

Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Weekly Update • 21st September 2020



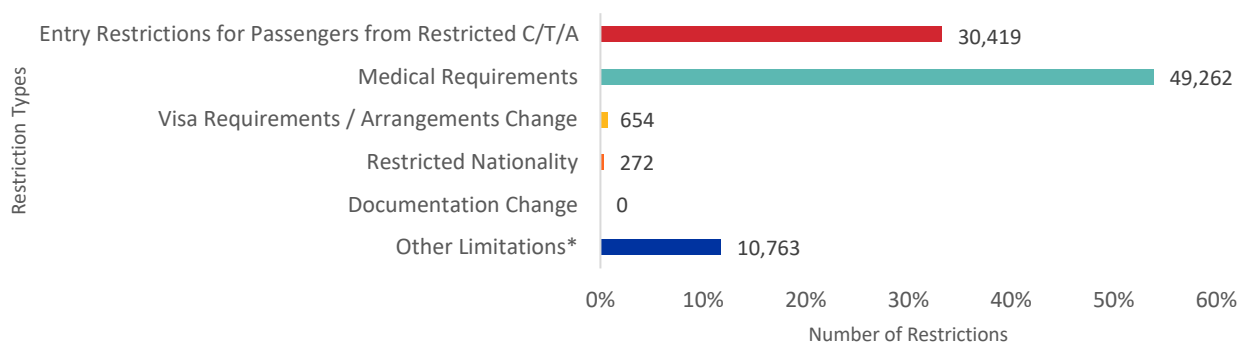
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
<https://migration.iom.int> • dtmccovid19@iom.int

Overview

Global mobility and migration remain impacted as the global number of COVID-19 cases continue to increase, nearing 31 million cases and close to one million deaths as of 21st September according to the [World Health Organization](#). As of 21st September 2020, a total of 219 countries, territories or areas have issued 91,370 travel restrictions indicating an increase of one per cent from 90,435 travel restrictions reported on 14th September 2020. There has been an increase of 5 per cent in both medical restrictions and an increase in 2 per cent in other restrictions such as new documents needed for travel. Simultaneously, there was a 5 per cent decrease in restrictions on passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 176 countries, territories or areas have issued 749 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 14th and 21st September 2020, 14 countries, territories or areas issued 31 new exceptions whilst 10 countries, territories or areas removed 24 exceptions.

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

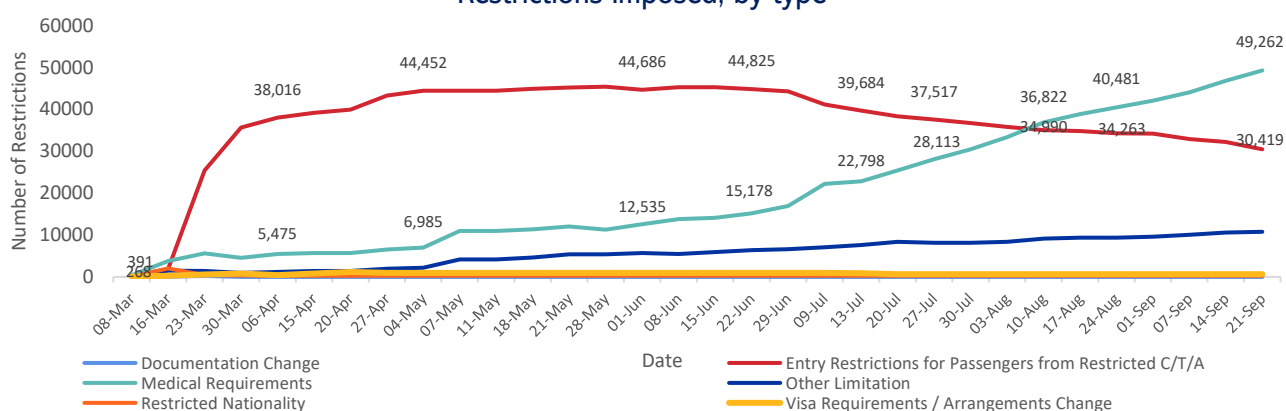
Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type



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

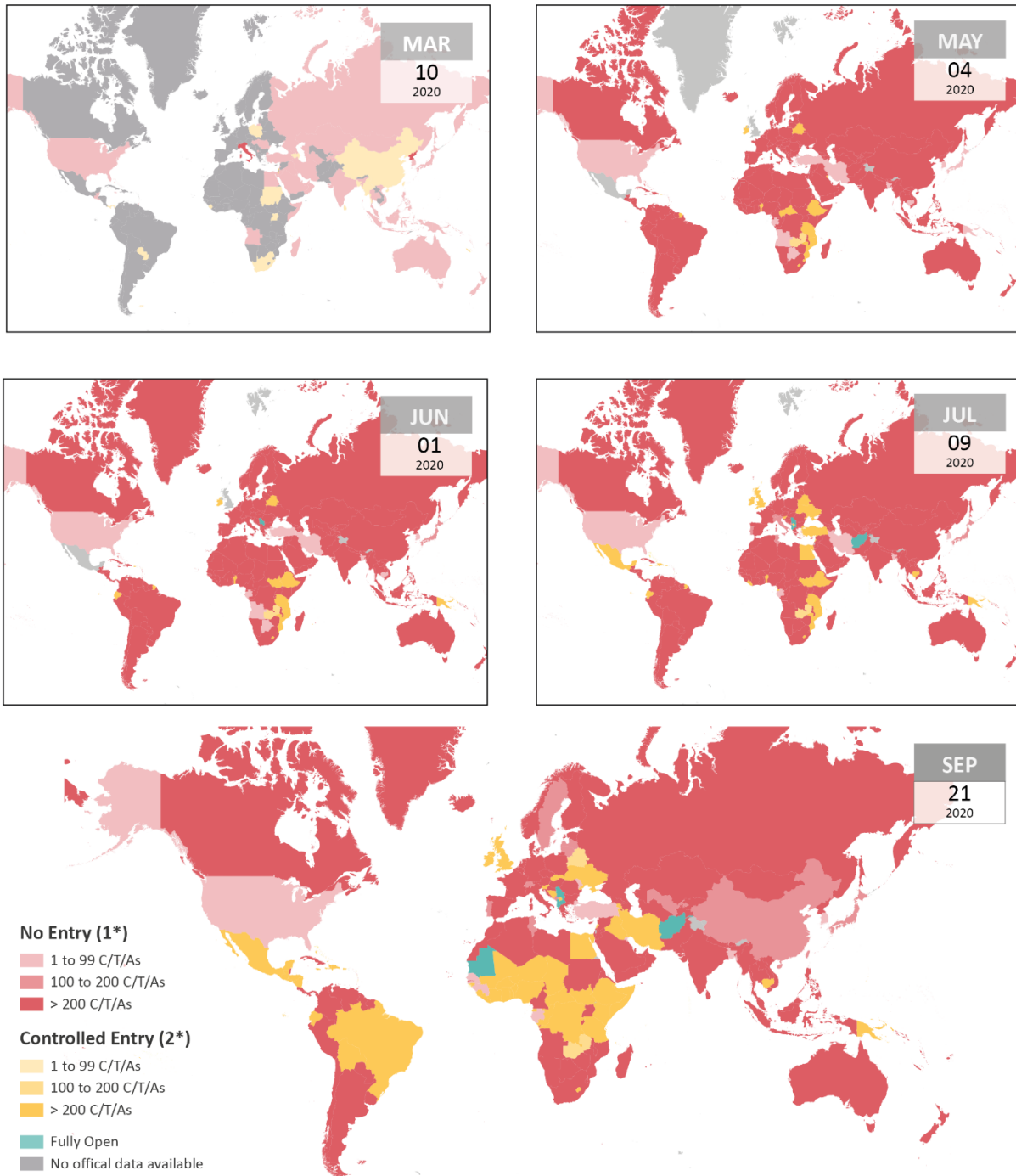
As of 21st September 2020, 218 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As have been following a decreasing trend and no longer have the highest share of total restrictions (33%). Medical measures are the most common restriction type representing 54 per 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



(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.

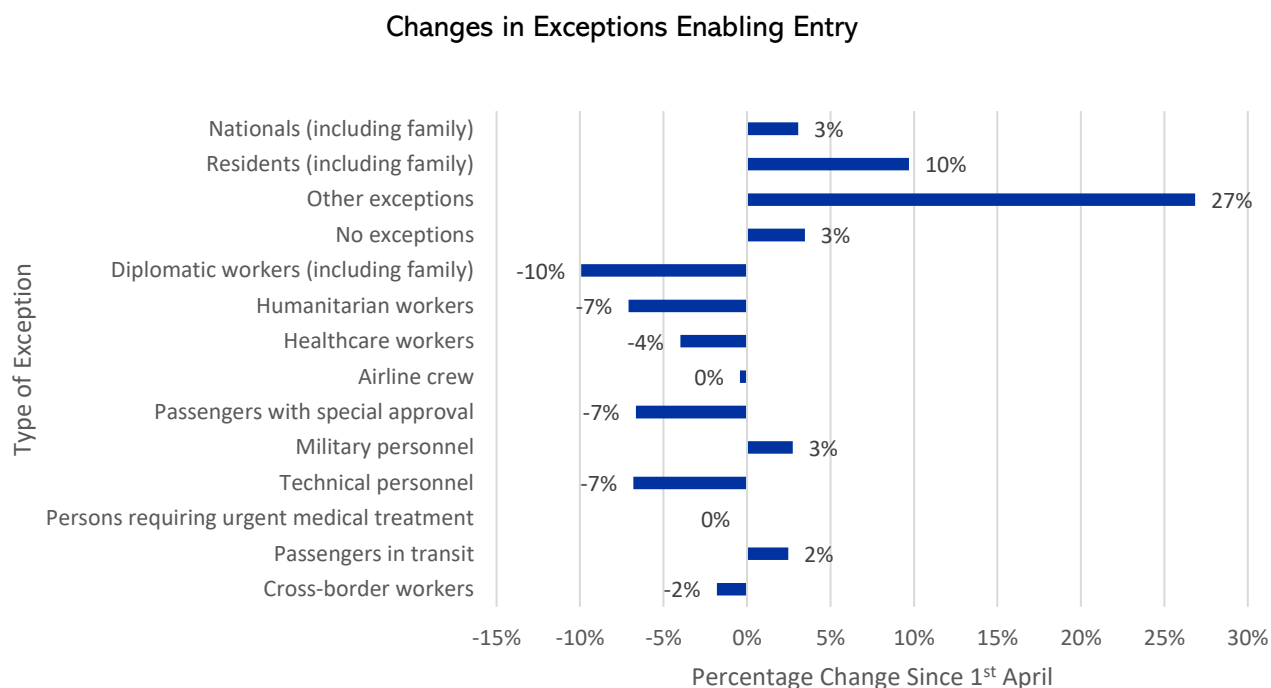
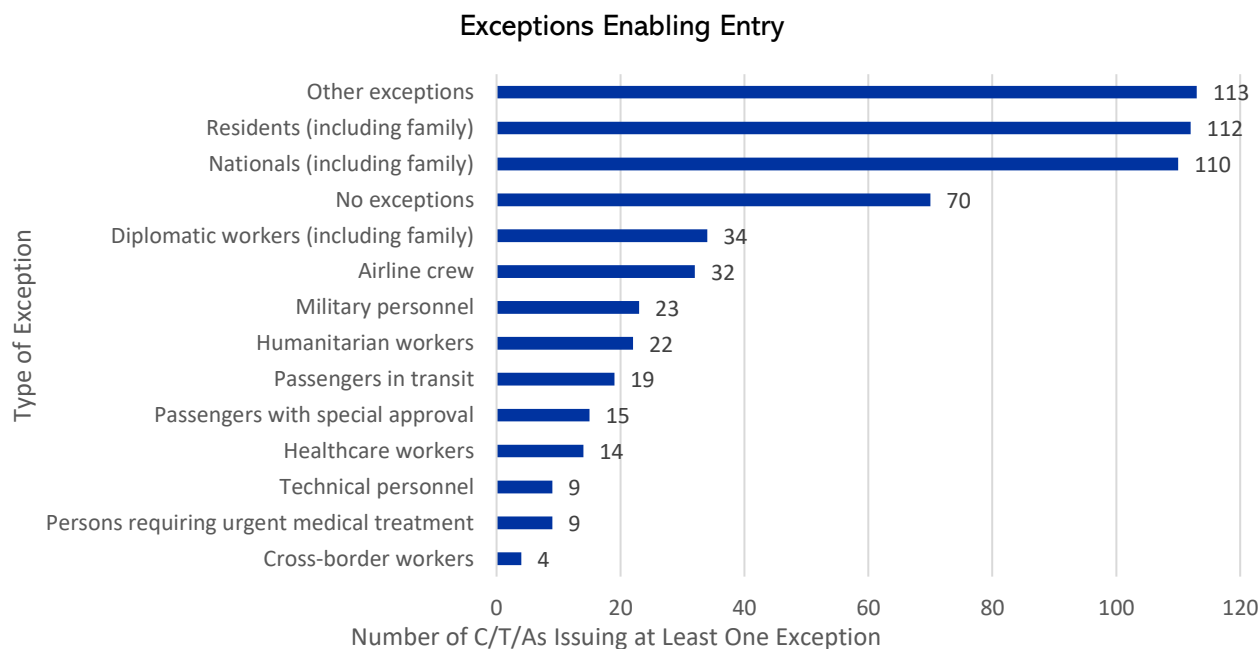
The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the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

■ Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

- The Governments of the [United States of America, Mexico and Canada](#) announced the extension of the ban of all non-essential cross-border travel until 21st October 2020. The ban only covers non-essential travel, and health-care workers, truck drivers transporting essential goods, temporary foreign workers are among the few categories that remain exempt.
- [Spain](#) extended the closure of the Schengen's external borders until 30th September 2020, however, nationals from 11 non-European countries will be exempt from the temporary ban. This includes Australia, Georgia, Canada, People's Republic of China, Japan, Rwanda, New Zealand, Tunisia, Thailand, Republic of Korea and Uruguay. Conversely, in other countries and areas, airports have reopened and flights have resumed under stringent medical conditions and other safety requirements.
- Flights to the Dominican Republic have restarted as of 15th September 2020, all passengers must provide a completed Health Declaration form to enter.
- Authorities in the Republic of the Congo reopened airports on 16th September 2020. Passengers without a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result are subject to testing upon arrival and quarantine at their own expense. Passengers below the age of 11 are exempt.
- Mauritania reopened airports and have lifted all COVID-19 related travel restrictions.
- As of 20th September 2020, airports in El Salvador have reopened, however, passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival. Passengers below the age of 2 as well as passengers with diplomatic, official, service or special passport are exempt.
- Flights to Sao Tome and Principe have restarted as of 18th September 2020. Passengers require a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result valid for at most 72 hours prior to departure. Passengers traveling below 5 years old that are travelling with parents or legal guardians are exempt.
- Authorities in [Hungary](#) have lifted the 30-kilometre area restriction and the 24-hour time limit for commuters at the Austrian-Hungarian border on 18th September 2020; this restriction was previously issued on 1st September 2020.
- Extension of flight bans were issued by Suriname until 23rd September 2020, Ukraine until 28th September 2020, Chile until the 29th September 2020, by Tajikistan, Oman and Greece until 30th September 2020, by Jordan until 4th October 2020, by Trinidad and Tobago until 11th October 2020, Panama until 12th October 2020, by Romania until 14th October 2020, by Georgia until 31st October 2020, and by Luxembourg until 31st December 2020.
- Flight suspensions were issued by Eswatini, except for humanitarian, medical and repatriation flights, passengers granted exceptional entry are subject to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
- Seychelles added new conditions for entry requiring all passengers to undergo medical screening upon arrival, and passengers must apply for the health travel authorisation at <https://seychelles.govtas.com/>. The health travel authorization must match the details of the passport used for travel and Rapid Test-Polymerase Chain Reaction test result.
- New restrictions were issued by Kuwait, barring entry to passengers who have been in Argentina, France or Yemen in the past 14 days and by Italy restricting entry of passengers who have been in Colombia in the past 14 days.
- Costa Rica issued flight restrictions for residents of Colorado, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania in the United States of America, arriving from these states.
- The Republic of Korea invalidated short term visas for nationals of Iceland, Paraguay and Tunisia and suspended visa exemptions for Japanese nationals. They will now require a visa to enter. This does not apply to those with a diplomatic or official passport.
- New conditions for entry were issued by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for passengers arriving from Guadeloupe and Slovenia, who are now subject to mandatory 14-day self-isolation upon arrival. Conversely, passengers arriving from Singapore and Thailand are no longer required to self-isolate upon arrival.

- New conditions were issued for passengers arriving to the People's Republic of China that have transited through or are arriving from Cabo Verde, Liberia or Montenegro. Passengers must have a Health Declaration Form issued by a Chinese embassy or consulate.
- Sint Maarten added new conditions for authorised entry for passengers arriving from Austria, Aruba, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, St Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland who must have completed health declaration form obtained online.
- All passengers that are transiting through Sint Maarten must have a completed health declaration form and have a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued no longer than 5 days prior to departure. Whereas exceptions for transiting passengers, were issued by Lithuania, exempting them from completing a health questionnaire before departure and by Germany allowing passengers to transit if arriving from a non-Schengen Member State to another Schengen Member State.
- New restrictions were issued for airline staff that are spending longer than 24 hours in Sint Maarten, they are subject to mandatory quarantine until their next flight and must also provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction laboratory test result issued at most 5 days before arrival. They also must have a completed health declaration form obtained online.
- Ukraine issued new exceptions to the passenger ban for stateless individuals who are issued a relevant visa.
- [The Philippines](#) lifted restrictions allowing nurses and health workers to go and work abroad as of the 21st September 2020.
- The Islamic Republic of Iran added new conditions for authorised entry for passengers with a consular, diplomatic, official, service or special passport; they are subject to medical screening upon arrival, COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test and quarantine for 14 days.
- Iraq issued new conditions for entry requiring all passengers subject to medical screening and quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
- Norway issued new conditions for authorized entry, for passengers arriving from Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark (excluding Nordjylland, Sjælland and Greenland), Finland (only Kainuu), France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden (excluding Gotland, Norrbotten, Södermanland, Värmland, Västerbotten or Västernorrland), Switzerland or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; they must have a confirmed booking of quarantine accommodation for the first 10 days of the stay.

■ Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions



Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 749 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 176 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Singapore (19), Republic of Korea (14), Saudi Arabia (14), Canada (12), and Italy (12).
- Since the last update on 14th September 2020, 31 new exceptions were added by Saudi Arabia (9), Tajikistan (4), Nepal (3), Paraguay (3), Panama (2), Ukraine (2), Guatemala (1), Hungary (1), Jordan (1), Kazakhstan (1), Poland (1), Qatar (1), Republic of Korea (1), and Spain (1).
- Since the last update on 14th September 2020, 24 exceptions were removed by Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Sao Tome and Principe (4), El Salvador (3), Guatemala (3), Austria (2), Italy (2), Nepal (2), Mauritania (1), Paraguay (1), and Saudi Arabia (1).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- New exceptions to passenger bans were issued by Poland allowing entry for nationals of Belarus with a tourist visa issued by a Schengen Member State, by Hungary allowing passengers travelling on business, by Kazakhstan to allow entry to students and those travelling on business, if approved by the deputy prime minister.
- New exceptions for passengers arriving from certain countries, territories and areas were issued by Bulgaria to passengers arriving from Portugal and Sweden and by Cyprus allowing entry to passengers arriving from Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China and from Rwanda.
- Spain updated exceptions for students studying in Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden or Switzerland. Students will be allowed to travel to the country of study at most 15 days before the start of the course upon the condition that they provide proof of enrolment and medical insurance.
- New exceptions to passenger bans were issued by Kingdom of Saudi *Arabia* for passengers with medical conditions, as well as nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and United Arab Emirates, and residents of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, all passengers are subject to quarantine for 14 days and must provide a completed health disclaimer form upon arrival.
- The movement of humanitarian aid as well as return of nationals from abroad remains stable amid travel restrictions.
- [The United Arab Emirates](#) sent 13 metric tons of critical medical supplies to support Colombia's COVID-19 efforts.
- Last week, under the European Union's COVID-19 response, the [EU Humanitarian Air Bridge](#) operation sent three flights to Lima, Peru to deliver 4 tonnes of life-saving materials to bolster their COVID-19 efforts.
- On 20th September 2020, more than 300 [Samoans](#) returned from New Zealand. All returnees will be tested for COVID-19 and will have to undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
- After spending months in Taiwan, Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China, 289 [Vietnamese](#) migrant workers who overstayed their visas returned to Viet Nam due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.