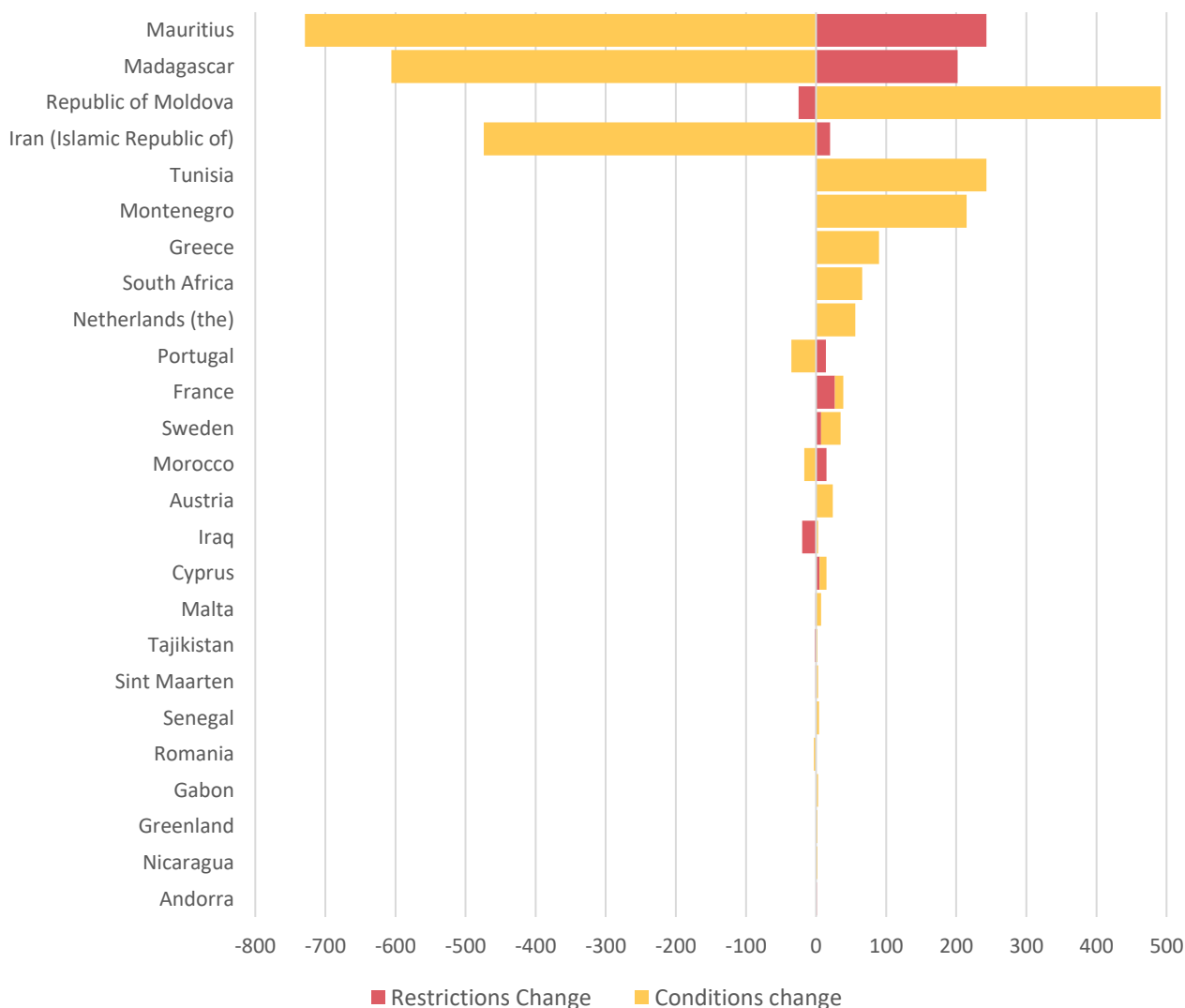
### Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Regional overview



## ■ 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 25 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 9 of them made minor changes. While 6 C/T/As removed existing conditions for authorized entry, 3 C/T/As removed new total restrictions. There were 18 and 9 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>2</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 15th 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 between 8th and 15th March 2021, no new C/T/As added new 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 15th February 2021 at 15:00 GMT.

## Changes in Existing COVID-19 Measures

- Portugal extended the ban on flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 31st March 2021.
- Albania removed the previous end date of 28th February 2021 for the flight suspension. However, flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland remain suspended for an unspecified period.
- Colombia issued an exception to the ongoing flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for humanitarian flights.
- Germany extended the quarantine period from 10 to 14 days for exempt passengers arriving from United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as it is classified as "area of variants of concern."
- Guatemala issued an exception allowing its nationals and residents who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the last 14 days to enter. However, such passengers will be subject to quarantine for 10 days.
- Peru extended the passenger ban on travellers who have been in or transited through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 28th March 2021, and suspended flights until 31st March 2021.

## Key Highlights

- Mauritius shifted from a passenger ban only on travellers from Brazil, Reunion, and South Africa to a complete passenger ban on all travellers both for entry and transit.
- Changes in existing flight suspensions were issued by Madagascar, which shifted from a previously issued flight suspension on specific countries, territories or areas to a total flight suspension. Return flights for nationals and medical evacuation flights are exempt.
- Shift from passenger bans to conditions for authorized entry. Republic of Moldova lifted the passenger ban on travellers from specific CTAs and issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring all to provide a negative COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT – PCR) test taken at most 72 hours before arrival. The test result must be issued in English, French, Romanian or Russian. Children below the age of 5, passengers with a diplomatic, official, service or special passport; passengers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate issued in English, Romanian or Russian are exempt. Additionally, passengers must complete and present an "Epidemiological Form" upon arrival. The form can be obtained [online](#).
- As of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021, the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a new passenger ban on travellers who in the past 14 days have been in or transited for more than four hours through Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, French Guiana, Mauritania, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
- Tunisia removed the condition for entry requiring all passengers to provide confirmation of a hotel reservation for 7 days but issued new conditions, including requirements stipulating that passengers are now subject to a COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test 48 hours after arrival at their own expense and must subject to self-isolation for 48 hours.
- Montenegro now requires all passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result. However, passengers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo<sup>3</sup> or Serbia are exempt. Children below the age of five, passengers who have been received the second dose of the vaccine 7 days before arrival or passengers with a positive serological -IgG antibodies test result issued at most 30 days before arrival are also exempt.
- Extension of existing bans on all passengers were issued by Greece until 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 and extended indefinitely by Romania.

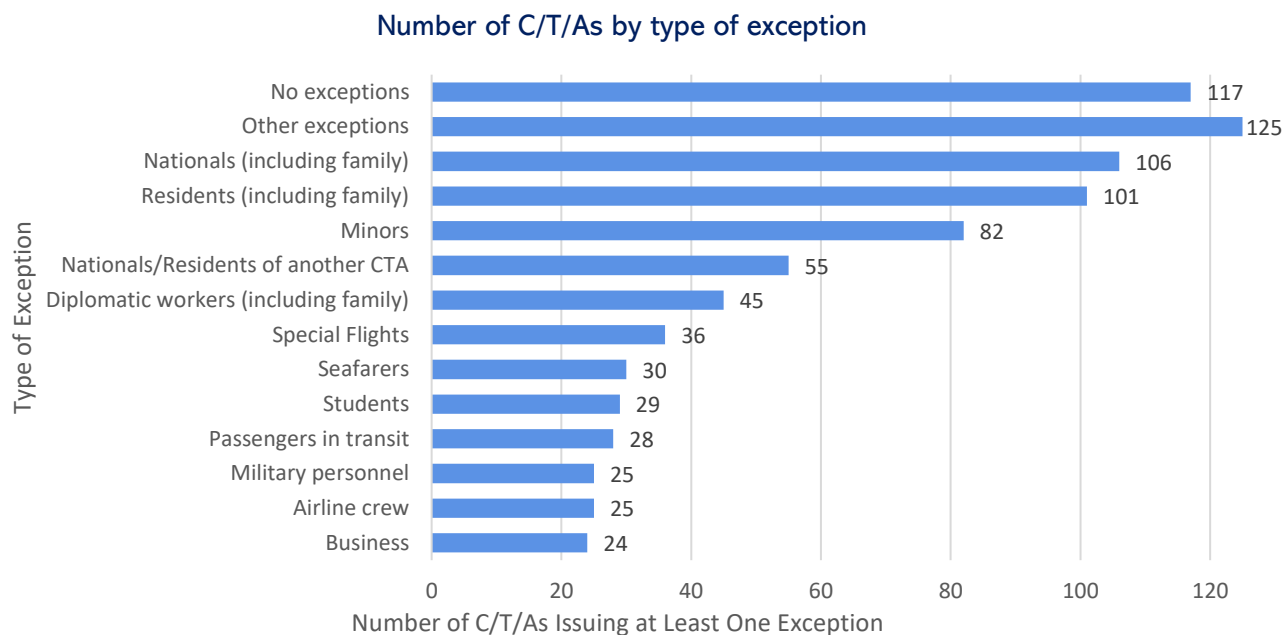
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<sup>3</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).



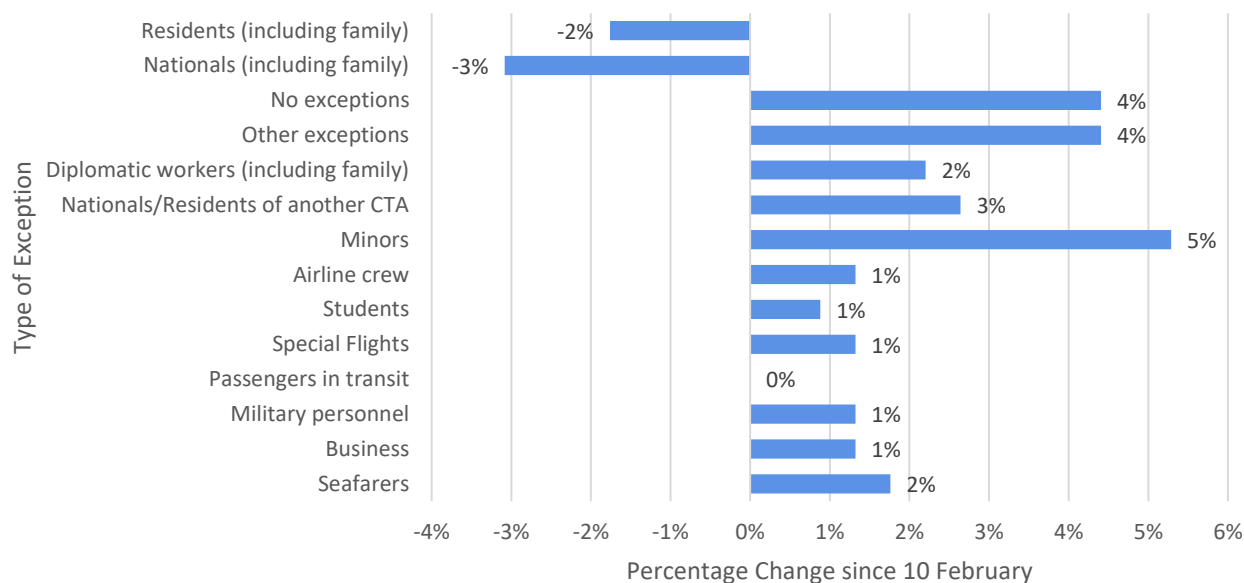
- New conditions for authorized entry were issued by The Netherlands requiring that all passengers and Airline Crew must have a negative COVID-19 test result, taken at most 24 hours before boarding the flight of the first embarkation point. Tests accepted are: LAMP, MPOCT, NAAT, PCR, RT-PCR or TMA tests.
- Portugal extended the ban on flights from Brazil until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.<sup>i</sup> As of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Colombia issued an exception for humanitarian flights from Brazil, however, all other flights remain suspended. Peru extended the suspension of incoming flights from Brazil and South Africa until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and extended the ban on travellers who have been in or transited through Brazil and South Africa in the last 14 days until 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- As of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021, France issued exceptions to the passenger ban for passengers arriving from Australia, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- As of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Morocco issued a passenger ban on travellers arriving from Algeria, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Kuwait, Lebanon, Norway and Poland. Additionally, flights from these destinations to Morocco are also suspended until 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- Entry measures on certain countries, areas or territories were issued by Austria, requiring that passengers arriving from Finland or Greece present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result at most 72 hours before arrival or with a negative COVID-19 antigen test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival, or take a test within 24 hours after arrival. Passengers arriving from Finland and Greece are now also subject to quarantine for 10 days upon arrival. Previously, these passengers had no entry conditions except for presenting a passenger locator form ('Pre-Travel Clearance') upon arrival.
- Flight suspensions on certain countries, territories and areas were issued by Tajikistan until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Flights from Afghanistan, People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan are exempt from the suspension.
- General flight suspensions on all flights continue to be extended. Myanmar extended the suspension of all flights (except medical evacuation flights) until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 as did Suriname, (except medical evacuation and return flights for nationals) for an unspecified period.
- Germany extended the length of quarantine measure for all passengers arriving from countries, territories or areas classified as "area of variants of concern," from 10 to 14 days. This includes passengers arriving from Botswana, Brazil, Czechia, Eswatini, Ireland, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Slovakia and South Africa.
- Dominica issued conditions for authorized entry for passengers and airline crew to be subject to COVID-19 rapid test upon arrival at their own expense.
- Suriname issued new conditions for authorized entry, requiring passengers to send an entry request email at most 5 days before departure to [conza@gov.sr](mailto:conza@gov.sr).
- Changes in conditions for authorized entry were made by Turks and Caicos Islands, removing the medical entry requirement for all passengers and issuing a new condition for authorized entry in its place, requiring all passengers to provide proof of insurance to cover COVID-19 expenses.
- Measures to regulate and facilitate stay were issued by Angola, authorities issued an extension of validity of residence permits, refugee cards, temporary stay visas and study visas issued by Angola which expired after 28 February 2020. They are considered valid until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## ■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions



C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (106) and for Residents (101) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 82 different CTAs, represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

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



### Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

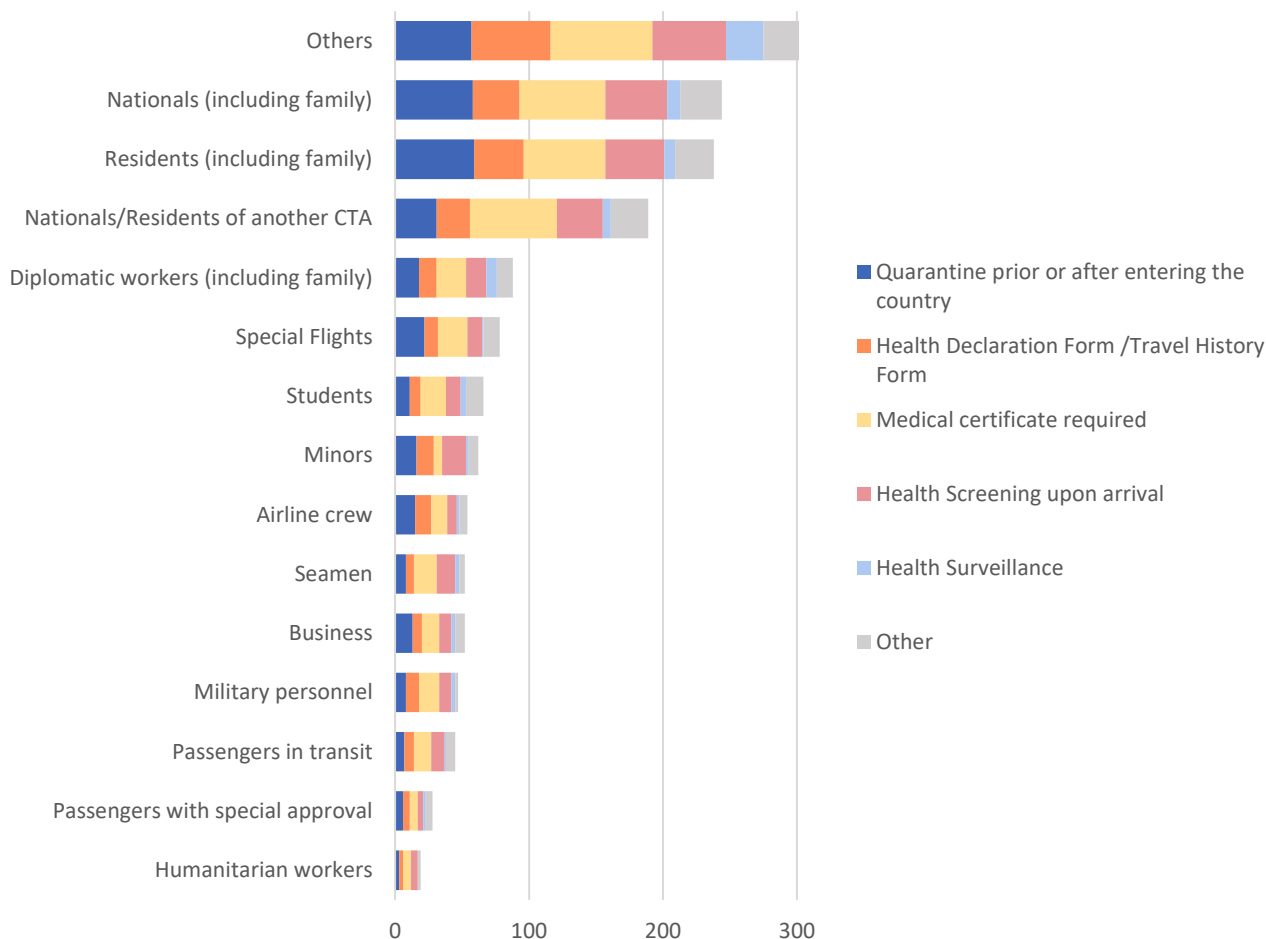
- A total of 850 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 190 C/T/As.
- The C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were the Croatia (13), Finland (13), the Netherlands (12), Guadeloupe (12), Belgium (11), Austria (11), Norway (11), and Romania (10).
- Between 8th March and 15th March 2021, 17 countries, territories or areas issued 36 new exceptions whilst 6 countries, territories or areas removed 16 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 190 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 147 have issued 1,559 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 417 times. This is the second month (sixth consecutive week) that quarantine prior or after entering the country has not been the top condition, currently listed 332 times, and followed by medical screening (292).

## ■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Israel issued new exceptions to the ongoing flight suspension for flights arriving from Frankfurt (FRA), Heathrow (LHR), Hong Kong (HKG), Kiev (KBP), New York (JFK), New Jersey (EWR), Paris (CDG) or Toronto (YYZ).
  - New exceptions for the passenger ban were issued. United Arab Emirates issued exceptions to the travel ban who have been in or transited through Nigeria or South Africa in the past 14 days. Passengers who are holders of diplomatic passport are now included in the exemptions from this ban which was previously valid only for United Arab Emirates nationals.
  - Exceptions for children under a certain age were issued by Turkey and Italy. Turkey issued exceptions for passengers under 6 years old for the requirement stipulating that passengers must present a completed "Passenger Information Form" upon arrival. Whereas Italy issued exceptions to the medical measure requiring passengers to present a health certificate with a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival, for passengers under 2 years old. Morocco issued an exception for passengers younger than 11 years old who no longer need to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken 72 hours before departure.
  - New exceptions to existing conditions for authorised entry were issued. Cuba issued an exception to its requirement to present a medical health certificate with a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival for all passengers arriving on Canadian carriers.
  - Portugal issued an exception for nationals and residents of Portugal who no longer require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result prior to entry. However, they will still need to take a test upon arrival.
  - Guatemala issued an exception allowing nationals and residents who have been in South Africa in the last 14 days to enter. However, such passengers will be subject to quarantine for ten days. Passengers are no longer required to complete a Health Pass form and provide a QR before departure.
-