

# Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Weekly Update • 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020



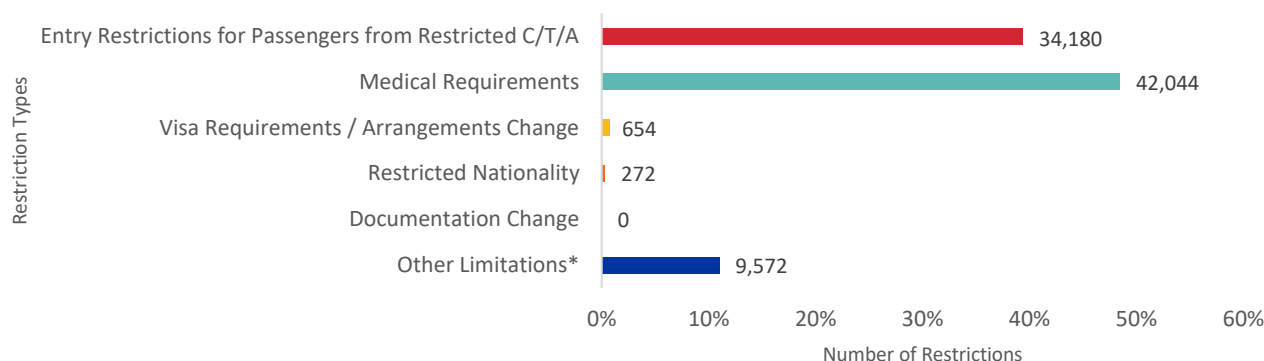
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series  
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## Overview

The global number of COVID-19 cases as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 has exceeded 25 million (25,118,689 cases and 844,312 deaths) as per the [World Health Organization](#). The growing number of COVID-19 cases continues to impact global mobility and migration as COVID-19 related travel measures are reintroduced. As of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, a total of 219 countries, territories or areas have issued 86,722 travel restrictions indicating an increase of 2 per cent from 85,034 travel restrictions reported on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020. There has been an increase of 4 per cent in medical restrictions and an increase of 2 per cent in other restrictions such as new documents needed for travel. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 178 countries, territories or areas have issued 732 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 24<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, 9 countries, territories or areas issued 22 new exceptions whilst 4 countries, territories or areas removed 5 exceptions.

Data Source: [IATA](#) and official government websites.

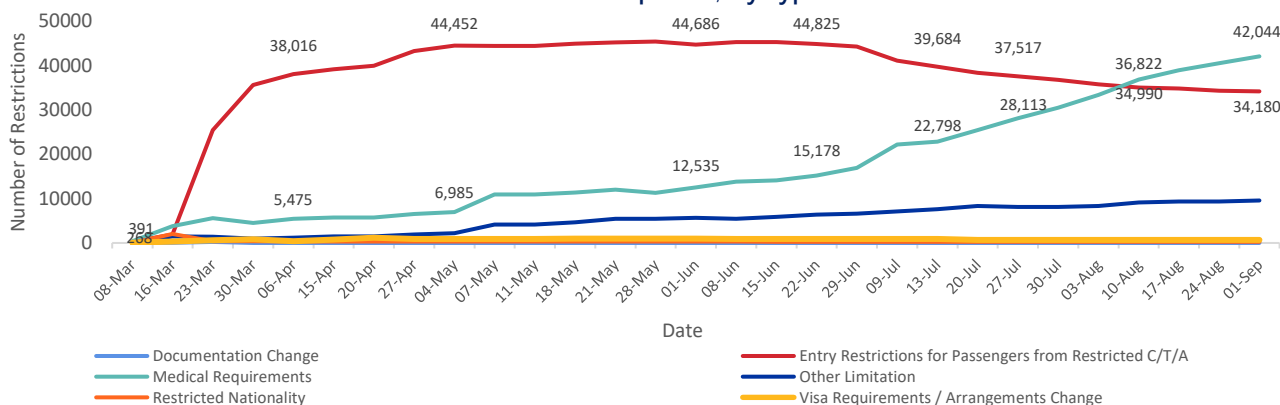
### Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type



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

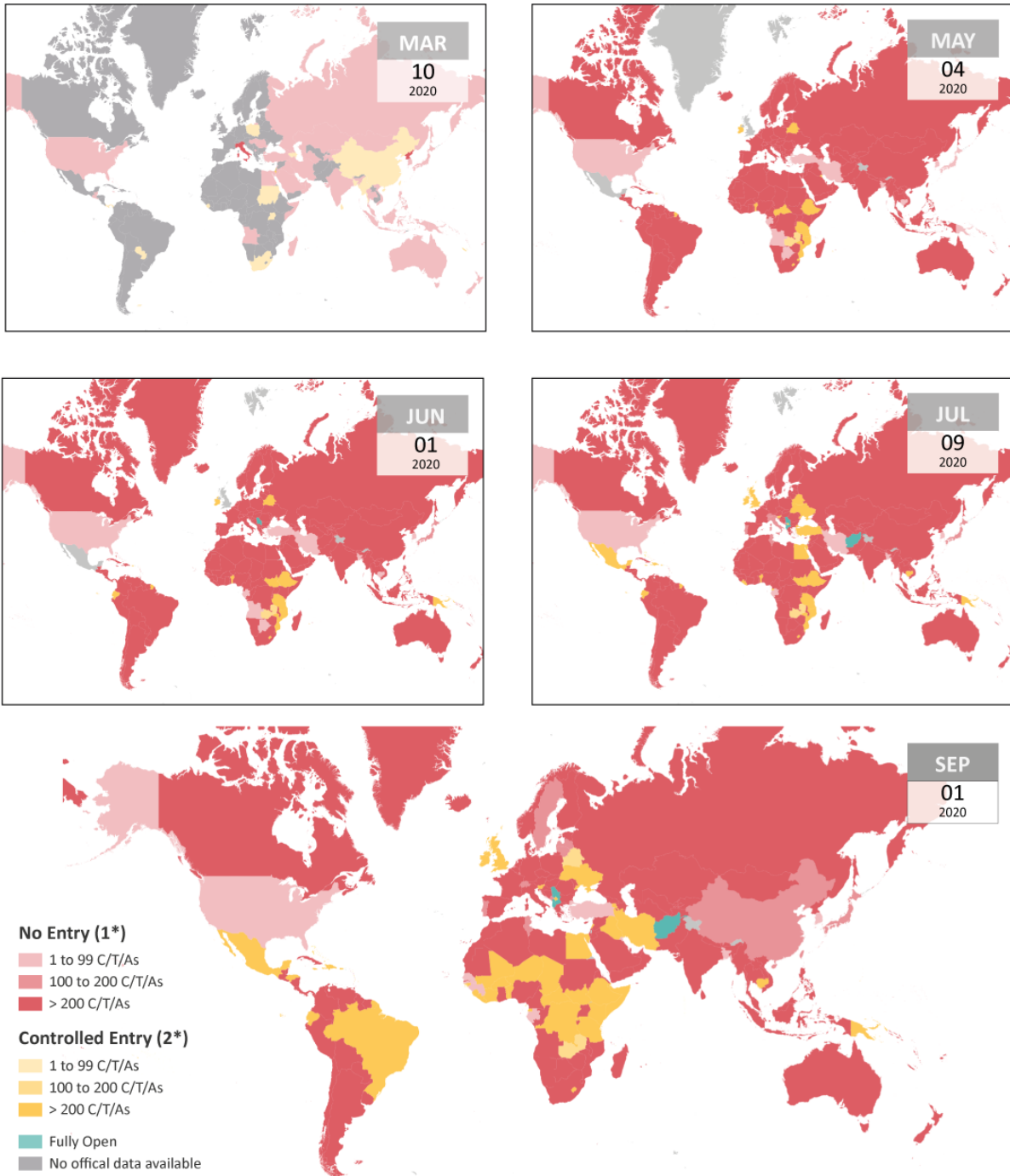
As of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As have been following a decreasing trend and no longer have the highest share of total restrictions (39%). Medical measures are the most common restriction type representing 48 per cent of restrictions. Changes in visa requirements have also followed a stable trend, continuing to represent a small share (<1%) in total restrictions.

### Restrictions Imposed, by type



**Important:** This analysis does not capture pre-COVID-19 related travel restrictions, rather it draws attention to various travel restrictions issued as a result of COVID-19. This report focuses on the changes to pre-existing measures affecting passengers travelling through specific routes or with specific travel documentation and nationalities. The number of restrictions recorded in this report is indicative of the total number of COVID-19 related travel restrictions since 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020, when IOM began monitoring the impact of travel restrictions on global mobility as a result of COVID-19. More specifically, this analysis highlights emerging changes as a result of COVID-19 travel requirements to support identifying border management practices. This analysis does not aim to provide information on exact 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.

### Changes in Restrictions on Arrival since 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020



(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.

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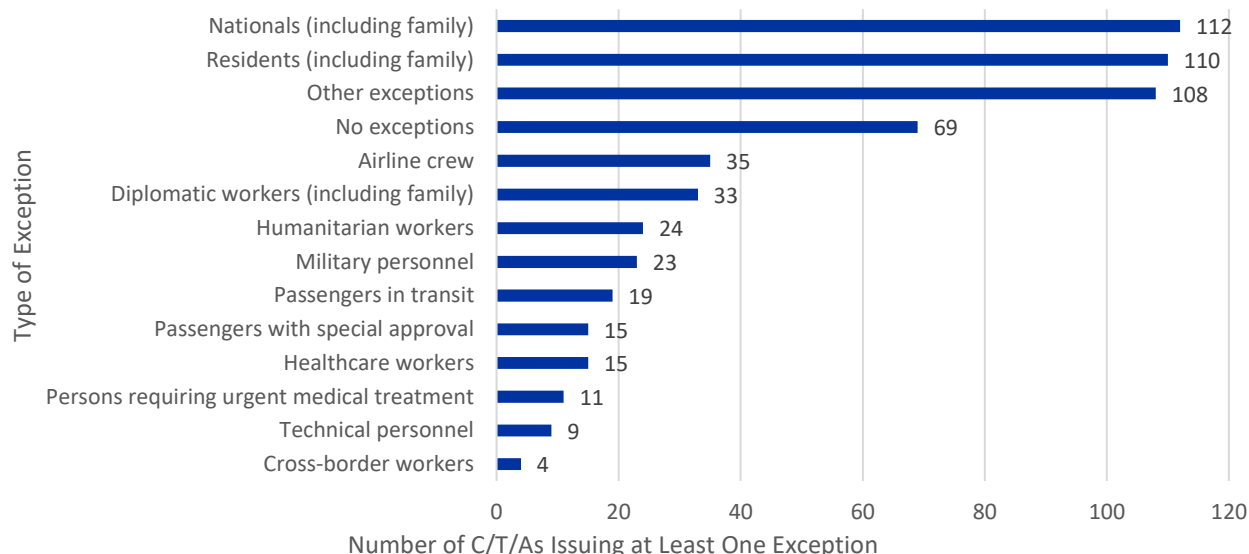
## ■ Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

- As of 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020, authorities in Ukraine have barred entry to Ukraine to all foreigners in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. They added exceptions for nationals, residents and spouses, parents and children of nationals of Ukraine, students as well as military personnel serving in the Armed Forces.
- Portuguese authorities have suspended flights to Portugal indefinitely as of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 for passengers arriving from certain countries. However, passengers arriving from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or Uruguay are exempt.
- Japan added restrictions on passengers arriving from Bhutan, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Nigeria, Malawi, South Sudan, Rwanda and Lesotho who are no longer allowed to enter.
- From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, Hungary reclosed its borders to international passengers, only passengers with a residence permit issued by Hungary with a validity longer than 90 days are allowed to enter.
- Lithuania added Belarus, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia to the list of highly infected countries, territories or areas and passengers arriving from here are no longer exempt from mandatory quarantine upon entry.
- Austria reimposed medical conditions for passengers arriving from the Balearic Islands. Passengers will require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result valid for no longer than 72 hours before arrival.
- Poland added new restrictions on passengers arriving from 44 countries, territories or areas.
- Existing passenger travel bans were extended by Nigeria until 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Finland until 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Mauritania until 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Chile until 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Mongolia and Greece until 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020, India, Azerbaijan and Myanmar until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Turkmenistan until 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and Malaysia until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.
- Mauritius, Malta and the Plurinational State of Bolivia extended the passenger bans for an indefinite period.
- Kuwait added entry restrictions on passengers that have been in Afghanistan in the last 14 days, they are no longer allowed to enter.
- Passenger bans were reintroduced by Denmark on residents of Andorra, Belgium, Croatia, France, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Romania, Spain. Meanwhile, residents of Portugal, Sweden, Tunisia and Uruguay are allowed to enter. Cyprus reintroduced entry bans for passengers arriving from Andorra, Croatia, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Tunisia. Simultaneously, authorities eased the entry ban for passengers arriving from Sweden.
- The French West Indies issued passengers bans for passengers arriving from Brazil, India, Israel, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and the United States of America who are not allowed to enter.
- Nigeria extended the conditions for authorised entry that were formerly applicable to nationals and residents to all passengers. As of 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020, all passengers must have a completed Health Declaration Form; must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 5 days before arrival and are subject to quarantine for 14 days.
- Sint Martin added new conditions for entry requiring passengers complete a health declaration form obtained online and must provide have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) laboratory test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival. Similarly, all passengers arriving in Malawi and Egypt must also provide have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) laboratory test result issued at most 10 days or 72 hours before arrival, respectively.

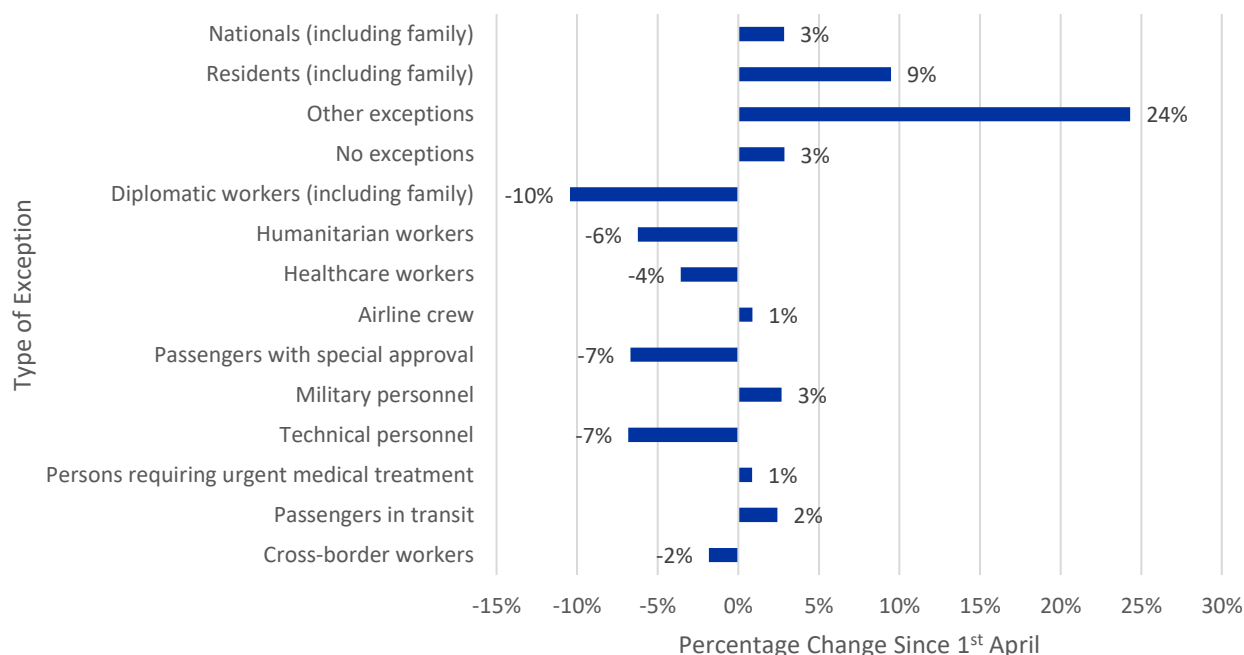
- Conditions for airline crew were changed. In addition to quarantine until the next flights, airline crew are also required to complete a health declaration form obtained to enter Sint Martin, whereas New Caledonia removed the restriction for airline crew, who are no longer subject to medical screening upon arrival.
- Japan issued new conditions for entry for residents of Japan with a re-entry permit, who left Japan before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, residents must have a 'Letter of Confirmation of Submitting Necessary Documentation for Re-entry into Japan', and a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result. The test must have been taken at most 72 hours before departure and the sample collection method must be 'nasopharyngeal swab' or 'saliva.' For residents who leave Japan on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 must also have the Receipt for request of re-entry issued by Immigration Services Agency of Japan.

## ■ Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions

Exceptions Enabling Entry



Changes in Exceptions Enabling Entry



### Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 732 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 178 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Italy (14), the Republic of Korea (13), Singapore (13), Canada (12), and then joint 5<sup>th</sup> with 11 were Belgium, Greece, the Netherlands, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America.
- Since the last update on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020, 22 new exceptions were added by Singapore (6), Ukraine (4), Kyrgyzstan (4), Belgium (2), the United Arab Emirates (2), Japan (1), Niue (1), Sri Lanka (1), and Zambia (1).
- Since the last update on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020, 5 exceptions were removed by Hungary (2), Denmark (1), Niue (1), and Thailand (1).

## ■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Brazil lifted COVID-19 related entry regulations on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020, however, passengers with a maximum stay of 90 days must have a medical insurance coverage (minimum coverage of BRL 30,000 and must be written in English or Portuguese) for the duration of their stay. Nationals and residents of Brazil and passengers travelling as students in Brazil are exempt from these conditions.
- As of 29<sup>th</sup> August 2020, the [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#) added Cuba to the list of countries, territories or areas from where arriving passengers do not need to self-isolate upon arrival.
- Changes to the condition for authorised entry were issued by The Netherlands for students, indicating that students must have a notification letter issued by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) and the letter must be in Dutch and contain as from 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 an English text block. Tunisia changed the medical conditions for entry of nationals and residents of Tunisia arriving from 92 countries, territories or areas are subject to quarantine in a hotel for 7 days and self-quarantine for an additional 7 days. Previously, nationals and residents were required to quarantine for 10 days at a hotel.
- New countries, territories or areas were added by Norway to provide confirmation of quarantine accommodation upon arrival to include passengers coming from Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark (excluding Nordjylland, Syddanmark and Greenland), France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden (excluding Kalmar, Norrbotten, Sodermanland and Vasterbotten), Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- New exceptions for flights were issued by Costa Rica for flights arriving from Australia, Bulgaria, People's Republic of China, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Monaco, New Zealand, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Thailand and Uruguay.
- Panama issued a new medical condition requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or antigen test result. The test must have been taken at most 48 hours before departure. Honduras issued a condition for entry, requiring a medical certificate upon arrival and accepting Rapid Test results.
- New conditions for authorised entry were issued by The People's Republic of China as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, for passengers arriving from or who have transited through Bahrain, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Eswatini, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Andorra, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Spain, Viet Nam or Switzerland must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result issued at most 5 days before departure. Passengers must also have a green QR code with an 'HS' mark, or a Health Declaration Form issued by a Chinese embassy or consulate.
- The United Arab Emirates added new conditions for entry of residents who are returning to Dubai (DXB) must have a General Directorate of Residency and Foreign Affairs (GDRFA) approval obtained before departure. This form is available online.
- Malta added medical conditions for entry for passengers arriving from Czechia and Tunisia who are required to provide a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result upon arrival.
- Indonesia added new conditions for entry for passengers that are exempt, they must provide a completed "electronic health awareness card (e-HAC)" prior to departure to enter.
- Turkey eased the passenger restrictions on passengers arriving from Bangladesh.
- New exceptions were added by The United Arab Emirates for domestic helpers who are traveling with the sponsor or with the first degree family members of the sponsor as well as nationals of the Republic of Korea who are traveling under the Fast Track program and arriving at Dubai (DXB). Nationals of the Republic of Korea that are traveling under the Fast Track program must have an 'Isolation Exemption Certificate'; and must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result. The test must have been taken at most 72 hours before departure.
- Zambia added new conditions for authorised entry requiring passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result issued at most 14 days before arrival. They must also provide a completed "Traveller Health Questionnaire" must be presented upon arrival. All passengers are subject to medical screening.