

Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Weekly Update • 28th September 2020



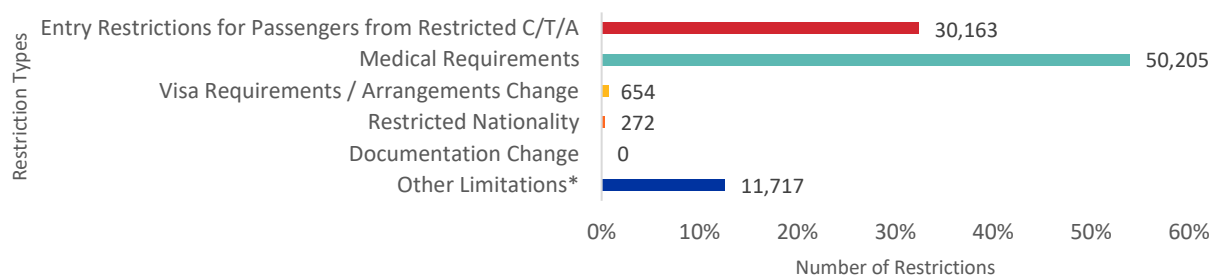
COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
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Overview

With the resurgence of new COVID-19 cases globally, migration and global mobility remain deeply affected as Governments and authorities maintain COVID-19 related travel restrictions. As the global number of [COVID-19 cases](#) touches 33 million and close to a million deaths (32,968,853 confirmed cases including 995,836 deaths) epidemiological considerations continue to hinder mobility. As of 28th September 2020, a total of 219 countries, territories or areas have issued 93,011 travel restrictions indicating an increase of two per cent from 91,370 travel restrictions reported on 21st September 2020. There has been an increase of 9 per cent in other restrictions such as new documents needed for travel and an increase of 2 per cent in other limitations. Simultaneously, there was a 1 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 757 exceptions enabling mobility despite blanket travel restrictions. Between 21st and 28th September 2020, 11 countries, territories or areas issued 16 new exceptions whilst 5 countries, territories or areas removed 8 exceptions.

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

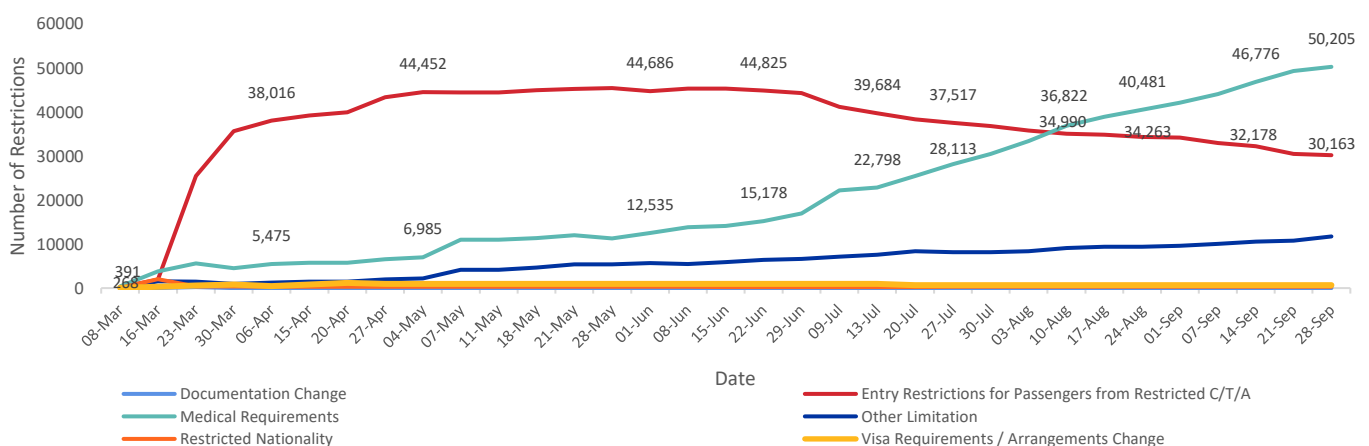
Most Commonly Imposed Restriction Type



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

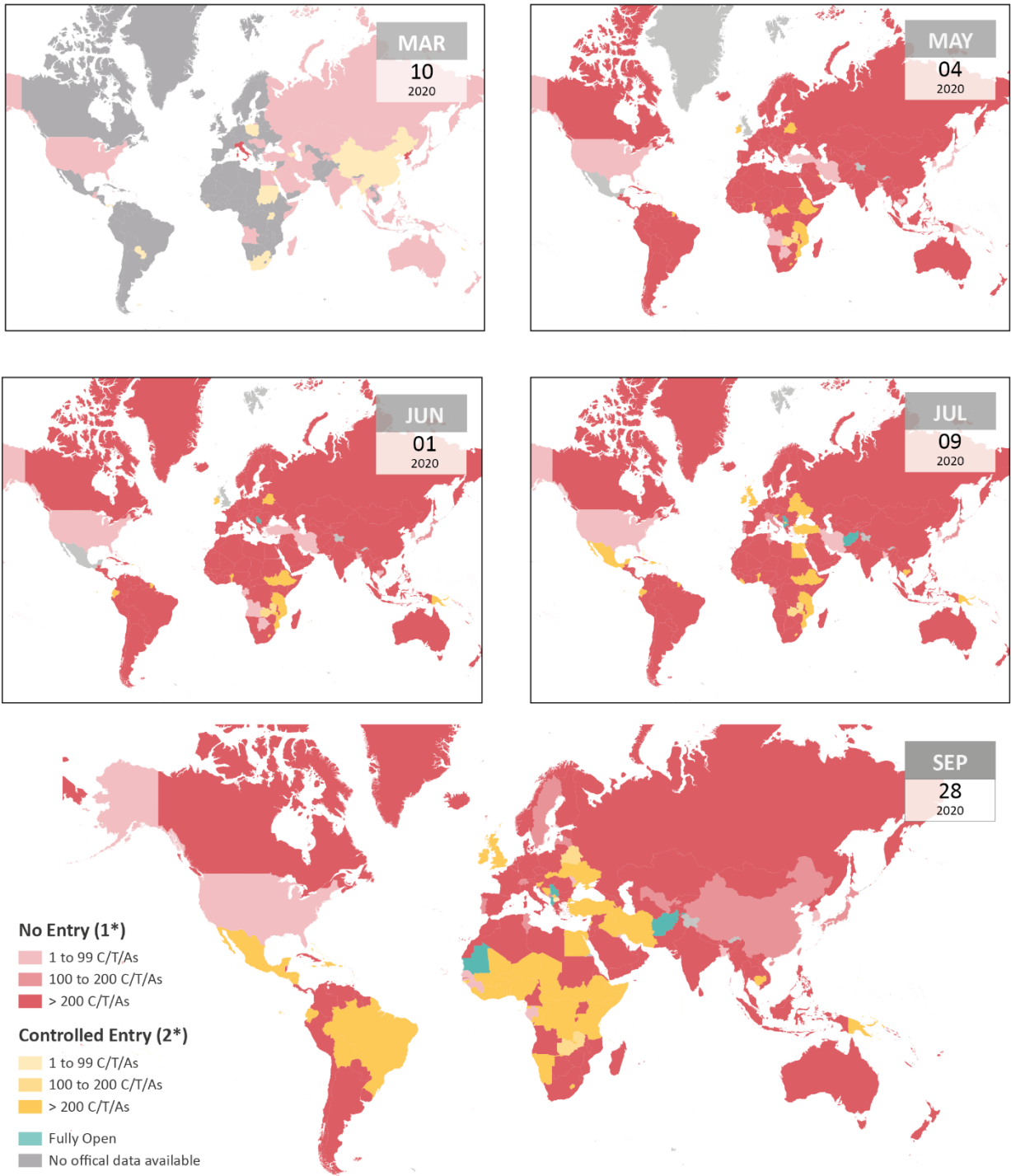
As of 28th September 2020, 218 C/T/As have imposed restrictions. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As have been following a decreasing trend and no longer have the highest share of total restrictions (32%). Medical measures are the most common restriction type representing 54 per 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.

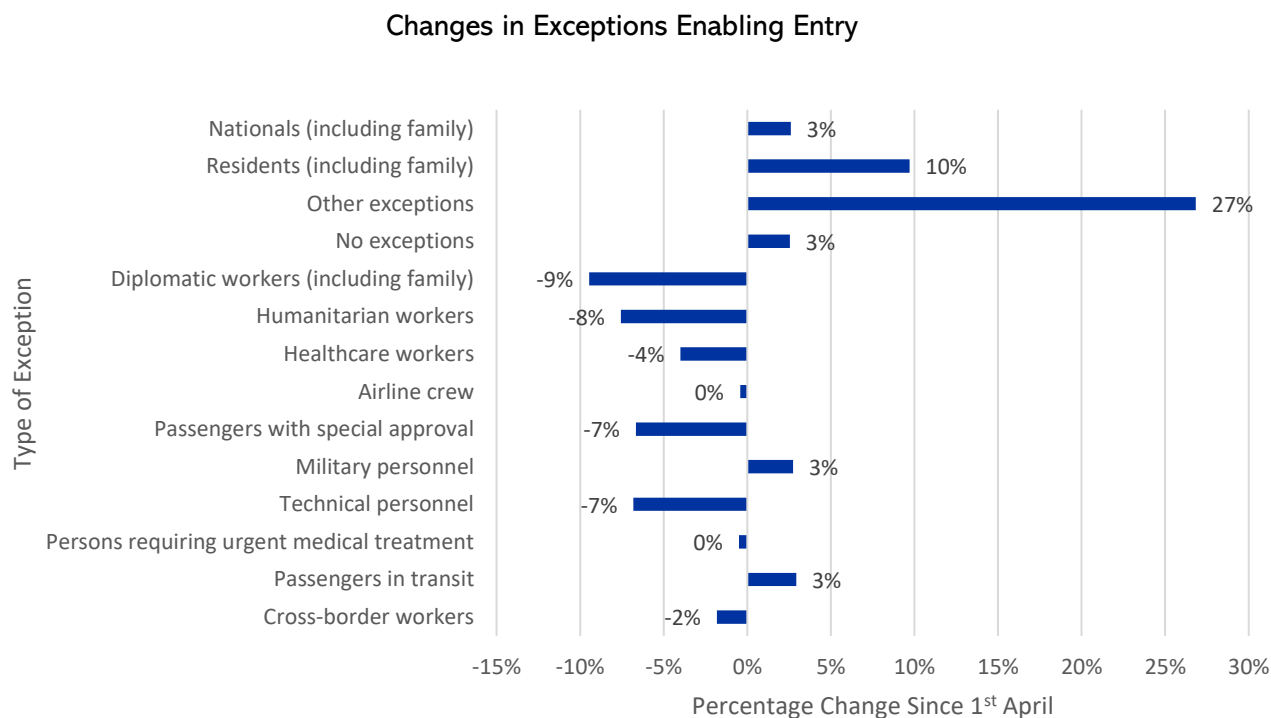
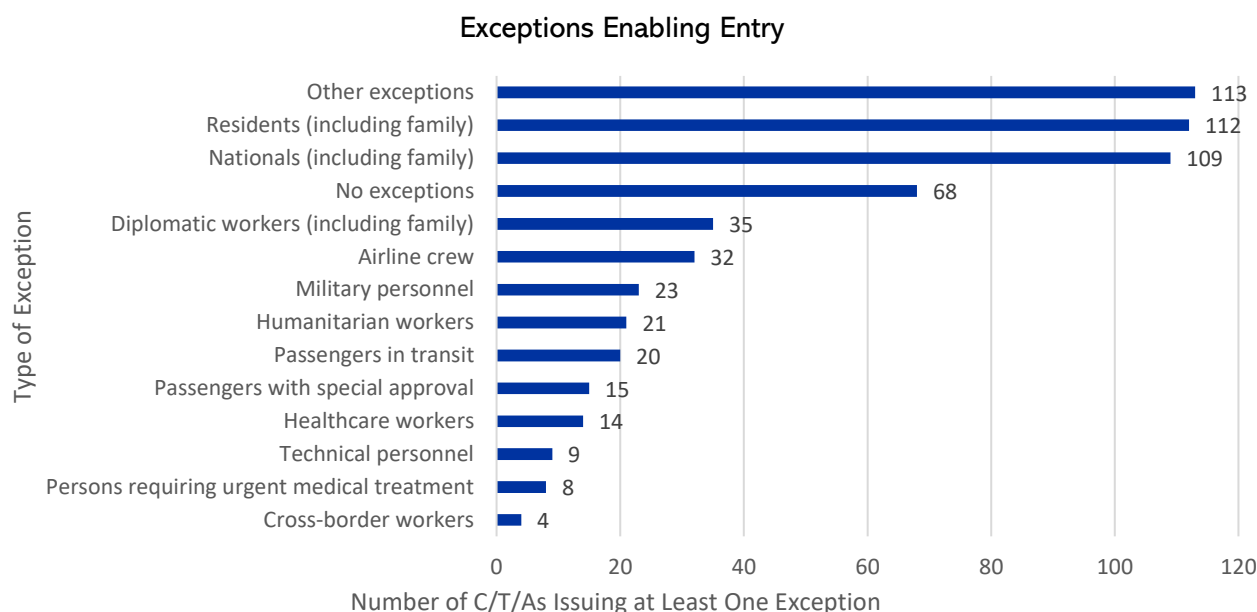
The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the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

■ Key Restrictive Measure Highlights

- Cyprus reissued restrictions banning passengers arriving from Austria, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia and Switzerland.
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reissued conditions for entry requiring passengers arriving from Belize, Canada, Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Germany, Guyana, Iceland, Suriname, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the British Virgin Islands to present a COVID-19 negative test result issued within 5 days of arrival.
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland took Curacao, Denmark, Iceland and Slovakia off the travel corridor list, passengers arriving from these countries, territories or areas must self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival, in effect 26th September 2020.
- Extension of flight bans were issued by Syrian Arab Republic until 29th September 2020, by Suriname and Jordan until 30th September 2020.
- Restrictions banning passenger entry were extended by Iceland until 6th October 2020.
- New medical screening measures for authorized entry were added by Saint Lucia for all passengers upon arrival.
- New restrictive measures were issued by the Republic of Korea, for passengers who have been in Uzbekistan in the past 14 days. Such passengers have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 48 hours before departure. The test must have been administered by Swiss Lab or Korea No 1 Laboratory. The certificate must be in English or Korean.
- Lebanon extended 14-day quarantine requirements for passengers arriving from the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. However, Lebanese nationals and residents are exempt from this requirement.
- Tunisia added passengers bans for passengers arriving from 41 countries, territories or areas. Simultaneously, authorities eased passenger bans on 35 countries, territories or areas.
- Republic of Moldova issued restrictions barring entry of passengers from Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Jamaica, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, Oman, Portugal, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and concurrently lifted restrictions to allow entry for passengers arriving from Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, the Gambia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Paraguay, Philippines, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and South Africa.
- The Philippines issued new suspensions for all visa exemptions and visa on arrival facilities.
- Viet Nam issued a condition for entry for passengers travelling on business as experts and staying more than 14 days. Passengers must have an international medical insurance or guarantee that the hosting company will pay if there are COVID-19 treatment costs and provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test result issued between 3 to 7 days before arrival. The test must be taken at the laboratory of the authorized medical authority and after the passenger must also subject to a 14-day quarantine.
- Singapore issued new conditions for entry for residents of People's Republic of China, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Korea, requiring they present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, taken 72 hours before departure.
- Norway issued a new quarantine measure, requiring that passengers provide evidence of confirmed booking of quarantine accommodation for the first 10 days of stay. This does not apply to passengers arriving from Cyprus, Denmark (only Greenland), Finland (excluding South Savo), Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania or Sweden (only Blekinge, Gotland, Kalmar, Norrbotten, Sodermanland, Varmland, Vasterbotten and Vasternorrland).
- Guam issued a new medical condition for authorized entry, as of 26th September 2020, stipulating that passengers could be subject to a COVID-19 test on the 6th day after arrival.

- New conditions for authorized entry were issued by Guatemala, requiring that passengers must complete a Health Pass form before departure at <https://servicios.igm.gob.gt/pasedesalud/> and present the respective QR code, upon arrival.
- New conditions for entry were issued by Fiji, requiring passengers to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, taken at most 72 hours before departure.
- New conditions for authorized entry were issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for residents or passengers with a visa issued by Saudi Arabia, barring their entry if they have been in Argentina, Brazil or India in the past 14 days.
- New measures for airline crew were issued by Israel, requiring they subject to self-isolation until their next flight.
- The period of accepted validity for COVID-19 test results required for entry was extended from three to seven days before arrival, by Cote d'Ivoire and from three to five days, by Ethiopia.
- Latvia reduced the required timeframe for required passenger self-isolation upon arrival, from 14 to 10 days.
- Mozambique lifted the flight suspension and reauthorized flights from Ethiopia, Portugal, Qatar, South Africa and Turkey. Passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before departure.
- Ecuador extended the validity of expired passports which have expired on 16th March 2020 or later, to be valid until 28th February 2021. Passengers must have a "Passport validity extension certificate" along with the expired passport. Likewise, Nigeria extended the validity of all residence permits that expired on or after 22nd March 2020.
- As of 23rd September 2020, flights to Namibia restarted, requiring passengers to have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result issued at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. A completed epidemiological questionnaire obtained at www.namibiaturism.com.na must be presented upon arrival. Passengers must have a travel insurance to cover medical costs. Passengers are subject to medical screening and quarantine for 7 days upon arrival.
- Authorities in [Thailand](#) extended the period until 31st October 2020 for visa renewals for foreigners that are stranded due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions.ⁱ

■ Exceptions to Mobility Restrictions



Noticeable Trends for Enabling Mobility:

- A total of 757 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 175 C/T/As.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Singapore (22), Republic of Korea (14), Saudi Arabia (14), Canada (13), and then joint 5th with 11 were Belgium, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America.
- Since the last update on 21st September 2020, 16 new exceptions were added by the Republic of Moldova (4), Singapore (3), Aruba (1), Canada (1), El Salvador (1), Kazakhstan (1), Norway (1), Paraguay (1), Philippines (1), Spain (1), and Uruguay (1).
- Since the last update on 21st September 2020, 8 exceptions were removed by Namibia (3), Lebanon (2), Argentina (1), Italy (1), and New Zealand (1).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- India added exceptions for its passenger ban, to allow entry to passengers with a Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card entry until 30th September 2020.
 - Poland issued new exceptions allowing entry to nationals and residents of Australia, Belarus, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Thailand and Tunisia.
 - Russian Federation issued exceptions to their passenger ban to allow entry to nationals and residents arriving from Belarus, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, and United Arab Emirates.
 - Kazakhstan removed exceptional entry for passengers arriving from People's Republic of China, Georgia, Japan and Thailand, and Denmark removed exceptions allowing entry to residents of Austria, Czechia, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, and Switzerland.
 - Lithuania removed exceptions to its passenger ban, barring entry for passengers arriving from Canada, Georgia and Tunisia.
 - Spain added new exceptions for the condition for authorized entry, requiring passengers to complete a health declaration form before arrival, exempting passengers with a diplomatic passport traveling on duty as well as passengers in transit.
 - On 24th September 2020, 174 nationals of [India returned](#) to Mumbai from Sri Lanka on a special Vande Bharat Mission flight.
 - On 25th September 2020, a total of 175 [Nepali](#) migrant workers returned from Oman.
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