Global Mobility Restriction Overview
Weekly Update • 7ᵗʰ September 2020
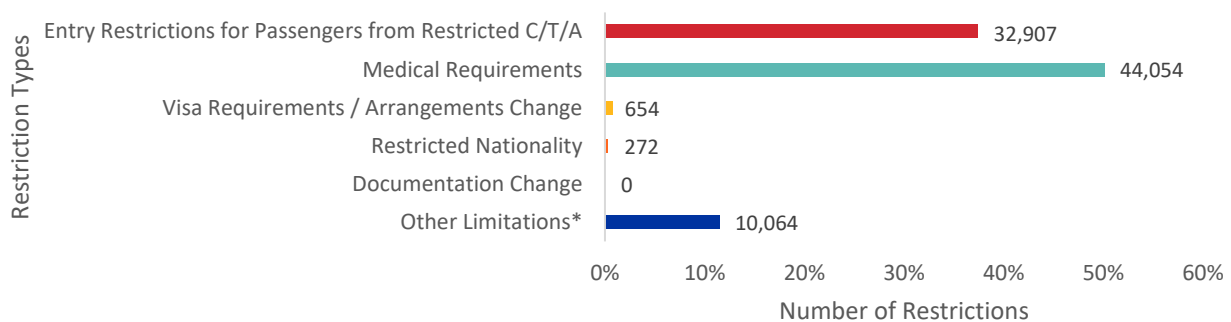
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
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■ Overview

Global mobility and migration remain disrupted as the growing number of COVID-19 cases continue to engender stringent and multiple travel restrictions to curb the number of new cases. As of 6ᵗʰ September 2020, the World Health Organization recorded over 26 million cases globally (26,762,217 cases and 876, 616 deaths). As of 7ᵗʰ September 2020, a total of 219 countries, territories or areas have issued 87,951 travel restrictions indicating an increase of one per cent from 86,722 travel restrictions reported on 1ˢᵗ September 2020. There has been an increase of five per cent in both medical restrictions and in other restrictions such as new documents needed for travel. Simultaneously, there was a four per cent decrease in restrictions on passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 177 countries, territories or areas have issued 732 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 1ˢᵗ and 7ᵗʰ September 2020, 9 countries, territories or areas issued 10 new exceptions whilst 5 countries, territories or areas removed 10 exceptions.
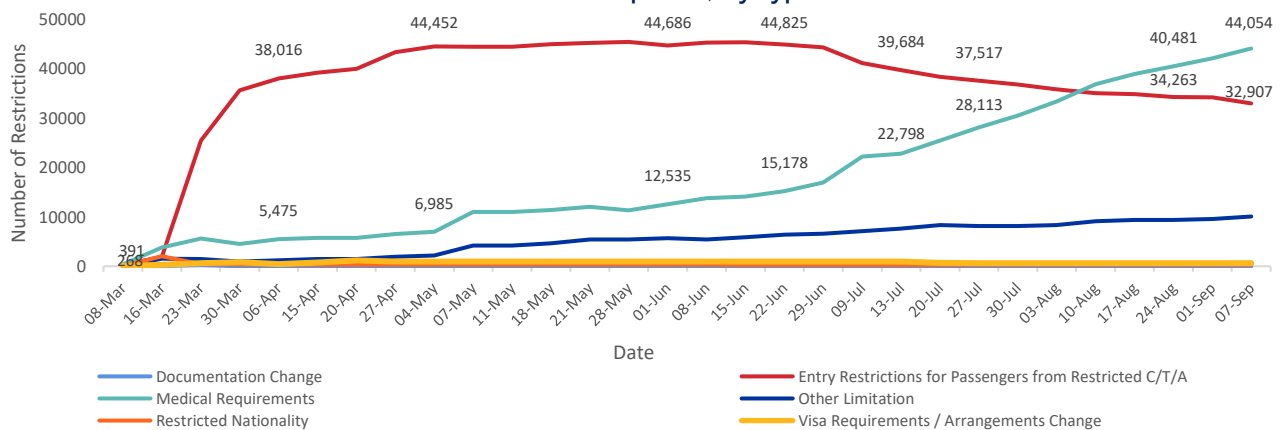Data Source: IATA and official government websites.

Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type

*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.
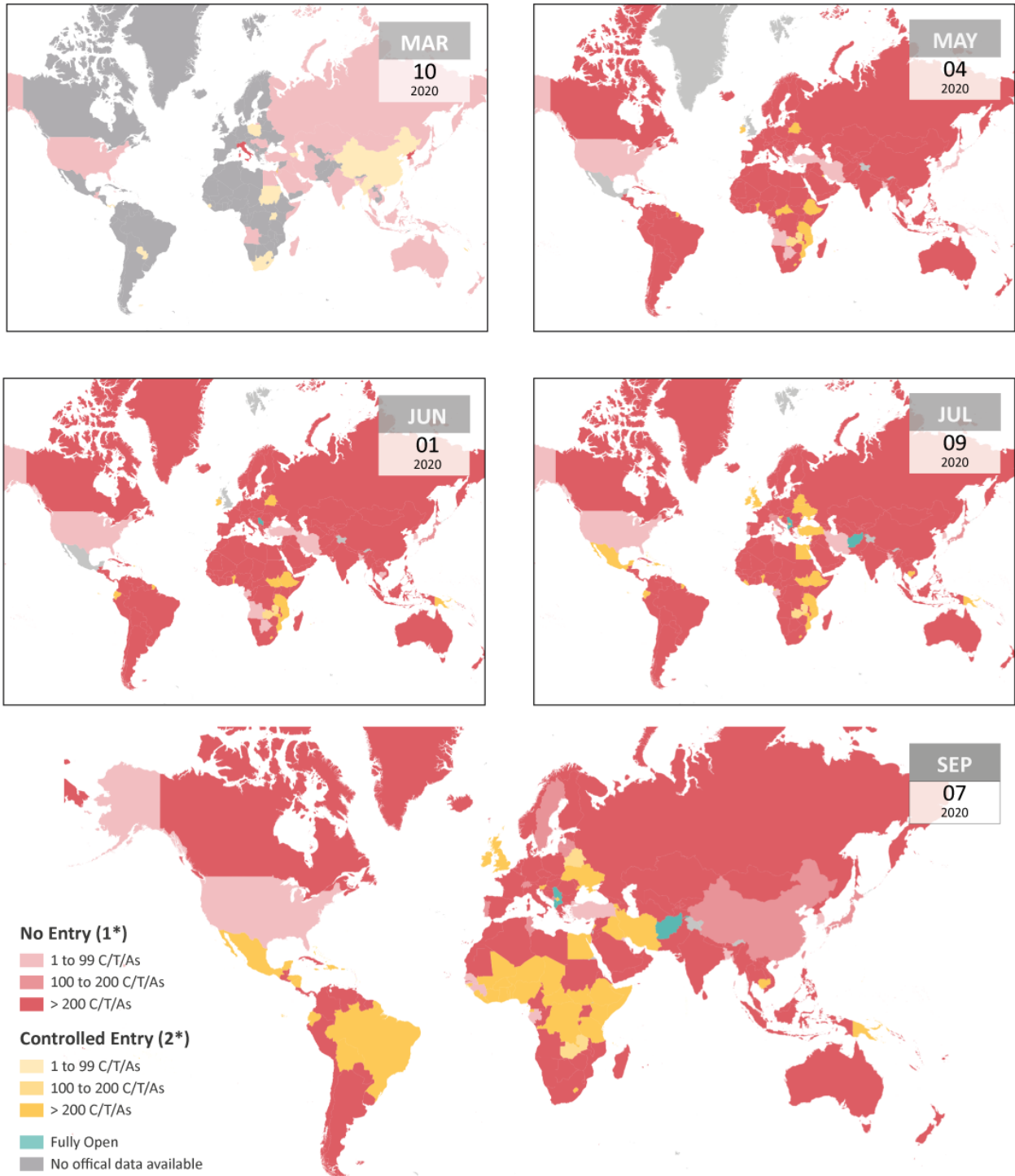
As of 7ᵗʰ September 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As have been following a decreasing trend and no longer have the highest share of total restrictions (37%). Medical measures are the most common restriction type representing 50 per cent 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 8ᵗʰ 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 10th March 2020

No Entry (1*)
- 1 to 99 C/T/As
- 100 to 200 C/T/As
- > 200 C/T/As

Controlled Entry (2*)
- 1 to 99 C/T/As
- 100 to 200 C/T/As
- > 200 C/T/As

- Fully Open
- No offical data available

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

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

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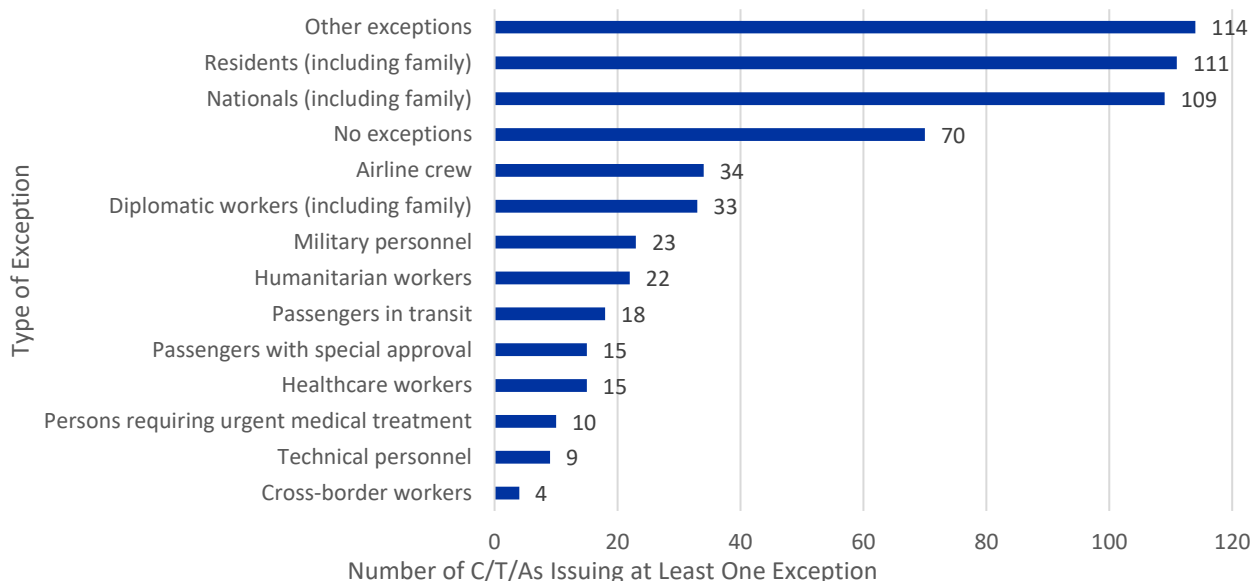
■ Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

- As of 3rd September 2020, Ghana restarted flights, however all passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued 72 hours before departure and are subject to medical screening upon arrival. Those passengers without certificates will be tested upon arrival at their own expense. Nationals and residents of Ghana that are returning to Ghana with a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued before departure from Ghana. The certificate is needed for both, departure and return.

- Authorities in Bahrain restarted visa on arrival facilities from 4th September 2020.

- Airports in Nicaragua have reopened as of 4th September 2020, all passengers and airline crew must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued 72 hours before departure. Additionally, passengers are subject to contact tracing by the Health Authorities for 14 days and must not have respiratory symptoms.

- Authorities in Nigeria have reopened airports in Lagos and Abuja as of 5th September 2020 Passengers can enter completing a Health Declaration Form, medical certificate with a negative COVID test result issued 5 days before flight and complete 1 4 days quarantine upon arrival.

- As of 7th September 2020, flights to Comoros have restarted, passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued 72 hours before departure.

- Costa Rica restarted flights arriving from specific states (the states of Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.) in the United States of America. Whereas Kyrgyzstan eased restrictions on passengers arriving from Uzbekistan, allowing them to enter under same conditions for entry for passengers that are allowed to enter.

- Extension of flight bans were issued by Mozambique and Jordan until 7th September 2020, by Uzbekistan until 10th September 2020, Oman and Poland until 15th September 2020, by Belize, by Guyana, by the Gambia and Lao People's Democratic Republic until 30th September 2020. Nepal extended flights suspensions indefinitely.

- The [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#) added self-isolation measures for 14 days for passengers arriving from Czechia, Jamaica and Switzerland.

- The Plurinational State of Bolivia shifted from a passenger ban to medical measures as conditions for authorised entry. All incoming passengers and airline crew must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 7 days before arrival. Nationals and residents without a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result are subject to quarantine.

- Medical measures were reintroduced. Passengers arriving to Malta from Bulgaria will no longer be exempt from conditions for authorised entry and will require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerise Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival. Passengers without a certificate are subject to taking the test upon arrival.

- Travel bans were reintroduced. Passengers arriving to Portugal from Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and the United States of America traveling as students are no longer permitted to enter. Similarly, passengers arriving to Cyprus from Monaco and Rwanda are not allowed to enter.

- New conditions for entry were issued by Malaysia, requiring passengers to download a 'MySejahtera app' on their smart phone and subject to medical screening and quarantine at government monitored facilities for 14 days at their own expense, upon arrival.

- Changes to entry conditions were issued by Bahrain, previously passengers were subject to medical screening upon arrival and quarantine for 10 days. As of 4th September 2020, all incoming passengers are subject to a COVID-19 test at their own expense and self-isolation until test results are ready.

- Senegal issued new restrictions for nationals of Mauritania, and Fiji banned the transit of nationals from Samoa.
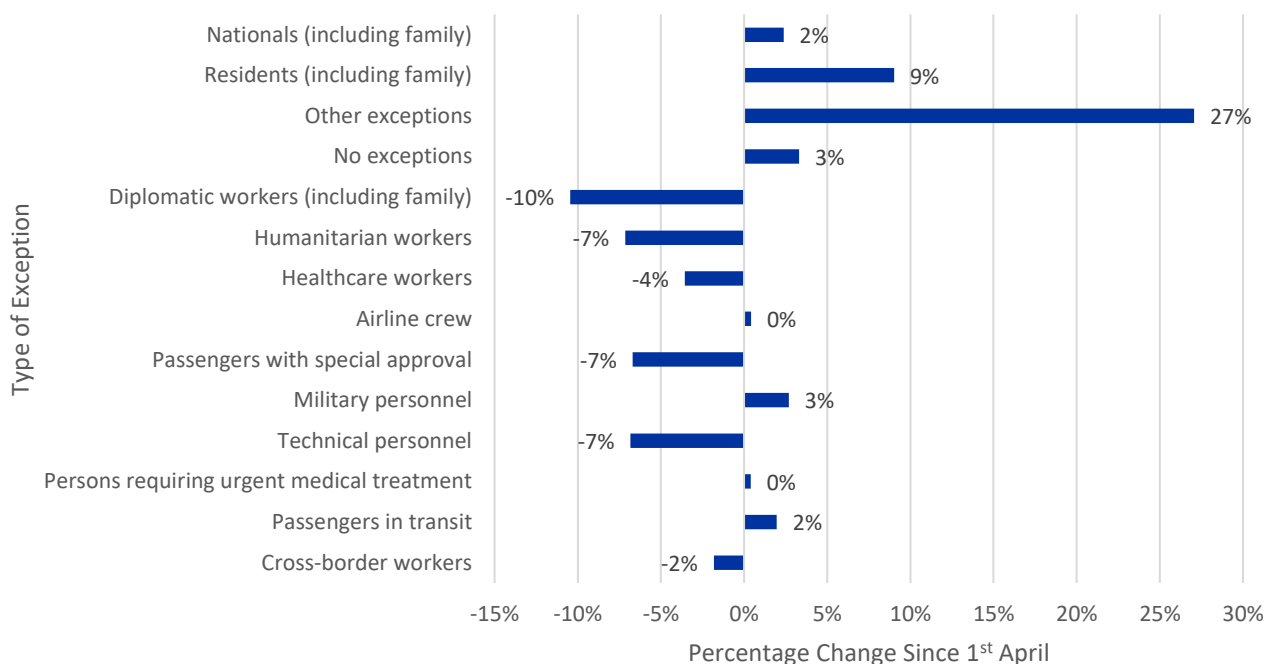
- New entry conditions were issued by People's Republic of China as of 6th September 2020, for passengers who are arriving from or have transited through Eritrea, Iraq or Israel. They must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result issued at most 3 days before departure. They must also have a green QR code with an 'HS' mark, or a Health Declaration Form issued by a Chinese embassy or consulate.

- Greece issued conditions for entry for passengers arriving from the Russian Federation, who must have medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerise Chain Reaction (PCR) test result in English issued at most 72 hours before arrival. This does not apply to passengers in transit or passengers younger than 10 years.

- New medical conditions for entry were issued by Estonia, requiring passengers to subject to a COVID-19 test and self-isolation for 14 days, upon arrival.

- Conditions for entry for transiting passengers were issued by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, however passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerise Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 5 days before arrival.

■ Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions

Exceptions Enabling Entry

Type of Exception	Number of C/T/As Issuing at Least One Exception
Other exceptions	114
Residents (including family)	111
Nationals (including family)	109
No exceptions	70
Airline crew	34
Diplomatic workers (including family)	33
Military personnel	23
Humanitarian workers	22
Passengers in transit	18
Passengers with special approval	15
Healthcare workers	15
Persons requiring urgent medical treatment	10
Technical personnel	9
Cross-border workers	4

Changes in Exceptions Enabling Entry

Type of Exception	Percentage Change Since 1st April
Nationals (including family)	2%
Residents (including family)	9%
Other exceptions	27%
No exceptions	3%
Diplomatic workers (including family)	-10%
Humanitarian workers	-7%
Healthcare workers	-4%
Airline crew	0%
Passengers with special approval	-7%
Military personnel	3%
Technical personnel	-7%
Persons requiring urgent medical treatment	0%
Passengers in transit	2%
Cross-border workers	-2%

Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 732 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 177 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 5th with 11 were Belgium, Greece, the Netherlands, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America.
- Since the last update on 1st September 2020, 10 new exceptions were added by Madagascar (2), Austria (1), Brunei Darussalam (1), Hungary (1), Kenya (1), Malaysia (1), Namibia (1), Nepal (1), and Oman (1).
- Since the last update on 1st September 2020, 10 exceptions were removed by the Plurinational State of Bolivia (3), Nigeria (3), Bahrain (2), Japan (1), and Nicaragua (1).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- New exceptions for direct flights. The Russian Federation added exceptions to the travel ban for nationals and residents of Egypt if arriving from Egypt; residents of Maldives if arriving from Maldives, and nationals and residents of United Arab Emirates if arriving from United Arab Emirates. Canada also added exceptions for flights arriving at specific airports [Calgary (YYC), Montreal (YUL), Toronto (YYZ) or Vancouver (YVR)] that are arriving directly from Argentina, Belize, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guyana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Suriname, Uruguay, the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

- New exceptions for passengers below a specific age were issued by Austria and Tunisia. For Austria, passengers younger than 6 years who are not traveling alone do not need to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result valid for 72 hours prior to departure. Meanwhile, Tunisia added the exception for passengers below the age of 12 for the same condition.

- Cyprus issued an exception allowing entry to passengers arriving from Australia. However, passengers must have a Cyprus Flight Pass completed online in addition to a medical certificate stating a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 72 hours before departure.

- Exceptions to travel flight bans were issued by Kenya for passengers with a diplomatic passport, and by Madagascar and Namibia for repatriation flights.

- Japan issued exceptions for the entry of residents of Japan who left Japan on or before 1st September 2020 with a re-entry permit, United States of America military personnel, civilian personnel of the United States of America armed forces in Japan and their dependents.

- New Zealand issued a two-month COVID-19 short-term visa for temporary migrants unable to leave due to international travel restrictions, which will kick in when their current visa expires. Similarly, Ecuador issued a "Passport validity extension certificate," which validates expired regular passports.

- Cayman Airlines has announced three return flights for residents of Cayman to return from Miami, United States of America on 10th, 15th and 22nd September 2020.

- On September 3rd 2020, a total of 105 passengers arrived to the Solomon Islands from the People's Republic of China. All passengers had to undergo three COVID-19 tests with a negative outcome in order to board the special flight.

- The United Arab Emirates sent 25 tonnes of medicines, medical supplies and equipment on 6th September 2020 to bolster local COVID-19 efforts in the Syrian Arab Republic.

- Egypt sent a military plane carrying 14 tons of medical aid including medicines, medical masks, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Iraq on 5th September 2020.