

Methodology for Monitoring Global Mobility Restrictions and Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions

IOM COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Database

Version 3.0

This document was made in collaboration with DTM, MHD and IBM

<p>Description and Objective</p>	<p>The IOM COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Database captures various air travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It focuses on the changes to pre-existing immigration and border management measures affecting migrants and travellers travelling on specific routes or with specific travel documentation. More specifically, the database and ensuing analysis of collected data highlights emerging changes of post COVID-19 mobility requirements. 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.</p> <p>The current outbreak of COVID-19 has affected global mobility in various ways. To better understand the restrictive measures implemented as a result, IOM has developed a COVID-19 global mobility database to monitor the different types of restrictions and provide a global overview. As the situation continues to evolve, the database and ensuing data analysis have been updated and modified to explain and capture the changes. As a result, IOM has designed and entered the third phase of methodology for data collection and analysis. The changes and modifications to the database are built on the baseline data.</p> <p>The IOM COVID-19 Mobility Database provides valuable information to the civil society, including media, and the general population to disseminate up-to-date information about COVID-19 related mobility restrictions, exceptions to restrictions and conditions for authorised entry. Regular updates on the global changes in mobility restrictions are also intended to support IOM missions, partners and member states in targeted response planning and advocacy for vulnerable populations who may be affected by changes in global mobility.</p>
<p>Phase 1</p>	<p>From 10 March 2020 onwards, in light of the COVID-19 travel restrictions, IOM started tracking the various travel restrictions based on information from IATA to understand the new, unprecedented and differing impacts of COVID-19 on human mobility. The analysis sought to understand the number and different types of restrictive measures issued by governments and authorities to limit or halt mobility. In this period, multiple and different restrictive measures such as visa invalidations and partial travel bans were commonly applied to restrict mobility.</p>
<p>Phase 2</p>	<p>After borders started to close and air traffic was suspended, some groups and individuals were exempt from restrictions and still able to travel, despite the continued rise of COVID-19 travel restrictions. Such exceptions to restrictions were increasingly issued by governments and authorities to facilitate the essential movement of certain groups, return flights of nationals and medical aid. Resultantly, from 1st April 2020 onwards, IOM began tracking exceptions to mobility restrictions in addition to the restrictions tracked in Phase 1. This data has been incorporated to highlight the complexity of global mobility restrictions and provide a more nuanced analysis of the changing global mobility context.</p>

<p>Phase 3</p>	<p>While total restrictions on international travel remain valid in some places, the trend towards facilitating mobility continues to expand. However, this mobility is becoming progressively conditional upon and regulated by stringent measures. ‘Medical measures’, initially implemented as barriers to mobility, are now being used to facilitate mobility. Previously tracked and categorized under forms of restrictions in Phase 1, ‘medical measures’ in Phase 1 have in fact become ‘conditions for authorised entry’ in Phase 3. This shift from medical measures as restrictions to medical measures as enablers of mobility appears increasingly more common. As a result, in Phase 3, medical measures previously categorised as ‘Restrictions’ in Phase 1, have been moved and re-categorised as conditions for authorized mobility. To reiterate, in this new phase, ‘Travel Restrictions’ will only cover total blanket restrictions, such as passenger bans, visa suspensions, and suspensions in air travel. This permits a distinction to be made between measures which restrict travel versus measures which, compared to current restrictions, enable travel. It facilitates a better analysis of situations where previous restrictions have been lifted, and conditions for permitted entry such as quarantine, COVID-19 test results and previously observed emerging trends.</p> <p>Lastly, in Phase 3, a few modifications have also been made to improve and broaden a few data categories to better reflect the changes in the COVID-19-related mobility context. This includes new categories such as ‘no restrictions’, an expanded list of category groups and an expanded list of medical measures. New conditions for authorised entry will fall under the broader categorisation of ‘Partial Restrictions’.</p>
<p>Data Source</p>	<p>Across the three phases, IOM’s data sources are consistent. IOM uses the International Air Transport Association (IATA) site as the primary source of information reported per country, territory or area. The IOM COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Database is updated using qualitative data from the IATA website; WHO’s daily situation reports, providing regular updates on context developments from national, regional and international perspectives; direct reporting from IOM staff in field missions; internal IOM database and relevant government and trusted media sources.</p> <p>For mobility restrictions data is collected on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Date of restriction ii. Country, territory, or area issuing restrictions iii. Country, territory, or area on which restrictions were imposed iv. Type of mobility restriction – total restriction, or conditional restriction – such as medical/and or visa restriction <p>For exceptions to mobility restrictions data is collected on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Date of exception ii. Country, territory or area issuing exceptions iii. Country, territory or area to which exceptions apply iv. Type of restriction on which the specific exception is issued v. Type of exceptions – this refers to specific categories of groups or individuals that are exempted from mobility restrictions <p>For conditions for authorized entry data is collected on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Data of different types of conditions for authorized entry ii. Country, territory or area issuing new conditions for authorized entry iii. Country, territory or area, or category to which it applies*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Type of exception for which the specific condition is issued v. Type of conditions for authorized entry – such as quarantine, Health Declaration Forms, and other emerging measures etc.
<p>Key Definitions</p>	<p>Travel Restriction due to COVID-19 International air travel restrictions issued by the authorities of any country, territory or area (CTA) in response to COVID-19.</p> <p>Entry restrictions: International air travel restrictions which does not allow the entry of passengers of a given country, territory or area (CTA). This could include a complete border closure, nationality ban, suspension of visa issuances, etc.).</p> <p>Conditions for Authorised 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 excepted groups such as specific nationalities, individuals, or groups.</p> <p>Exceptions: Refers to specific population groups, individuals, nationalities to whom the specific COVID-19 related travel restriction issued by a CTA are not applicable to.</p> <p>No Restriction: Refers to the removal of COVID-19 related international air travel restrictions issued after 10th March 2020</p> <p>No Restriction Reported: When a CTA has not officially reported restrictions upon any CTA. Note that this does not mean that restrictions do not exist but only that restrictions were not officially reported.</p>
<p>Aggregation</p>	<p>The different types of restrictions are aggregated and coded to facilitate a more concise analysis. The various types of restrictions are categorised into five major groupings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Route Restriction (RC)</u>: applies to all travellers arriving from or transiting through a specific country, territory or area, regardless of their nationality 2. <u>Nationality Restriction (RN)</u>: applies to travellers with specific nationalities 3. <u>Visa Change (VC)</u>: applies to changes in visa policy, such as suspension of visa on arrival, visa invalidations and other emerging measures 4. <u>Document Change (DC)</u>: applies to changes in movement agreements with impact on documentation (passport or id) required for passengers or nationals arriving from a specific country 5. <u>Other Limitations (OL)</u>: applies to limitations that do not fall under previous categories and other emerging measures 6. <u>Condition for Authorised Entry (CAE)</u>: applies to medical/health related or other measures that are necessary to fulfil to enter a country, territory or area

No Restriction (NO): Refers to the removal of COVID-19 related travel restriction that was issued since or after 10th March 2020

The different types of **exceptions** are aggregated and coded to facilitate a more concise analysis of the type of restrictions and its associated exceptions. For this, the various exceptions are categorised into 19 types:

1. Exception for Nationals applies to travellers holding specific documentation such as passport, national ID or specific pre-authorised travel itinerary (including family members) with the purpose of returning home
2. Exception for Residents applies to travellers holding specific resident permits (including family members) that are leaving or returning
3. Exceptions for Airline crew applies to airline company's employee on board of the arriving aircraft as crew members
4. Exceptions for Diplomatic passport/visa applies to travellers holding a service passport; travelling from or returning to the country where they are deployed (including family members)
5. Exceptions for personnel of international and humanitarian organizations applies to travellers holding a UN passport; or with specific documentation indicating their status as humanitarian workers
6. Exceptions for Prior Approval applies to travellers with a valid letter of special/prior approval issued by the government or other entity; this also includes travellers entering with documents indicating urgent medical treatment
7. Exceptions for Military personnel/Military forces of NATO applies to travellers who are travelling for specific military duty
8. Exceptions for Technical Workers: applies to travellers who are working as directive personnel and cargo operators
9. Exceptions for Healthcare Professionals applies to travellers traveling for healthcare related research, COVID-19 related needs or specific health collaborators
10. Exceptions for Cross-border workers applies to passengers who are commuting for work
11. Exceptions for Passengers in transit applies to travellers with specific travel documentation of another country or territory who can transit on their way home
12. Exceptions for Nationals/Residents from another CTA applies to travellers holding specific national and/or resident documentation of another country, territory, or area travelling for any other purpose, including tourism
13. Exceptions for Business and Professionals applies to travellers holding specific documentation indicating work, employment, or business.
14. Exceptions for Students applies to travellers entering the country for the purpose of education with long-stay visas as pre-conditions
15. Exceptions for International Protection applies to travellers holding documentation indicating their status as persons in need of international protection or for other humanitarian reasons (e.g. "Exemptions for family reunification or inexpressibility of minors)
16. Exceptions for Flights applies to passengers and crew of 'authorised special flights' such as MEDEVAC flights, technical flights, cargo flights, emergency flights, refuelling flights, humanitarian flights and so on
17. Exceptions for Others* applies to travellers travelling for any other reasons that are not covered above or any emerging trends
18. No exceptions no exceptions have been issued

	<p>Others* is an open category which is subject to change. Previously this included persons in need, medical evacuation flights, emergency flights or refuelling flights. The types of exceptions categorised under 'others' allows us to identify new emerging trends through systematic recording leading to the creation of new categories, for example, in V2, 'Others' included individuals in need of humanitarian protection which is now categorised in V3.</p> <p>Conditions for Authorised Entry include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>No conditions</u>: applies to travellers who face no conditions for entry 2. <u>Health Declaration Form/Travel History Form</u>: applies to all travellers who must submit this documentation prior to boarding or upon arrival 3. <u>Other Documents</u>: applies to all travellers who must provide specific non-medical forms/documents such as Passenger Location form; Marriage Certificate as a condition/proof of connection to spouse for exceptional entry 4. <u>Pre-departure health checks</u>: applies to travellers prior to departure, requiring travellers undergo health checks or provide other documents as evidence for good health for entry 5. <u>Health Screening upon arrival</u>: applies to all arriving travellers who are subject to health screening such as temperature screening upon entry 6. <u>Quarantine at designated location</u>: applies to all arriving travellers who are subject to mandatory quarantine at a designated government facility or hotel, for any period between 7 to 21 days 7. <u>Self-isolation</u>: applies to all travellers who are required to self-isolate at their respective accommodation for any period between 7 to 21 days 8. <u>COVID-19 test upon arrival</u>: applies to all travellers who are subject to mandatory COVID-19 test at the airport, upon which entry is conditional 9. <u>Medical Certificate with negative COVID-19 result</u>: applies to all travellers who must provide a negative COVID-19 test, valid for a specific period, upon which entry is conditional 10. <u>Health Surveillance</u>: applies to all travellers whose entry is subject to downloading surveillance apps or providing information to local authorities for contact tracing at their destination, for the duration of stay 11. <u>COVID-19 negative test for visa extension</u>: applies to residents who require negative COVID-19 test or other medical documents for visa extensions to remain in their current location 12. <u>Other conditions</u>: refers to any conditions that are not covered in the aforementioned categories but indicate new and emerging measures
<p>Data Analysis</p>	<p>The aim of the data analysis is to understand the evolving and diverse impacts of COVID-19 on global mobility and to help identify and develop appropriate response. The data analysis seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of the resulting trends as a result of international air travel restrictions that can be enabling, limiting, or restricting mobility.</p> <p>The global analysis is based on country, territory, or area imposing the restrictions along with the country, territory or area upon which restrictions are being imposed and the aggregation of the type of restrictive measures.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, the global analysis on the exceptions is based on the country, territory, or area issuing an exception, the associated mobility restriction type and the category group for which the exception is issued.</p> <p>Finally, the global analysis on the conditions for permitted entry is based on the country, territory or area issuing new conditions for categories of individuals or groups that are exceptions to blanket mobility restrictions. The aim of the data analysis is to highlight the nuances of the shifts in conditions for permitted entry associated with the different types of exceptions to mobility restrictions.</p>
<p>Limitations</p>	<p>The data is dependent upon International flights travel restrictions and exceptions to mobility restrictions which are time sensitive. The data categorisations were defined in collaboration with IOM technical experts to align with operational needs. As a result, the categories used may not reflect the full scope of the multiple and simultaneous restrictive measures imposed by a specific country, territory, or area. Data accuracy is ensured through regular assessments and triangulation of information when feasible and where possible.</p> <p>Furthermore, the data does not reflect sub-national restrictive measures from a specific part of the country, territory or area, and it does not reflect restrictive measures imposed by countries, territories or areas on their own nationals.</p>

The categories are the following:

#	Restriction Type	Restriction Type	Type	Code
1	Travellers arriving from or having been to the country, territory or area are not allowed to enter, without time parameter	Mobility Restriction	Total	RC
3	Travellers arriving from or having been to the country, territory or area in the last 14 days are not allowed to enter	Mobility Restriction	Total	RC
5	OLD: Passengers arriving from or having been to the country, territory or area in the last 30 days are not allowed to enter NEW: Travellers arriving from or having been to the country, territory or area in any period more than 14 days are not allowed to enter	Mobility Restriction	Total	RC
7	NEW: All flights are suspended	Mobility Restriction	Total	RC
33	NEW: All (international) airports are closed	Mobility Restriction	Total	RC
8	FROM IBM: Request of COVID-19 test or health certificate for visa application	Visa Change	Partial	VC
9	FROM IBM: Suspension of issuance of new visa and/or permit to all foreigners or some nationalities	Visa Change	Partial / Total	VC
13	Change in visa requirements, nationals from country, territory or area have previously issued visas invalidated	Visa Change	Total	VC
15	Nationals from these countries, territories or areas not allowed to enter, without time parameter	Nationality Restriction	Total	RN
16	Change in movement agreement, ID card no longer enough, passport now required	Document Change	Partial	DC
30	Other type of limitations but not total restriction e.g. Passenger Locator Form	Other Limitation	Partial	OL
99	NEW: Removed all Restrictions	No Restrictions		NR

The categories for exceptions are as follows:

#	Exception Type
1	Nationals (including family members)
2	Residents (including family members)
3	Airline crew
4	Passengers with a diplomatic passport/visa; diplomats on duty station in the country (including family members)
5	Passengers with a UN passport; personnel of international and humanitarian organizations
6	Passengers with a special approval/valid letter of prior approval issued by the government or other entity
7	Military personnel/Military forces of NATO
8	Technical, directive personnel and cargo operators
9	Healthcare professionals, healthcare researchers and collaborators
10	Persons requiring urgent medical treatment
11	Cross-border workers
12	Passengers in transit
13	Exceptions for Nationals/Residents of another CTA
14	Exceptions for Students
15	Exceptions for International Protection (e.g. Refugees, etc.)
16	Exceptions for flights (e.g. humanitarian flights, flights in emergency, repatriation flights)
17	Others
18	No exceptions
19	Children below a certain age
20	Individuals travelling for business purposes

The Categories for **Conditions for Authorized Entry** are as follows:

#	Conditions for Authorized Entry
1.	NEW: No conditions
2.	NEW: Health Declaration Form /Travel History Form
3.	NEW: Passenger Location form
4.	Pre-departure health checks and documents
5.	NEW: Medical Certificate with negative COVID-19 result
6.	Health Screening upon arrival (blood sample, temperature checks, swab, thermal screening)
7.	NEW: Quarantine at designated location for 7 to 14 days
8.	NEW: Self-isolation for 14 days
9.	NEW: Health Surveillance (app/informing local authorities)
10.	NEW: COVID-19 negative test result for visa extension
11.	NEW: Other conditions*

Summary

Group	Code	Description	Comments	Main Group
RC	1	Travellers arriving from or having been to the country, territory or area are not allowed to enter, without time parameter	NO CHANGE	Entry Restrictions
RC	3	Travellers arriving from or having been to the country, territory or area in the last 14 days are not allowed to enter	NO CHANGE	Entry Restrictions
RC	5	Travellers arriving from or having been to the country, territory or area in any period more than 14 days are not allowed to enter	CHANGE DEFINITION	Entry Restrictions
RC	7	All flights are suspended	NEW:	Entry Restrictions
VC	8	Request of COVID-19 test or health certificate for visa application	NEW: FROM IBM	Entry conditions
VC	9	Suspension of issuance of new visa and/or permit to all foreigners or some nationalities	NEW:FROM IBM	Entry Restrictions
VC	10	Change in visa requirements, nationals from country now require visa	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
VC	11	Change in visa requirements, visiting foreigners previously in these countries now require visa	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
VC	12	Change in visa requirements, all passengers arriving from these countries now require visa	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
VC	13	Change in visa requirements, nationals from country have previously issued visas invalidated	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
RN	15	Nationals from these countries not allowed to enter, without time parameter	NO CHANGE	Entry Restrictions
DC	16	Change in movement agreement, ID card no longer enough, passport now required	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
MR	20	Medical measures, quarantine prior to or after entering the country	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
MR	21	Medical measures, other forms of screening and monitoring upon arrival	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
MR	22	Medical measures, medical certificate required	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
MR	23	Quarantine of 14 days in country with no confirmed cases required and medical certificate required	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
MR	25	Medical measures, other type of medical restrictions and measures (not different from 21)	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
MR	26	Health Declaration Form /Travel History Form	NEW:	Entry conditions
MR	27	Health Surveillance (app/informing local authorities)	NEW:	Entry conditions
OL	30	Other type of limitations but not total restriction	NO CHANGE	Entry conditions
RC	33	All airports are closed	NEW:	Entry Restrictions
LS	40	Passenger Location form	NEW:	Entry conditions
NR	99	Removed all restrictions and conditions for entry	CHANGE DEFINITION	No entry restrictions/conditions