Global Mobility Restriction Overview

Weekly Update • 8ᵗʰ February 2021

COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series
https://migration.iom.int ● dtmcovid19@iom.int

International connecting flights - Status

— Entry Restrictions
— Conditions for Authorized entry
— Fully Open (Removed restrictions and conditions)

Sources: (i)The OpenFlights Airport, Airline, Plane and Route Databases (https://openflights.org/). (ii) Travel related measures extracted from IATA (https://www.iatatravelcentre.com).

Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

■ 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 dtmcovid19@iom.int to ensure consistency of information in the database repository.

■ Overview

The global number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported proceeds on an upward trend, recording more than 105 million cases as per the World Health Organization on 8th February 2021. [i] Efforts to control the spread of new infection cases and subsequent variants of the virus persist as new travel related measures are issued or extended. As of 8th February 2021, a total of 227 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 104,044 travel related measures indicating a 3 per cent decrease from 106,963 travel related measures reported on 1st February 2021. Of these, 28,883 were reported as entry restrictions and 75,121 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was a three per cent decrease in conditions for authorized entry and a one per cent decrease in entry restrictions. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a decrease of 3 per cent in medical requirements such as quarantine or medical certificates. There was a 11 per cent increase in entry restrictions such as suspensions of visa services between 1st and 8th February 2021. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 185 countries, territories or areas have issued 748 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 1st and 8th February 2021, 19 countries, territories or areas issued 29 new exceptions whilst 15 countries, territories or areas removed 32 exceptions.

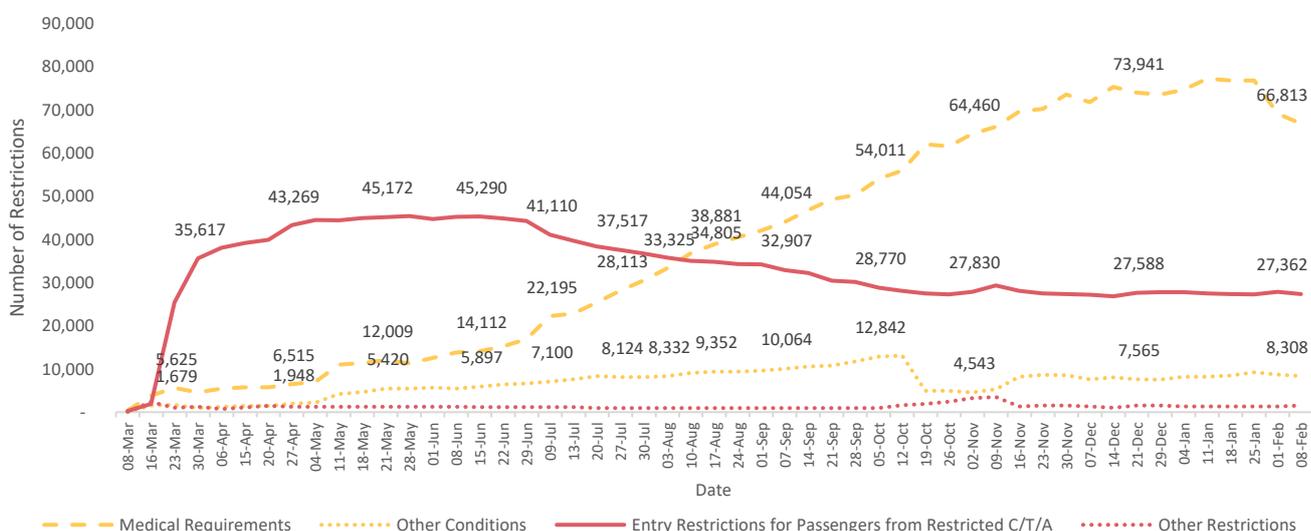## ■ Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry
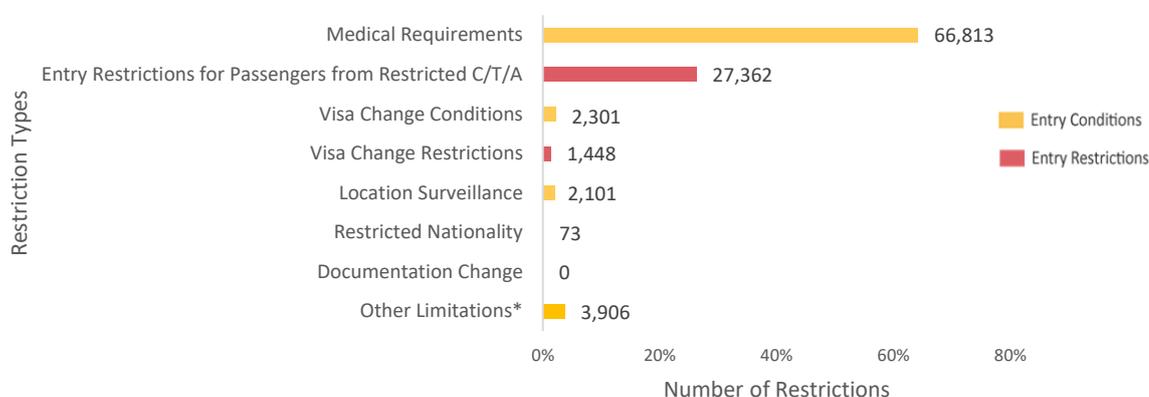
*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.
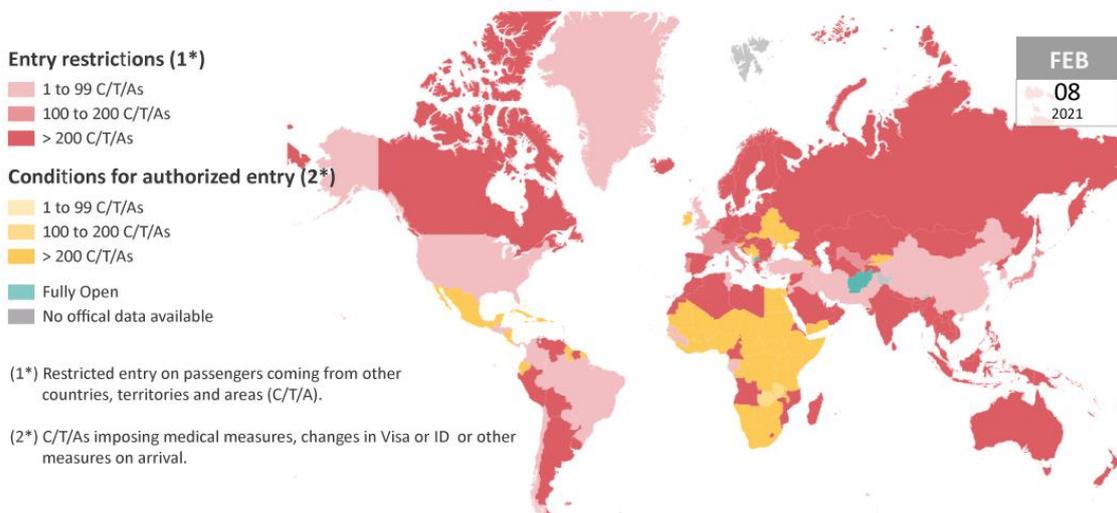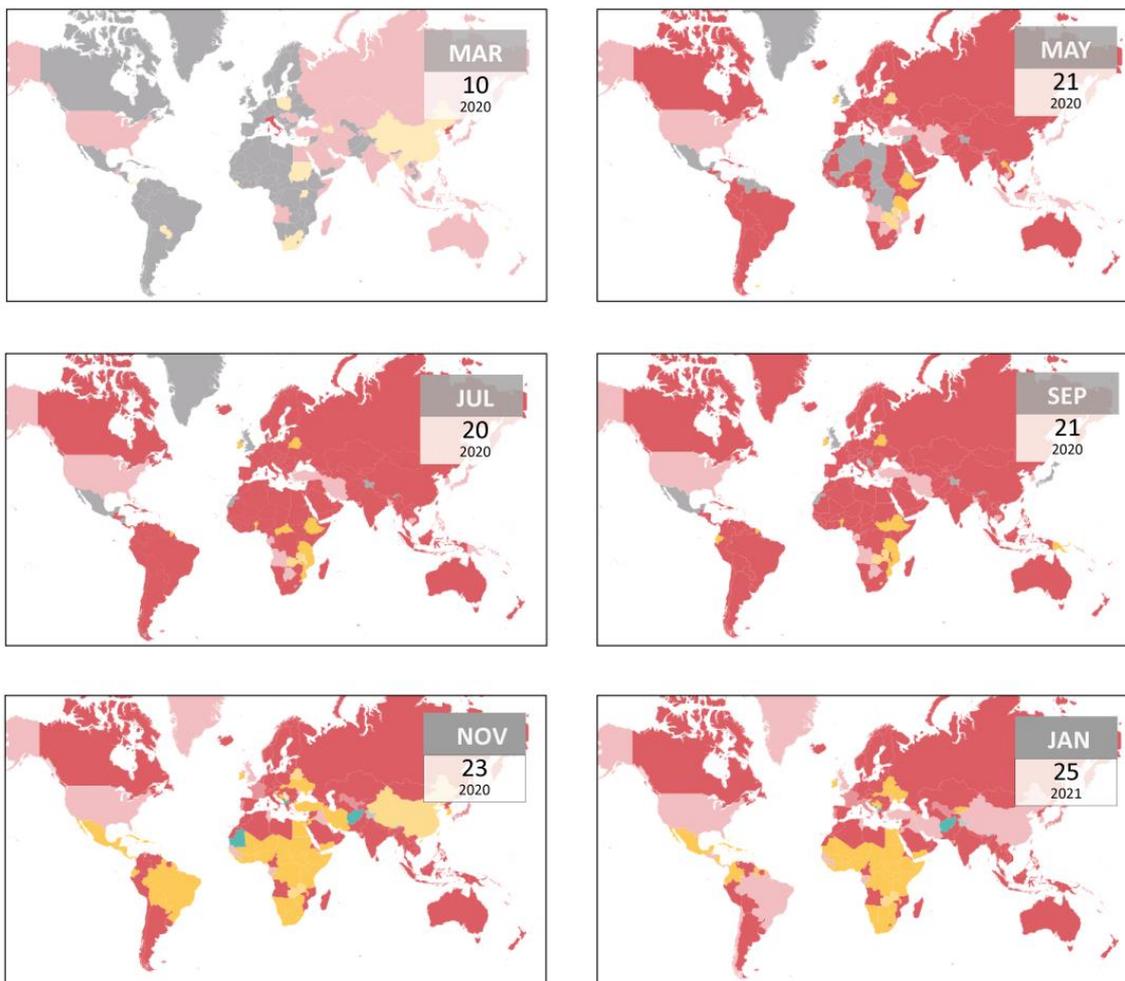
As of 8th February 2021, 227 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As continue to follow a decreasing trend, representing 26 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition for authorized entry representing 65 per cent of conditions. In contrast, visa requirements represent 3 per cent of total restrictions and conditions.

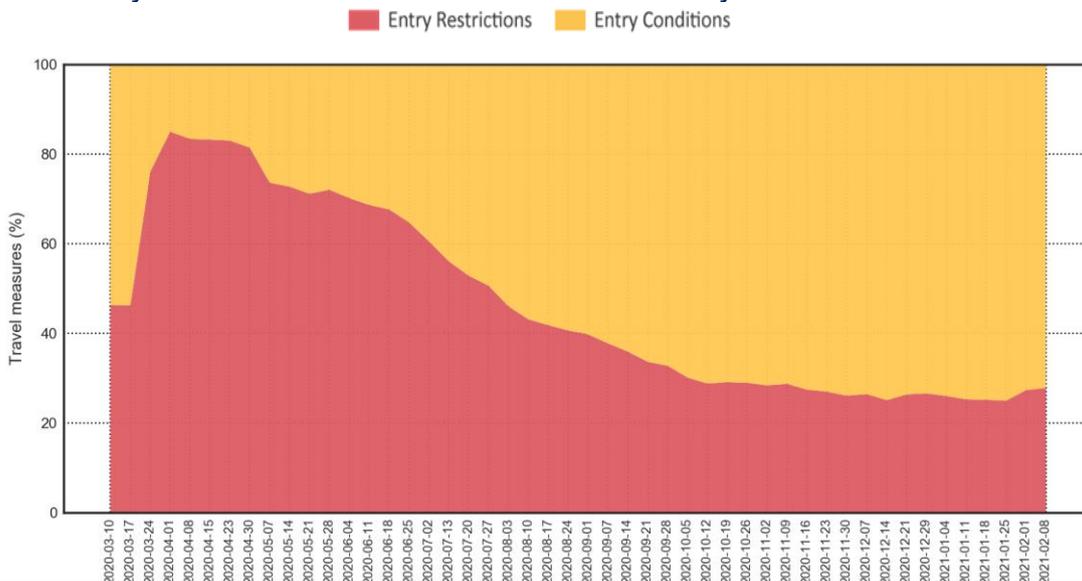### Restrictions and conditions for authorized entry, by type

■ 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.

Entry restrictions (1*)
- 1 to 99 C/T/As
- 100 to 200 C/T/As
- > 200 C/T/As

Conditions for authorized 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 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 25 per cent, as of 8th February 2021.

Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Global overview

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 8th February 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
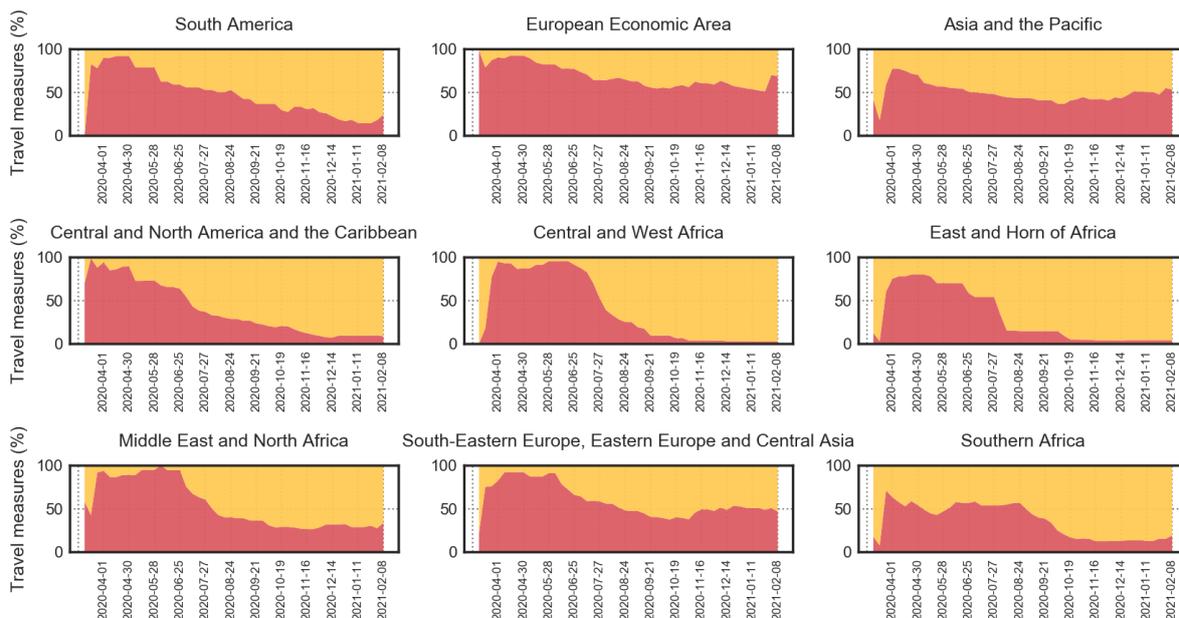
■ Key Highlights on Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

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 1st and 8th February 2021, 42 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, 21 of them made minor changes. While 24 C/T/As removed existing conditions for authorized entry, 10 C/T/As removed new total restrictions. There were 9 and 12 C/T/As issuing new conditions and restrictions respectively.

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

Restrictions Change   Conditions change
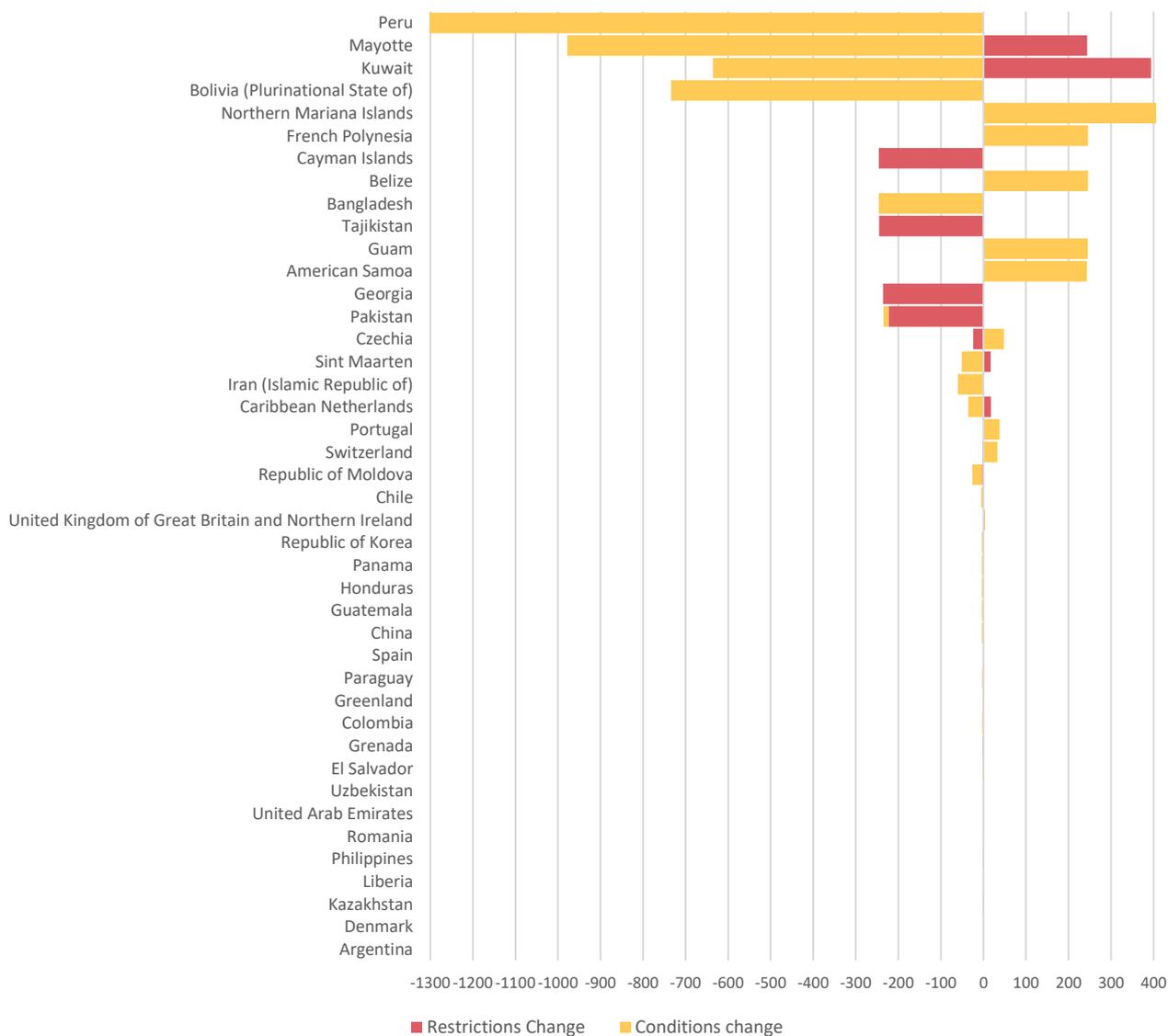
Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[2]

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 1st February 2021, a total of 94 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 1st and 8th February 2021, no new C/T/A added restrictions on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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[1] 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 1st February 2021 at 15:00 GMT.

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

- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland issued a new QR code feature on the passenger locator form, requiring passengers entering or transiting through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to complete a "Public Health Passenger Locator Form" and present the respective QR code at time of check-in and to immigration upon arrival.

Changes in Existing COVID-19 Measures

- Spain and Russian Federation extended the ongoing flight suspension on flights between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 16th February 2021.

- The Philippines and Switzerland lifted the temporary flight suspension on flights arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as of 4th February 2021.

- Argentina and Albania extended the flight suspension on flights to and from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 28th February 2021.

- Grenada lifted the flight suspension and the ban on passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- Jordan extended the flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland which was due to expire on 7th February 2021 to an unspecified period.

- Georgia issued a quarantine measure for passengers who have spent time in the past 14 days in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, they are subject to quarantine for 12 days upon entry.

- Dominican Republic issued new measures on airline crew arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland who must self-isolate until their next flight.

Key Highlights

- Kuwait issued a passenger ban on all travellers and suspended all visa on arrival facilities for an unspecified period, in effect from 8th February 2021.

- Northern Mariana Islands issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring passengers to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 viral antigen, NAAT, RT-LAMP, RT-PCR or TMA test result, taken at most 3 days before departure from the first embarkation point. Passengers arriving from the United States of America, younger than 2 years or United States of America military personnel are exempt, as well as passengers with a medical certificate with a positive COVID-19 test result issued at most 90 days before departure from the first embarkation point with a letter issued by a health authority stating that the passenger has been cleared for travel. The test result must specify "positive" or "detected", if marked "invalid" it is not accepted.

- French Polynesia issued a new condition for authorized entry, requiring passengers and airline crew to undergo a Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) text upon arrival. Passengers under 11 years old are exempt.

- New conditions for authorized entry requiring health surveillance apps. Belize issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring arrival passengers to download the Belize Health App and submit the required information at most 72 hours before departure. The App can be found online. Thailand issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring that passengers must download the ThailandPlus App and register by using COE number and reference code, before arrival.

- Tajikistan removed its existing passenger ban, however, all flights arriving to Tajikistan except for flights arriving from People's Republic of China, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan and humanitarian, medical evacuation and flights returning nationals are still suspended until 20th February 2021.

- Guam issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring all passengers provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 viral antigen, NAAT, RT-LAMP, RT-PCR or TMA test result. The test must have been taken at most 3 days

before departure from the first embarkation point. This does not apply to passengers arriving from the United States of America, passengers younger than 2 years, United States of America military personnel or passengers with a medical certificate with a positive COVID-19 test result issued at most 90 days before departure from the first embarkation point with a letter issued by a health authority stating that the passenger has been cleared for travel. The test result must specify "positive" or "detected", if marked "invalid" it is not accepted.

- Czechia issued new conditions for authorized entry on passengers arriving from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Holy See, Portugal and Spain. These passengers entering Czechia must now provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or Antigen test, taken at most 24 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. This does not apply to passengers younger than 5 years and passengers with a diplomatic passport traveling on duty for a maximum stay of 72 hours.

- New conditions for passengers in transit. Sint Maarten issued new conditions for authorized entry for transiting passengers, who must have completed a health declaration form at least 12 hours before departure and have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) or Antigen test result.

- Portugal extended their passenger ban until 14th February 2021 and Malta extended until 18th February 2021 whereas Israel added the end date of 1st March 2021.

- Switzerland issued a passenger ban on travellers arriving from Japan for an unspecified period. Authorities of Switzerland also issued new measures requiring passengers arriving from Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain to undergo mandatory quarantine for 10 days upon arrival. Lastly, from 4th February 2021, Switzerland also lifted the flight suspension on flights arriving from South Africa.

- Guatemala updated conditions for authorized entry and issued two new exceptions, for the medical certificate, the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test must have been taken at most 96 hours before departure and the antigen test must have been taken at most 72 hours before departure. Two new exceptions to this were issued for passengers with a medical discharge of a COVID-19 infection which occurred at most 3 months before arrival. The medical certificate must have been issued at least 10 days after being diagnosed and for passengers with a certificate of vaccination against COVID-19 if the last dose was administrated at least 2 weeks before departure (FYI previously the existing exception was children younger than 10).

- On 4th February 2021, Authorities in Denmark and Greenland issued a temporary flight suspension on flights from the United Arab Emirates until 9th February 2021 whereas the United Arab Emirates suspended flights with South Africa until 12th February 2021.

- The Philippines lifted the passenger ban on travellers who have been in or arriving from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region People's Republic of China, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, and United Arab Emirates.

- As of 1st February 2021, passengers arriving to Liberia must present a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test issued at most 7 days before departure from the first embarkation point (previously 96 hours). Passengers above the age of 5 and without a medical certificate must take a COVID-19 test upon arrival at passenger's own expense.

- Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China added Switzerland and United Arab Emirates to the list of CTAs where passengers who have spent any time in the past 21 days are required to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result, taken at most 72 hours before departure of the last direct flight, a letter issued by the local authorities certifying the laboratory as approved by the authorities and a hotel reservation confirmation for a minimum of 21 nights.

- Italy and Holy See extended the temporary passenger ban on all travellers who have been in or transited through Brazil in the last 14 days from 31st January until 15th February 2021.
- Flight suspensions were extended by Myanmar until 28th February 2021, by Turkmenistan until 1st March 2021, by Lao People's Democratic Republic until 31st March 2021 and by Lesotho for an indefinite period.

- All passengers arriving in or transiting through Switzerland must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result, taken at most 72 hours prior to arrival. However, passengers who can prove that they have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 3 months and that they have recovered are exempt from this measure.

- Iraq issued an entry ban on nationals of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Zambia who are not allowed to enter Iraq via Basra airport (BSR).

- Jordan issued a new condition for authorized entry for military personnel who subject to COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test upon arrival; and must obtain a "Military QR Code" online to enter.

- The Philippines updated its condition for authorized entry, now all passengers must have a hotel reservation for quarantine to enter. Previously arrivals from certain C/T/As were exempted, however, as per the updated measure, only nationals and passengers with a diplomatic visa do not require a confirmed hotel reservation to enter.

- Norway issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring passengers to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or Rapid Antigen test result, taken 24 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. The medical certificate must be in Danish, English, French, German, Norwegian or Swedish. Exceptions include nationals and residents of Norway, passengers younger than 12 years, passengers with a diplomatic or service passport, merchant seamen and military personnel.

- Netherlands (the) expanded the list of tests accepted for the medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result, needed as a condition for authorized entry, to include Antigen, Molecular, NAAT, TMA ID-NOW, LAMP or PCR.

- Singapore issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring that passengers subject to a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test upon arrival at their own expense, except for passengers under 6 years and merchant seafarers who are exempt. Passengers must also submit a health declaration before arrival via the SG Arrival Card (SGAC) e-Service or via the mobile application. This does not apply to passengers in transit.

■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions

Number of C/T/As by type of exception
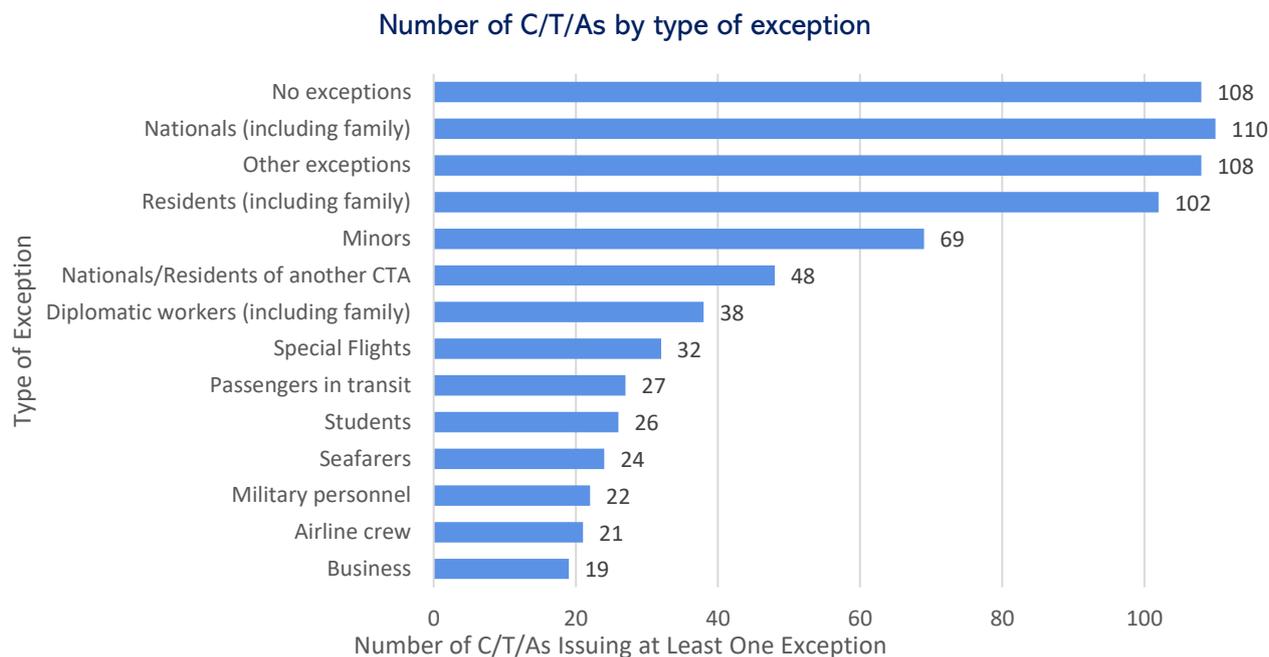
C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (110) and for Residents (102) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 69 different CTAs, and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

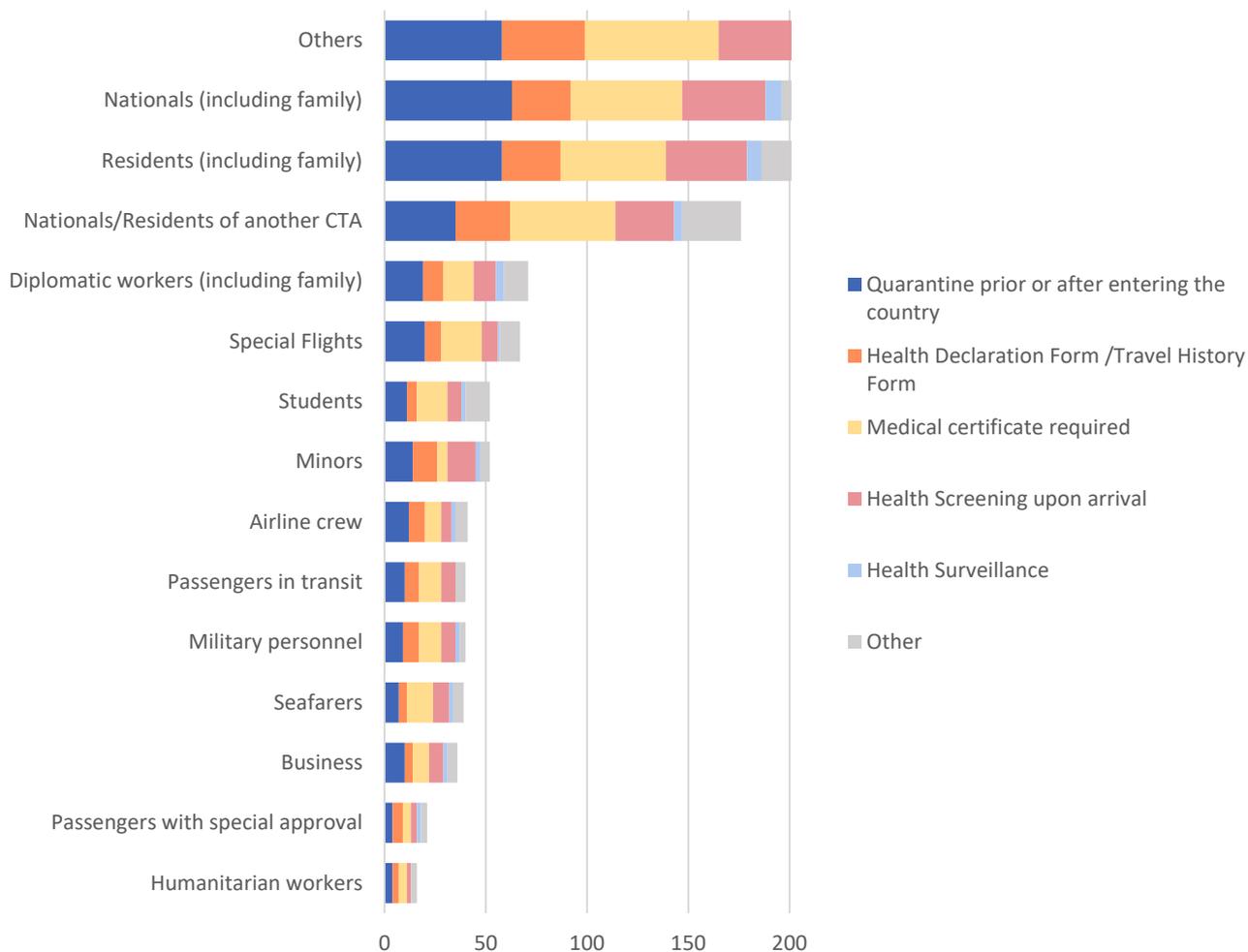### Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter
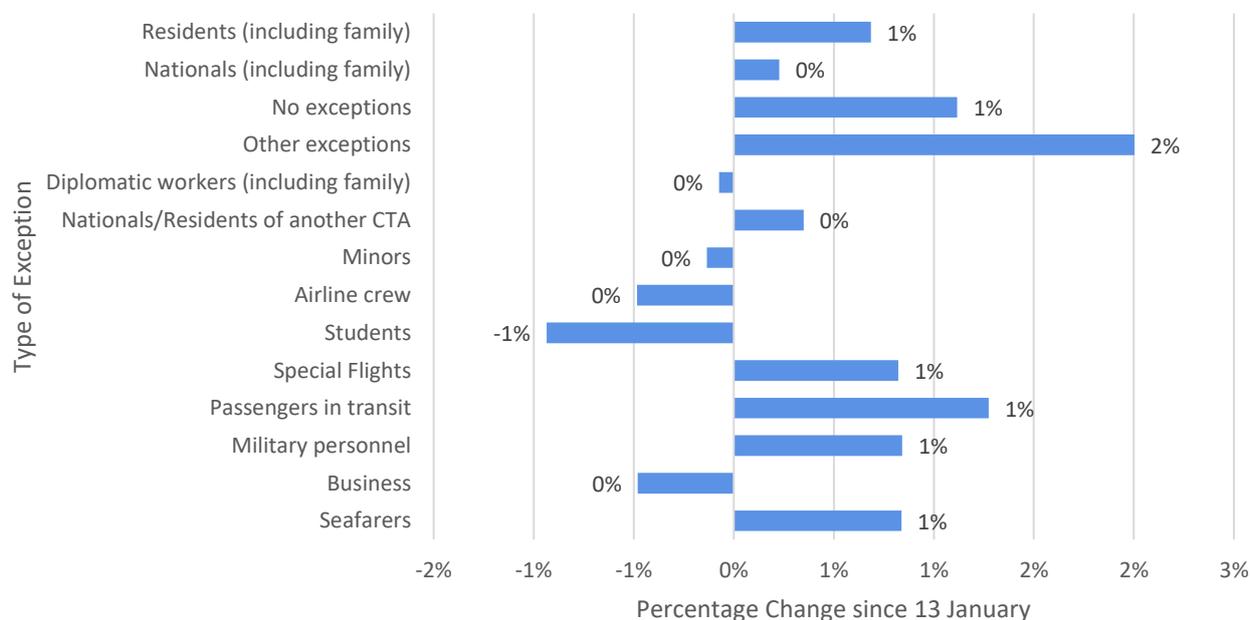
Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 748 exceptions enabling mobility have been issued by 185 C/T/As.
- The C/T/As issuing the highest number of exceptions were Singapore (15), Bulgaria (13), Finland (13), Austria (13) Lebanon (13), Croatia (12), and Chile (12).
- Between 2nd and 8th February 2021, 19 countries, territories or areas issued 29 new exceptions whilst 15 countries, territories or areas removed 32 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

Legend:
- Quarantine prior or after entering the country
- Health Declaration Form /Travel History Form
- Medical certificate required
- Health Screening upon arrival
- Health Surveillance
- Other

Noticeable Trends for Conditions for Authorized Entry for Exempted Groups

- Of the 183 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 143 have issued 1,367 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 (53), Belgium (42), Finland (39), Philippines (36), India (34), and Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (32).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was to provide a medical certificate upon arrival, which was issued at least 339 times. This is the first time that quarantine prior or after entering the country has not been the top condition, currently listed 334 times, and followed by medical screening (237).

■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Exceptions were removed. Portugal removed exceptions for international students, they are no longer exempt from the passenger entry ban. Nigeria removed the previously exempted category 'passengers younger than 10 years' from their condition for authorised entry. Now, all passengers must provide a QR code upon arrival without exception. Similarly, the Netherlands removed the previously issued exempted group 'partners and accompanying children of nationals and residents of the Netherlands' from the passenger ban.

- France and Monaco issued a new exception to the passenger ban, allowing conditional entry to nationals and residents of European Union Member states, Andorra, San Marino, Switzerland and Holy See, if they completed a Travel Certificate before boarding and submit it to immigration upon arrival.

- Sweden issued new exception groups to its passenger ban, including parents traveling to meet their children younger than 18 years residing in Sweden and military personal traveling to Sweden from Denmark, Norway, or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take part in international military cooperation.

- Islamic Republic of Iran has exempted its nationals and residents from the measure barring entry to passengers arriving from or who have spent time in the past 14 days in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Japan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia or Zimbabwe.

- New exceptions for passengers with a COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate were issued. Republic of Moldova issued new exceptions to the passenger ban, exempting passengers with a Laissez-Passer issued by the United Nations and passengers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate.

- Russian Federation issued new exceptions to their passenger ban for nationals and residents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, upon the condition that they provide a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival. The certificate must have a green QR code obtained in the app 'Traveling without COVID-19'.

- The United States of America issued exceptions to allow conditional entry for transit passengers. All arrival passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 viral antigen, NAAT, RT-LAMP, RT-PCR or TMA test result. The test must have been taken at most three days before departure from the first embarkation point.