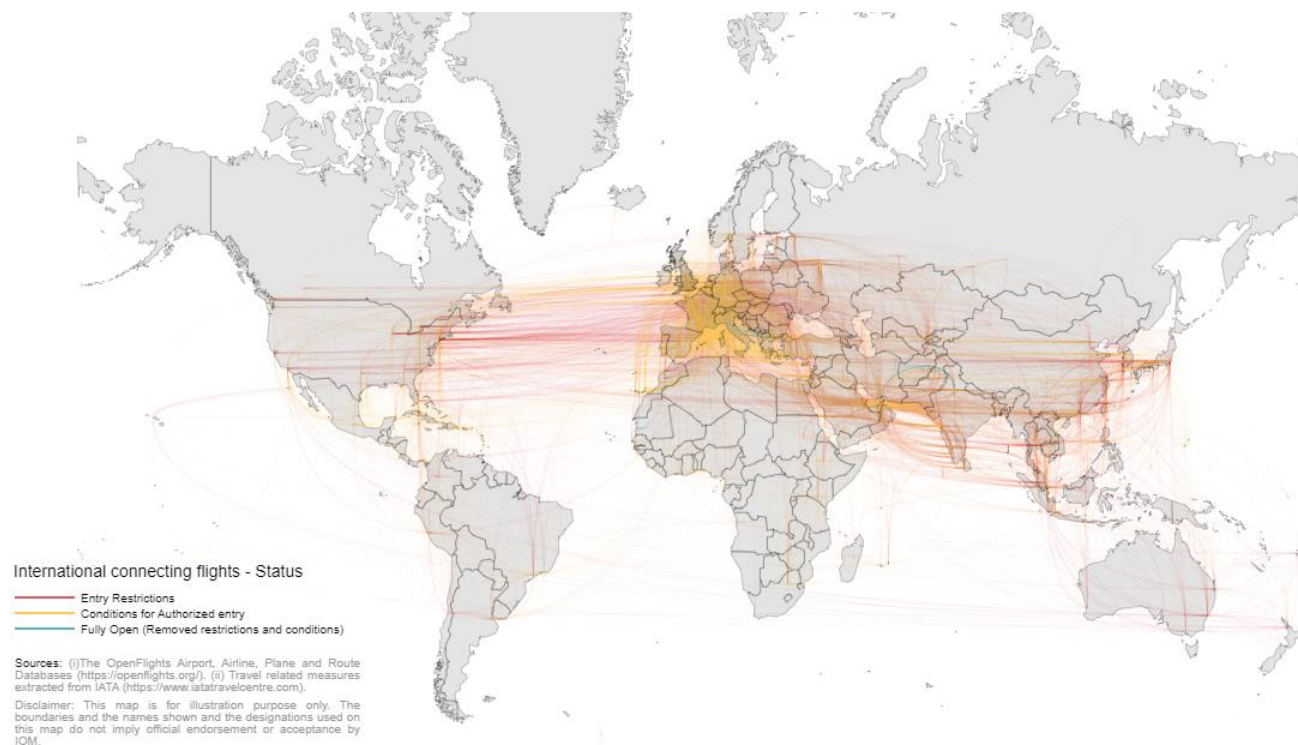


Global Mobility Restriction Overview





Weekly Update • 18th January 2021



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

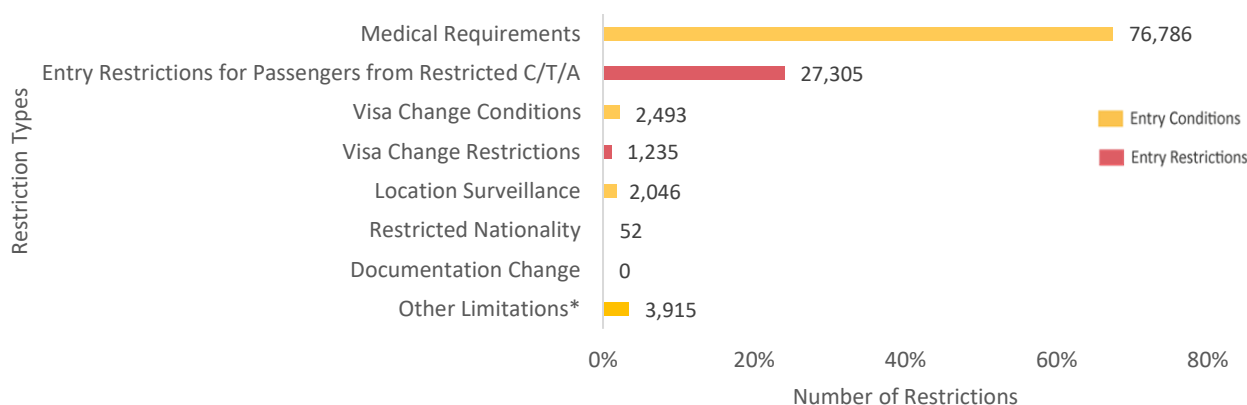
Disclaimer: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe mobility restrictions in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities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

Overview

The global number of reported COVID-19 cases has exceeded 93 million and over 2 million deaths as per the [World Health Organization](#) as of 17th January 2021.¹ The identification of new strains of COVID-19 along with rising numbers of cases continues to generate a broad range of travel restrictions and mitigation measures. As of 18th January 2021, a total of 225 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 113,832 travel related measures indicating a decrease of close to one per cent from 114,148 travel related measures reported on 11th January 2021. Of these, 28,592 were reported as entry restrictions and 85,240 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was a decrease of nearly one per cent in entry restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was an increase of 7 per cent in other limitations such as travel insurance or confirmed hotel reservations and a 2 per cent increase in location surveillance measures such as registering with local authorities and downloading QR codes or health apps on personal devices. There was a 1 per cent decrease in entry restrictions such as passenger bans issued between 11th and 18th January 2021. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 179 countries, territories or areas have issued 761 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 11th and 18th January 2021, 19 countries, territories or areas issued 30 new exceptions whilst 12 countries, territories or areas removed 24 exceptions.

Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

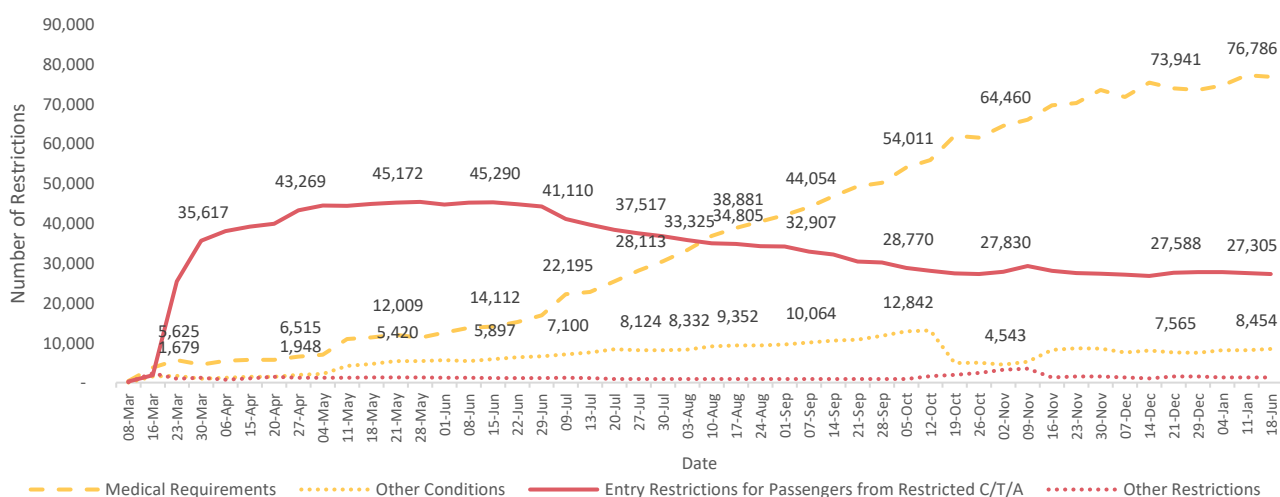
Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry



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

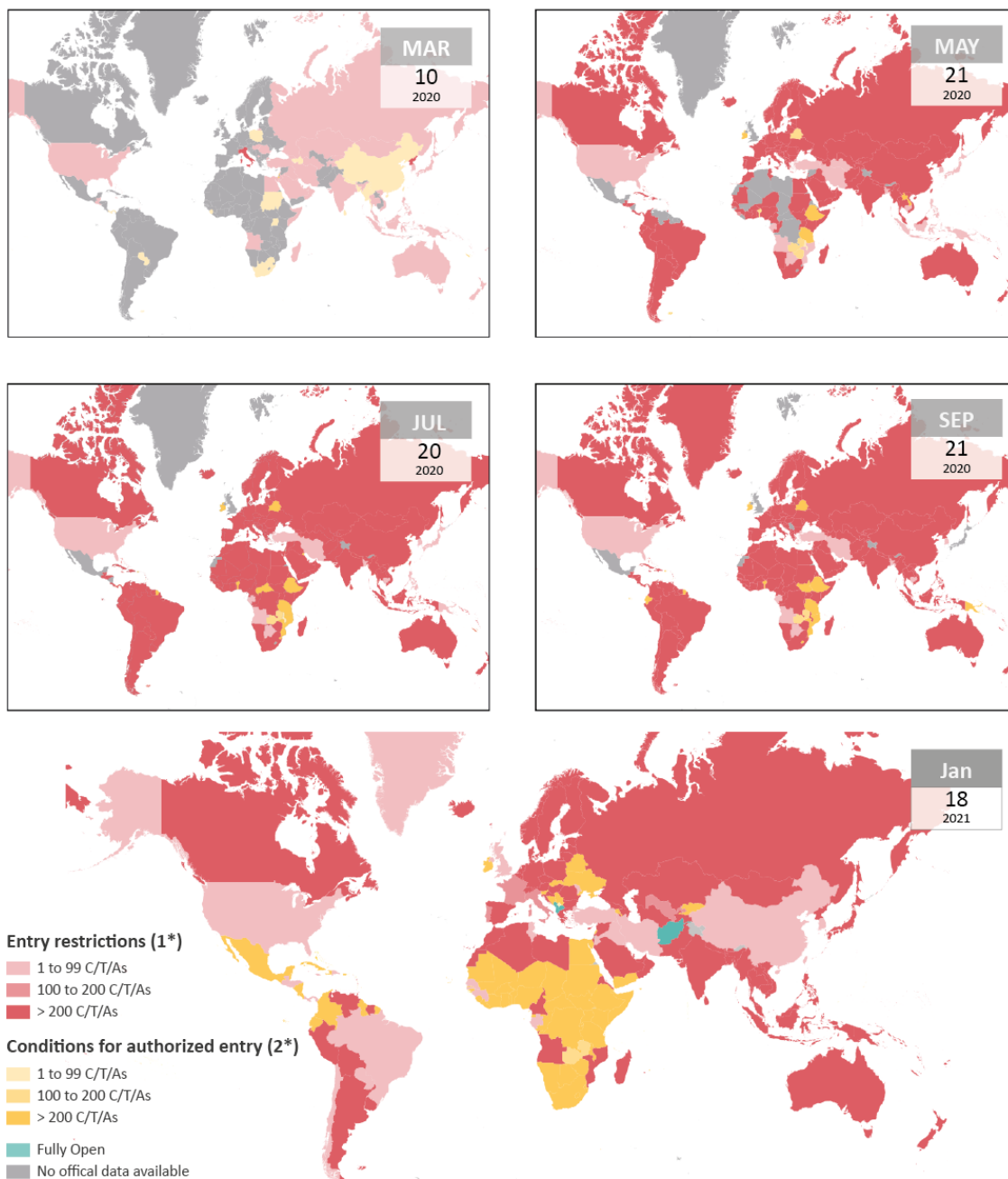
As of 18th January 2021, 225 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 24 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition for authorized entry representing 67 per cent of conditions. In contrast, visa requirements represent 3 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

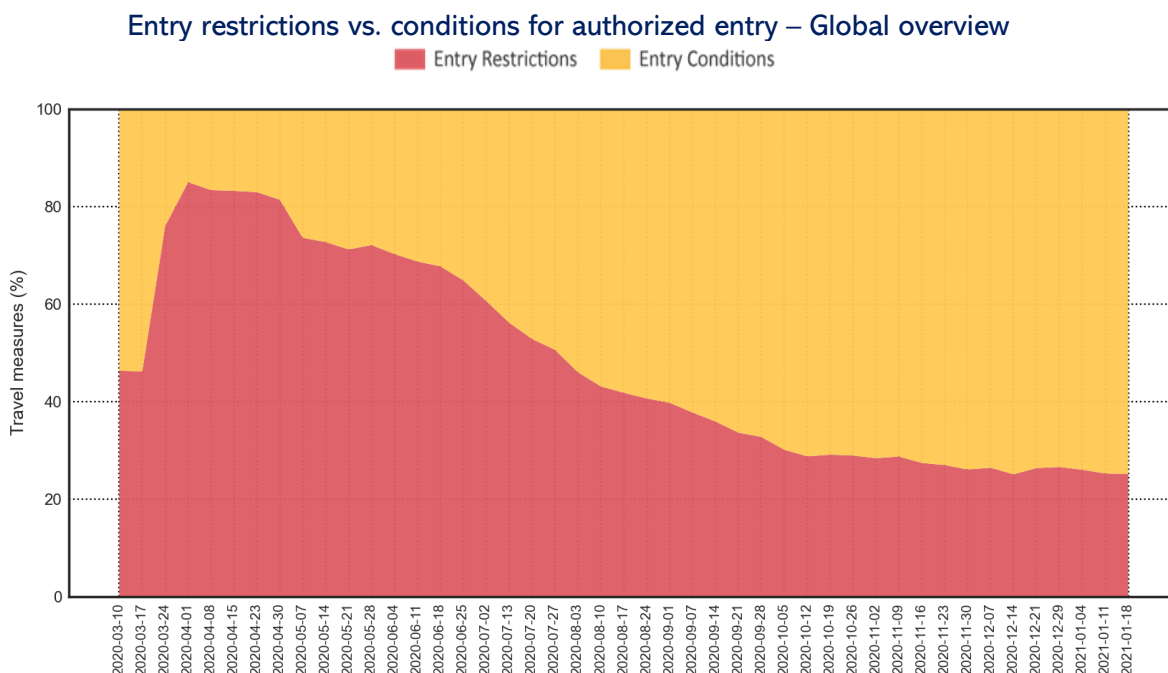
The map below provides a global overview on how C/T/As have gradually increased the issuance of 'entry restrictions' (e.g. total entry restrictions for passengers) and 'conditions for authorized entry' (e.g. medical requirements in the form of PCR test, quarantine, etc.). In March 2020, most of the Governments and authorities across the world had not officially announced any COVID-19 related travel measures (coloured in grey), whereas as of December 2020, almost all the C/T/As have issued some form of entry restrictions or conditions for authorized entry at international airports.



(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 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 26 per cent, as of 18th January 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 shift intensity. 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 restrictions representing less than 5 per cent of the total travel related measures as of January 18th 2021. On the other hand, since October 2020 IOM regions of *Asia and the Pacific* and *South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia* have backed out of the previous trends observed (shift from restrictions to conditions) and started to increase restrictions again. These regional differences over time mirror the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in different geographical areas.

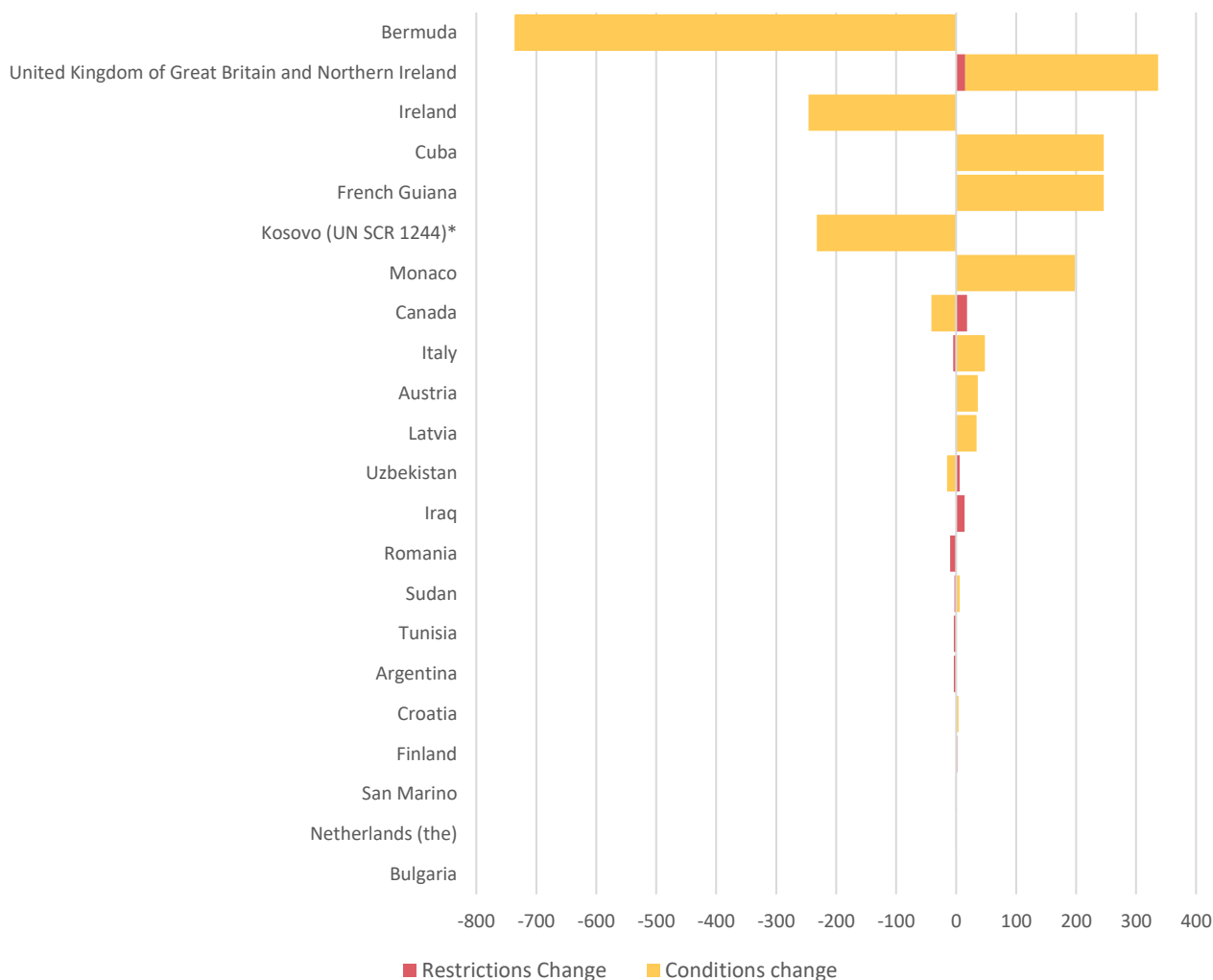
Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Regional overview



■ 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 11th January and 18th January 2021, 22 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 10 of them made minor changes. While 9 C/T/As issued new conditions for authorized entry, 6 C/T/As issued new total restrictions. There were 6 and 7 C/T/As removing conditions and restrictions respectively.

Weekly changes in number of restrictions and conditions for authorized entry issued by C/T/As



1
2

Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland³

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 18th January 2021, a total of 96 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 as between 11th and 18th January 2021, only Monaco added new restrictions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

¹ References to Kosovo shall be understood for IOM to be in the context of (United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244) (1999)

² 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.

³ This was last updated on 18th January 2021 at 15:00 GMT.

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

- Authorities suspended all 'travel corridors' which allowed travellers from specific C/T/As to travel and enter without mandatory quarantine. As a result of this suspension, all travellers arriving from all C/T/As must undergo mandatory 10 days of self-isolation upon arrival. Additionally, they must provide a medical certificate as evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result valid for at least 72 hours prior to departure.

Changes in Existing COVID-19 Measures

- Brazil issued exceptions for nationals of Brazil who have been or transited through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the past 14 days prior to the scheduled arrival to Brazil. Bermuda changed measures for passengers and airline crew who are arriving from or have spent time in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the past 14 days; they are subject to a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test on arrival and mandatory quarantine for 4 days. They will only be released from quarantine after receiving a negative result from the COVID-19 PCR test done on the fourth day.
- Bulgaria extended the suspension on flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 31st January 2021. Until 31st January 2021; nationals and residents of Bulgaria and their family members, arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland without a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival are subject to quarantine for 10 days.
- Cayman Islands issued a suspension on flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an unspecified period.
- Croatia issued new medical measures for passengers arriving from South Africa or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland who must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 48 hours before arrival and they must self-isolate for 14 days.
- India issued measures for passengers who are arriving from or have transited through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, valid until 30th January 2021. All arriving travellers must complete a self-declaration form online at least 72 hours before departure; and - must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test result taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. The test result must be uploaded online; and passengers must be traveling on a direct flight to India. Passengers are subject to a COVID-19 RT-PCR test upon arrival and quarantine for 14 days. Additionally, airline crew who are arriving from or have transited through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 19 Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point; and are subject to a COVID-19 19 Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test upon arrival.
- Finland extended the temporary flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 25th January 2021.
- Italy lifted the passenger ban on travellers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, however the general passenger ban has been extended until 5th March 2021. As a result of Brexit, the previous exception for passengers with a British passport with nationality "British Citizen", "British Overseas Territories Citizen" issued by Gibraltar and British Passports with a Certificate of Entitlement to the Right of Abode issued by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was also removed.
- New Zealand issued new measures for passengers entering or transiting from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, they must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result, valid for no longer than 72 hours prior departure from the first embarkation point. Passengers below the age of two; passengers that have transited for less than 4 days, or without disembarking the aircraft; as well as passengers with a diplomatic or consular visa or members of the New Zealand Defence Force are exempt.
- Sudan added new conditions for authorised entry for travellers who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the last 14 days. Such travellers must provide a medical certificate with a COVID-19 molecular or antigenic test taken at most 48 hours before arrival.
- As on 11th January 2021, Tunisia lifted the temporary flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- Monaco issued a new medical measure for passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, requiring they have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 antigen (SARS-CoV-2 N protein) or PCR test result upon arrival.

Key Highlights

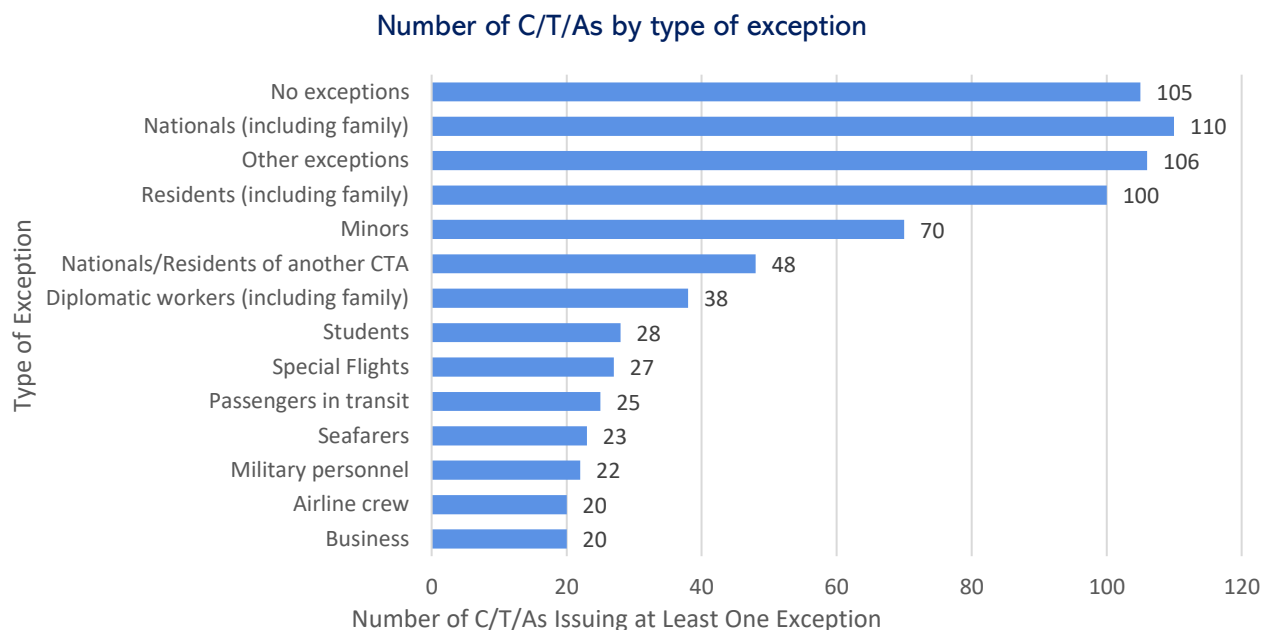
- A new medical measure was issued by Ireland, requiring that all passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, taken at most 72 hours before arrival. Passenger under the age of 6 and seafarers are exempt.
- Cuba issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring that all passenger and airline crew must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase – Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival.
- Kosovo* removed medical screening requirements but issued a new requirement for nationals of Kosovo* arriving from Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Namibia, the Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or United States of America, they must present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result or subject to self-isolation for seven days.
- Monaco issued a new exception to the condition for authorized entry requiring passengers to complete an International Travel Certificate prior to boarding and present the certificate upon arrival or when transiting through France. Passengers arriving from Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand or Holy See are exempt.
- Italy issued a new measure expected to be in place until 5th March 2020 for passengers arriving from European Economic Area (EEA) countries, requiring that they subject to self-isolation upon arrival.
- Austria issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring all passengers arriving to Austria on or after of 15th January to fill in the [pre-travel clearance online form](#). When entering Austria from abroad, a quarantine of 10 days after entry is obligatory, if travellers have stayed in a C/T/A not stated in [appendix A](#) in the last 10 days. Passengers can terminate quarantine early if they test negative through a molecular biological or antigen test for COVID-19 on the fifth day after their arrival.
- Uzbekistan issued a passenger ban on travellers who have been in Australia, Austria, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and South Africa valid until 1st February 2021.
- Iraq issued a passenger ban on all travellers who have been in Australia, Brazil, France, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Luxembourg, Ireland, Spain, Slovakia, the United States of America and Zambia after 15th December 2020.
- Romania lifted the flight suspension on flights from Andorra, Belize, Curaçao, Georgia, Gibraltar, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Panama, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten and the United States of America. However, authorities extended the general passenger ban until 13th February 2021.
- As of 11th January 2021, Tunisia lifted its temporary flight suspension on flights from Australia, Denmark and South Africa.
- On 11th January 2021, Argentina also lifted its flight suspensions with Australia, Denmark, Italy and the Netherlands, however, the flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has not been lifted.
- Finland issued a flight suspension with Ireland and South Africa until 25th January 2021.

* References to Kosovo shall be understood for IOM to be in the context of (United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244) (1999)

- From 16th January 2021, all passengers entering or transiting through New Zealand from the United States of America must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 RT PCR test result, which should be issued no longer than 72 hours prior to departure from the first embarkation point. Passengers below the age of two; passengers that have transited in the United States of America for less than 90 hours, or without disembarking the aircraft; as well as passengers with a diplomatic or consular visa or members of the New Zealand Defence Force are exempt.
- On 12th January 2021, Montenegro lifted all COVID-19 entry regulations for travellers.
- The closure of all airports was extended indefinitely by Trinidad and Tobago, by Turkmenistan until 1st February 2021 and by Norway until 1st March 2021.
- Previously issued passenger bans were extended by Malta until 25th January 2021 and by San Marino until 5th March 2021.
- As of 12th January 2021, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela suspended flights until further notice (previously flights were suspended until 11th February 2021). However, flights from the Plurinational Republic of Bolivia, Mexico and Turkey, along with humanitarian, medical evacuation and return flights are still exempt from the suspension.
- Pakistan issued a passenger ban on travellers who have been in South Africa in the last 10 days. However, nationals of Pakistan with a visa issued by South Africa as well as passengers with a National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis (NICOP) or a Pakistan Origin Card (POC) are exempt. However, such passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test taken at most 72 hours before departure; and are subject to a PCR test upon arrival and must also quarantine.
- The Philippines extended their passenger ban for passengers arriving from certain C/T/As until 30th January 2021. New C/T/As were also added to the list, barring entry to passengers who have spent time in the past 14 days in Austria, Brazil, People's Republic of China, Finland, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Luxembourg, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal and the United Arab Emirates.
- As of 11th January 2021, Luxembourg reissued restrictions barring entry to residents of Uruguay for an unspecified period.
- As of 11th January 2021, [Burundi](#) issued measures requiring all passengers arriving at Melchior NDADAYE International Airport to undergo a mandatory quarantine of seven calendar days. All travelers arriving in Burundi must submit to a minimum of two COVID-19 tests, the first when getting off the plane and the second on the sixth (6th) day of quarantine.
- New measures on airline crew were issued by Brazil and Lebanon. For entry to Brazil, airline crew must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result, taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. The certificate must be in English, Portuguese or Spanish. For entry to Lebanon, airline crew must have a reservation confirmation for 48 hours at a designated hotel.
- The United States Virgin Islands issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring that all passengers must have a travel certification obtained [online](#), at most 5 days before departure from the first embarkation point. Children younger than 5 years are exempt.
- Lao People's Democratic Republic issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring that all passengers must have a reservation confirmation for 14 days at a designated hotel and transportation arrangements and to quarantine for 14 days. Passengers are also subject to a COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase – Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) upon arrival at their own expense.
- Changes in medical requirements were issued. France broadened the types of accepted tests required for authorized conditional entry, to also include Antigen (SARS-CoV-2 N protein) and LAMP tests. Authorities in Chad and Nigeria shortened the timeframe for the accepted COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test required for conditional authorized entry. For entry to Chad the timeframe was reduced from 7 days to 72 hours; for entry to Nigeria from 120 hours to 96 hours. While Mozambique extended their accepted timeframe for the required medical certificate from 72 to 96 hours.

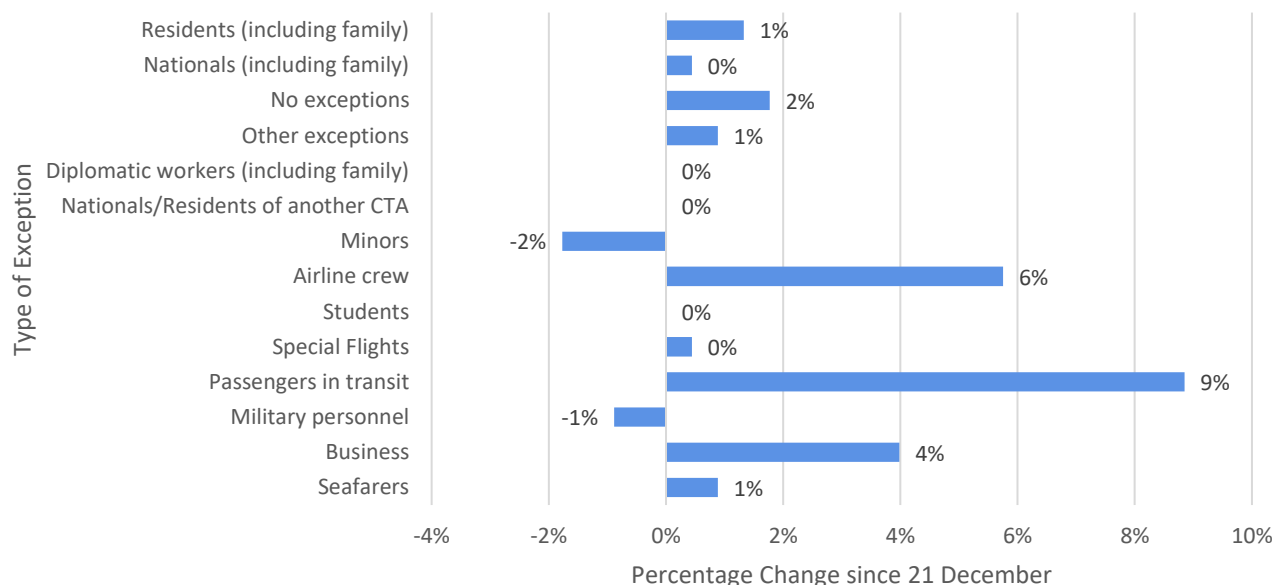
- New Caledonia issued a condition for authorized entry requiring all passengers to present a medical certificate with negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test upon arrival. Passengers younger than 11 years and passengers arriving from French Guiana, French Polynesia, French West Indies, Reunion, St. Pierre and Miquelon or Wallis and Futuna Islands, are exempt.
- Australia issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring all passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result, taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. Passengers under five years old are exempt.
- Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China issued a new condition for authorized entry for groups that are exempt from the current passenger ban. Exempt passengers will be allowed entry so long as they provide evidence of a confirmed booking at quarantine facility or hotel, or present a completed affidavit obtained before departure [online](#) or upon arrival, if they intend to quarantine at home.
- Seychelles issued new medical measures requiring that all passengers subject to quarantine for 10 days upon arrival.

■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions



C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (110) and for Residents (100) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 70 different CTAs, continue to increase, and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter



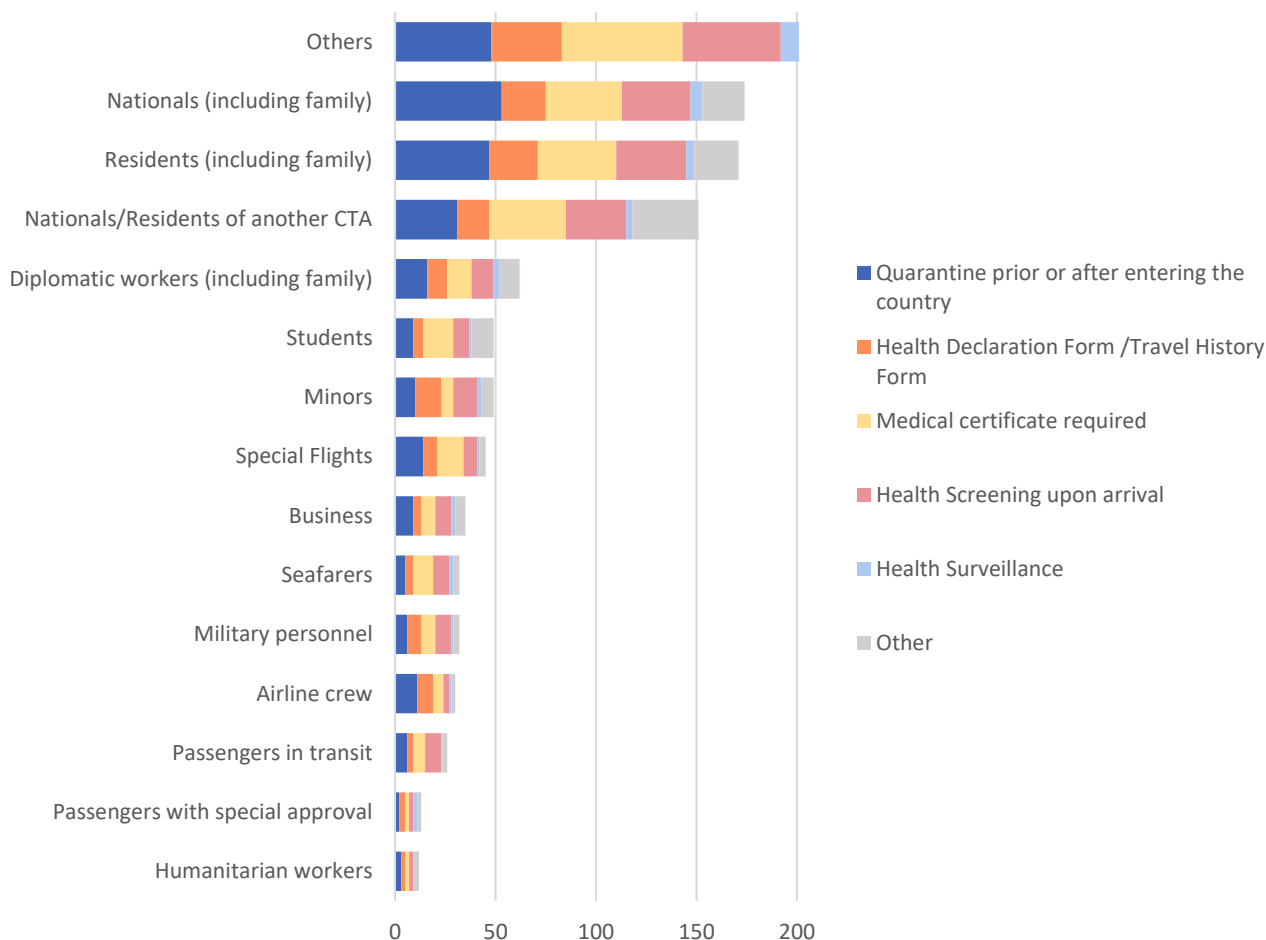
Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 743 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 179 C/T/As.
- The C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were the Netherlands (16), Singapore (15), Croatia (14), Switzerland (14), Bulgaria (14), Austria (12), Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (12), Pakistan (12), and Uruguay (12).
- Between 11th and 18th January 2021, 19 countries, territories or areas issued 30 new exceptions whilst 12 countries, territories or areas removed 24 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 179 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 131 have issued 1130 conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups.
- The top six C/T/As issuing the highest number of conditions for authorised entry for exempted groups were, Singapore (37), Philippines (36), India (34), Belgium (33), Norway (32), and Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region, China (30).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was quarantine prior or after entering the country, which was issued 270 times. This was followed by medical certificates (260) and health screening (225).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Canada changed its requirements for exempted groups; nationals, permanent residents of Canada and persons registered as Indian under the Indian Act, if arriving from Jamaica (until 18th January 2021) as well as passengers arriving from Haiti (until 20th January 2021) will no longer need to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result. Instead, they are subject to a COVID-19 test upon arrival. Relatedly, passengers arriving directly from Bahamas, Barbados or Dominican Republic, are required to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 PCR, Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR), Nucleic-acid Amplification Test (NAAT), LAMP or RT-LAMP test result, taken at most 96 hours before departure. This measure is expected to be in place until 21st January 2021.
- Ecuador removed exceptions for nationals and residents of Ecuador below the age of 14, as other passengers they now also must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result issued at most 10 days before arrival to enter.
- Grenada changed the age group of passengers exempt from providing a medical certificate upon arrival or undergoing testing on the fourth day after arrival, from five to six years.
- New exceptions for passengers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate were issued by Lebanon and Latvia. Lebanon issued an exception for airline crew and passengers who have a COVID-19 vaccination certificate are not required to quarantine. Latvia issued a new measure requiring all passengers to have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result, taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. This does not apply to passengers younger than 11 years, merchant seamen and passengers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate.
- New exceptions were issued by Qatar to their passenger ban, allowing exceptional entry to diplomats and their family members, whereas the United Arab Emirates issued exceptions to their passenger ban to allow the conditional entry of nationals of Belarus.
- Indonesia issued a new exception to their passenger ban allowing conditional entry to passengers with a visitor visa or limited stay visa issued on or after 14th January 2021.
- Croatia issued exceptions to its passenger ban for passengers who are transiting through Croatia. They are conditionally allowed entry for a maximum stay of 12 hours, upon the condition that they must prove they are eligible to enter their destination country.