Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Bi-Weekly Update • 10th August 2020
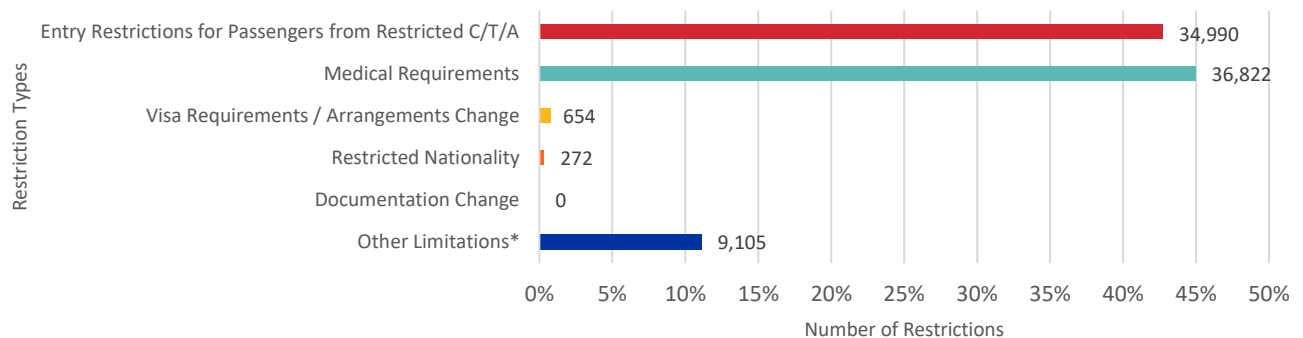
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
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■ Overview

The global number of COVID-19 cases has exceeded 19 million (19,462,112 cases and 722,285 deaths) as of 9th August 2020, as per the World Health Organization. The epidemiological concerns of the global pandemic continue to affect human mobility and migration in myriad ways. As of 10th August 2020, a total of 219 countries, territories or areas have issued 81,843 travel restrictions indicating an increase of 1 per cent from 80,884 travel restrictions reported on 6th August 2020. There has been an increase of 6 per cent in other limitations like new documents for entry an increase of 1 per cent in medical restrictions. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 177 countries, territories or areas have issued 676 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 6th and 10th August 2020, 1 country, territory or area has issued 2 new exceptions whilst 1 country, territory or area has removed 1 exception.
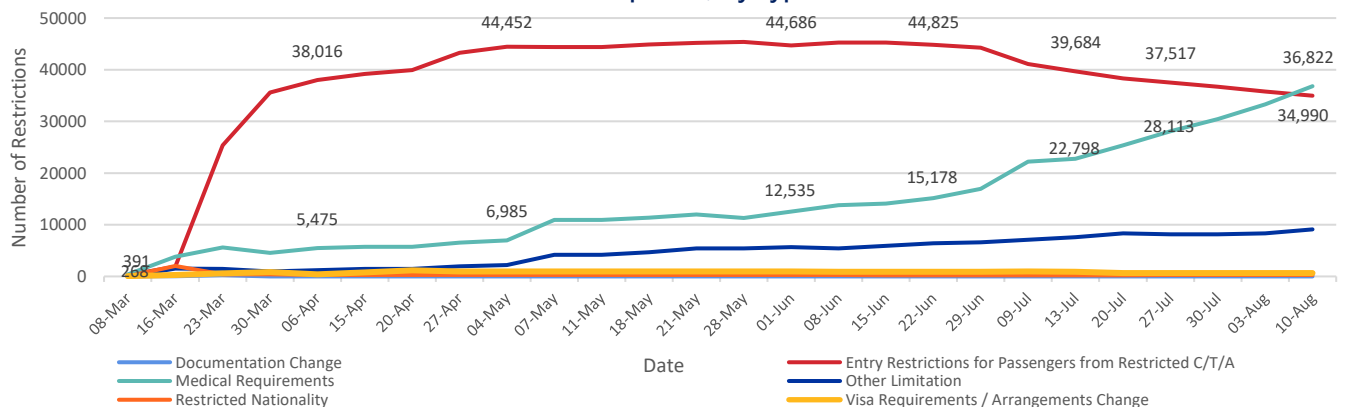
Data Source: IATA and official government websites.

Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type

*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.
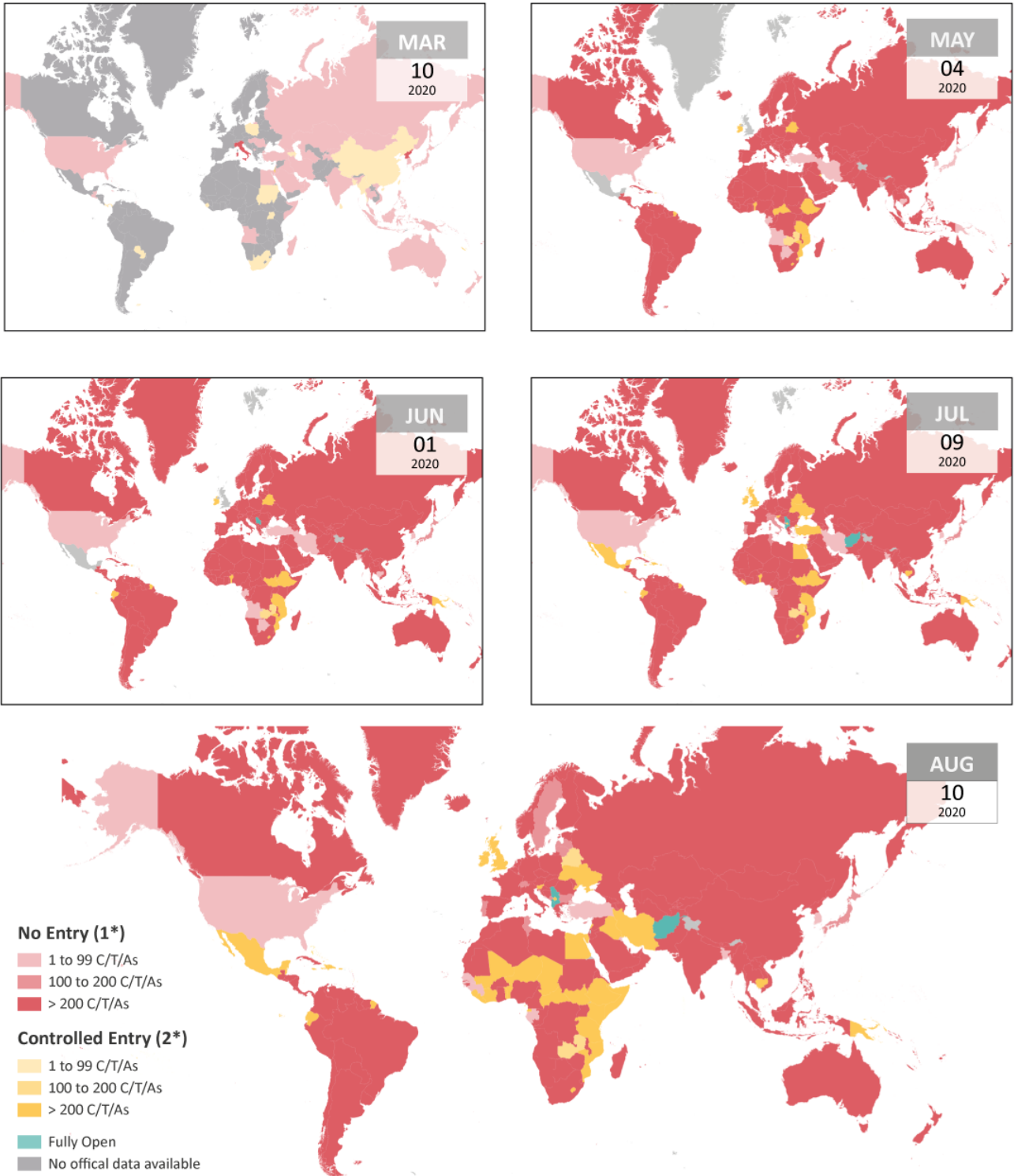
As of 10th August 2020, 219 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As have been following a decreasing trend and as of this update no longer have the highest share of total restrictions (43%). Medical measures are the most common restriction type representing 45 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.

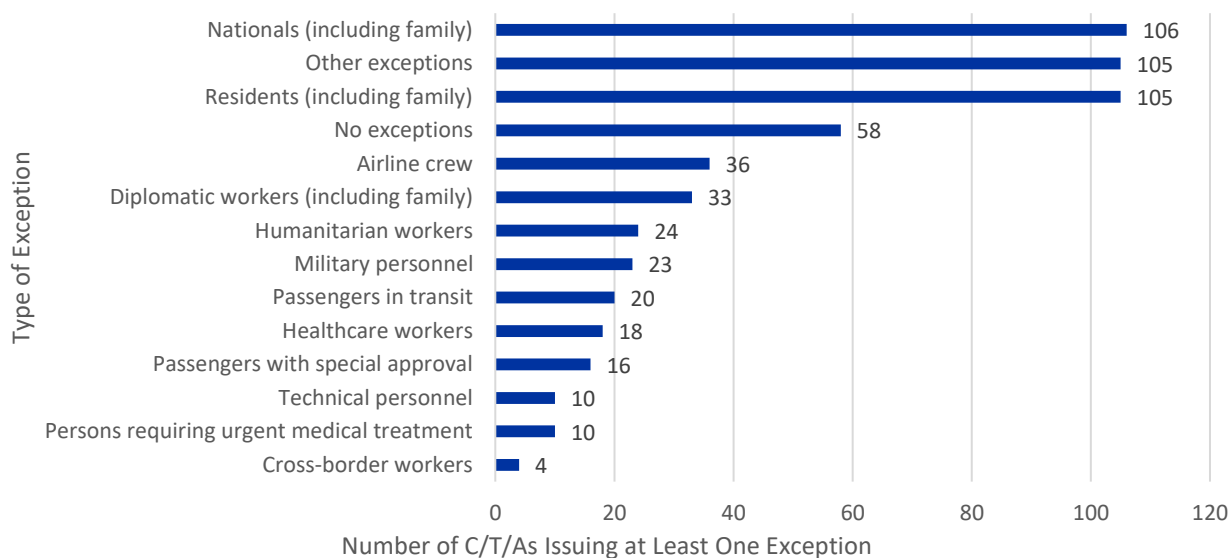The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.
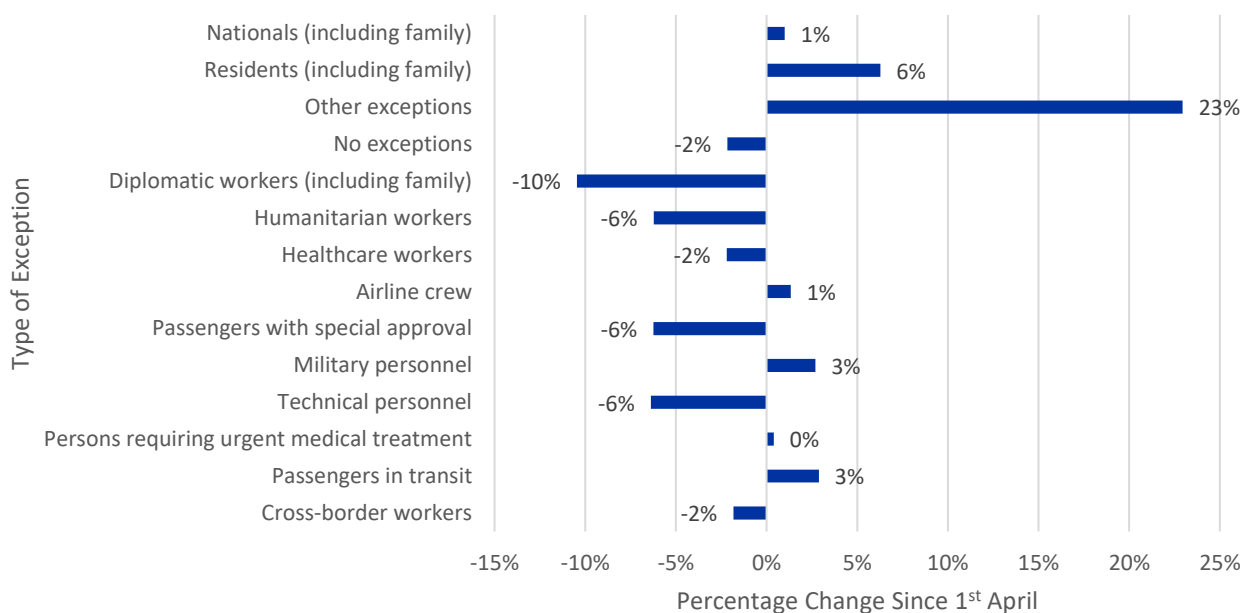
■ Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

- Flight suspensions were extended by the Syrian Arab Republic until 25th August 2020 and by Guatemala until 1st September 2020.

- Switzerland added Spain, Bahamas, Singapore, Saint Martin, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, and Equatorial Guinea to the list of countries where passengers are required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

- Japan issued entry conditions for residents of Japan with status of "Permanent Resident", "Spouse or Child of Japanese National", "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident" or "Long Term Resident" who have spent time in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines or Peru in the past 14 days. Residents must have confirmation of Submitting Necessary Documentation for Re-entry into Japan, and a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result, taken at most 72 hours before departure.

- Lebanon issued new medical measures for all passengers to provide a health declaration form online before departure.

- New medical measures for passengers and airline crew were added by Malta to provide a "Public Health Passenger Locator Form" and undergo a 14-day self-quarantine.

- New medical conditions for entry were issued by Kenya for all arriving passengers, including the provision of a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 96 hours before departure, and mandatory medical screening and quarantine, upon arrival.

- Iraq issued conditions for entry, requiring that passengers arriving at Erbil (EBL) or Sulaymaniyah (ISU) complete a "Pledge Form" upon arrival and airline crew arriving at Erbil (EBL) or Sulaymaniyah (ISU) are subject to self-isolate in a hotel until their next flight.

- Lebanon issued new medical measures for all passengers to provide a health declaration form online before departure.

- Rwanda issued a new condition for entry, stipulating that all passengers must complete a health declaration form before departure.

- Cameroon eased conditions for authorized entry for airline crew who no longer need to self-quarantine until their next flight but are still subject to mandatory medical screening upon arrival.

- United Republic of Tanzania no longer require passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter.

Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions

Exceptions Enabling Entry

Type of Exception	Number of C/T/As Issuing at Least One Exception
Nationals (including family)	106
Other exceptions	105
Residents (including family)	105
No exceptions	58
Airline crew	36
Diplomatic workers (including family)	33
Humanitarian workers	24
Military personnel	23
Passengers in transit	20
Healthcare workers	18
Passengers with special approval	16
Technical personnel	10
Persons requiring urgent medical treatment	10
Cross-border workers	4

Changes in Exceptions Enabling Entry

Type of Exception	Percentage Change Since 1st April
Nationals (including family)	1%
Residents (including family)	6%
Other exceptions	23%
No exceptions	-2%
Diplomatic workers (including family)	-10%
Humanitarian workers	-6%
Healthcare workers	-2%
Airline crew	1%
Passengers with special approval	-6%
Military personnel	3%
Technical personnel	-6%
Persons requiring urgent medical treatment	0%
Passengers in transit	3%
Cross-border workers	-2%

Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 676 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 177 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Canada (12), Thailand (12), Greece (11), the Republic of Korea (11), and the United States of America (11).
- Since the last update on 6th August 2020, 2 new exceptions were added by Georgia.
- Since the last update on 6th August 2020, 1 exception was removed by Viet Nam.

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- The United Arab Emirates added exceptions for all passengers arriving from the United States of America to Abu Dhabi who are now allowed to enter.

- An exception to the blanket flight ban was updated by Morocco, allowing for flights returning Moroccan nationals.

- A shift in exceptions was issued by the Philippines, to include spouses or children of a national of the Philippines or parents of a minor who is a national of the Philippines, exempting them from visa suspensions on upon arrival.

- Georgia issued exceptional entry to nationals and residents of Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

- Morocco sent medical equipment for the prevention of COVID-19, such as protective masks, visors, gowns and hydro-alcoholic gel, as well as first response humanitarian assistance including first aid drugs, food products, tents and blankets to accommodate the disaster victims.

- Similarly, on 6th August 2020, Qatar sent four plans carrying medical and humanitarian aid supplies to Lebanon. Authorities of Tunisia sent two military planes carrying food, drugs and medical supplies as well as transported 100 injured Lebanese nationals to be treated in Tunisia.

- As of 9th August 2002, under Phase 5 of the 'Vande Bharat Mission', 917 nationals of India returned from Oman, additional flights have been arranged to facilitate more returns.

- A total of 200 nationals of Pakistan that were previously stranded in the United Arab Emirates returned back to Multan, Pakistan on 10th August 2020.

- A total of 118 nationals of India that were stranded in Pakistan due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions returned back to India via the Wagah land border on 10th August 2020.

- Georgia lifted the suspension of incoming flights from Estonia, France, Germany, Latvia and Lithuania.

- Applications facilitating the cross-border movement for business purposes between Malaysia and Singapore under stringent conditions have opened as of 10th August 2020. Nationals of each country as well as foreign nationals and visitors will have to register online with the country of entry. Proper documentation for the appropriate pass is required in addition to an employer endorsement in some cases. To use either of these systems, travellers must register online.

- Authorities in India have established an 'Air Bubble' with the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany and France permitting entry to India for OCI (Overseas Indian Citizen) cardholders who belong to any of the countries, territories or areas with which Air Bubble arrangements have been finalised. Additionally, nationals from 'Air Bubble' countries, territories or areas have can benefit from Indian visa facility for business, medical and employment purposes.