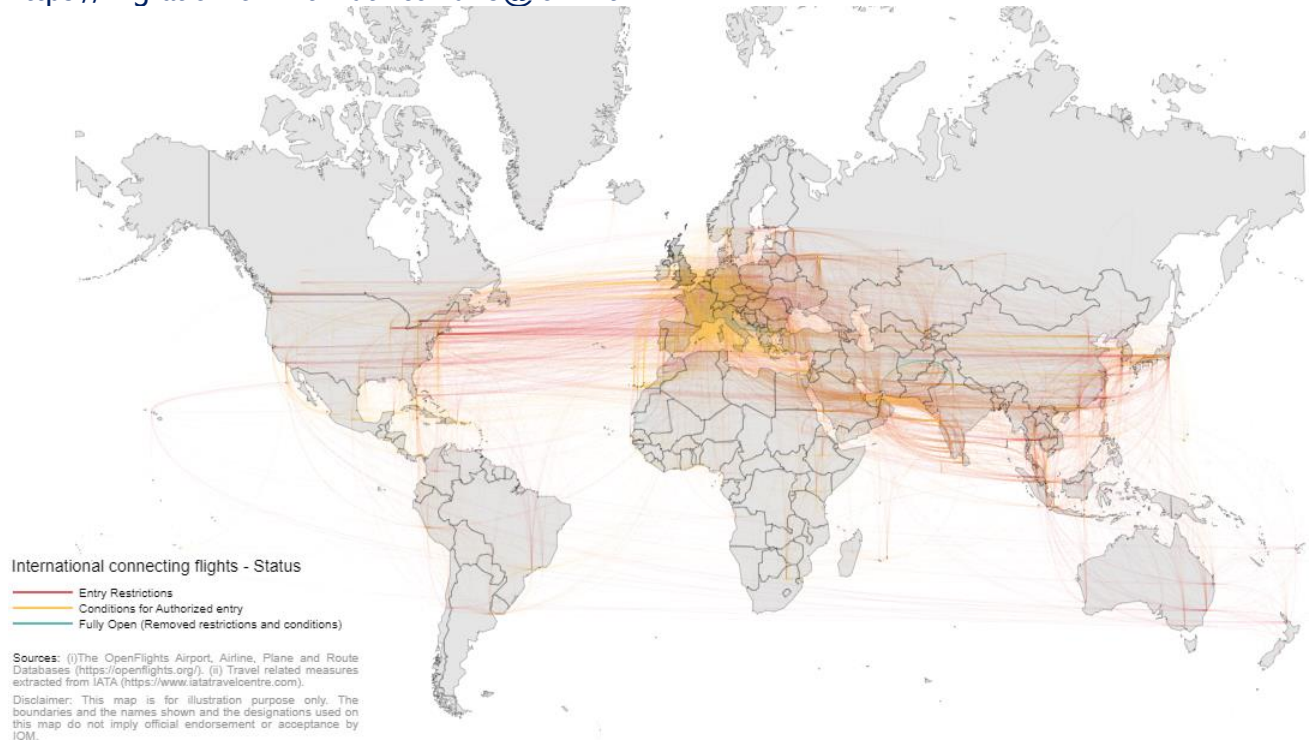


# Global Mobility Restriction Overview





Weekly Update • 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020



COVID-19 Mobility Impacts Update Series  
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## 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](#).

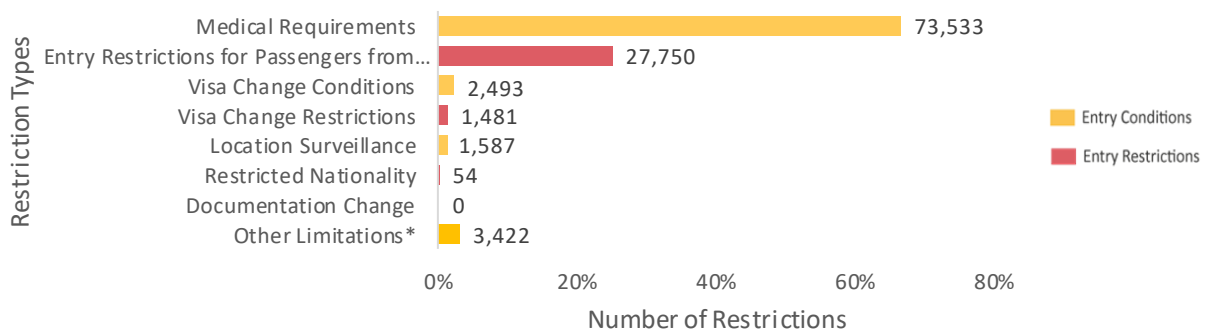
Disclaimer: This update strives to use terms in conformity with the IOM's Glossary on Migration to describe mobility restrictions in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sensitive nature of the information, those terms are used to the best of our knowledge and within the limit of our possibilities 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](mailto:dtmccovid19@iom.int) to ensure consistency of information in the database repository.

## Overview

The emergence of a new strain of the COVID-19 virus has caused new border closures and passenger bans. Such measures continue to have an immense impact on global mobility and migration. The global pandemic continues to pose myriad epidemiological challenges as the total number of COVID-19 cases has reached almost 80 million (79,931,215 cases) as of 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 according to the [World Health Organization](#). The consequent effect of the new variant of COVID-19 has also led to further restrictions on global mobility and migration with several passenger bans and flight suspensions to curtail infection. As of 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020, a total of 226 countries, territories, or areas, have issued 110,320 travel related measures indicating a slight decrease of less than one per cent from 110,629 travel related measures reported on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Of these, 29,285 were reported as entry restrictions and 81,035 were reported as conditions for authorized entry. In the reporting period, there was an increase of almost one per cent in the entry restrictions and in conditions for authorized entry. In terms of conditions for authorized entry, there was a 6 per cent increase in other limitations such as medical insurance. There was a 2 per cent increase in entry restrictions on passengers arriving from specific countries, territories or areas between 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020. In parallel to existing travel restrictions, a total of 176 countries, territories or areas have issued 712 exceptions enabling mobility despite travel restrictions. Between 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 17 countries, territories or areas issued 22 new exceptions whilst 10 countries, territories or areas removed 17 exceptions.

## Restrictions and Conditions for Authorized Entry

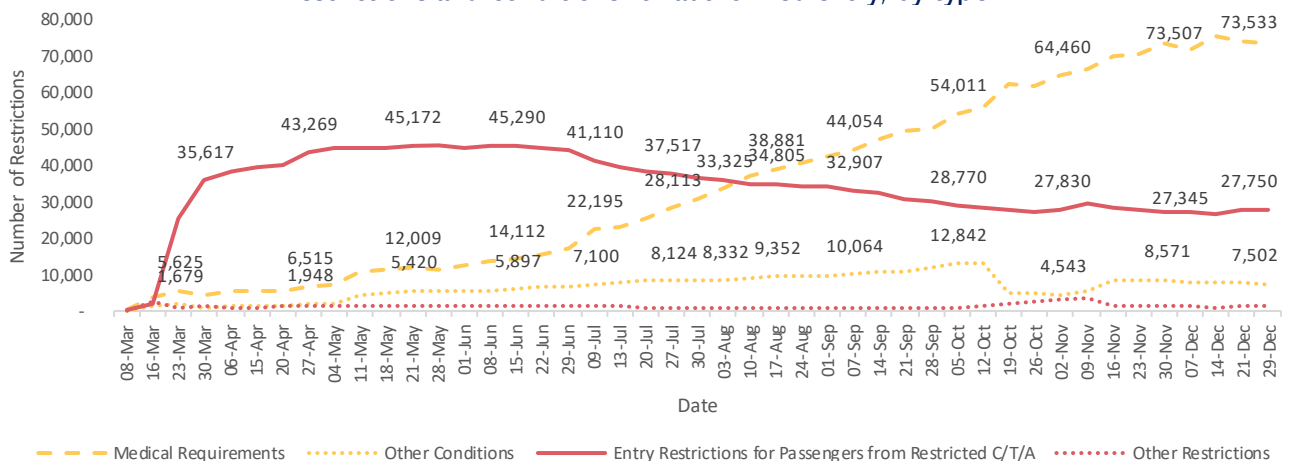
Most commonly imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry



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

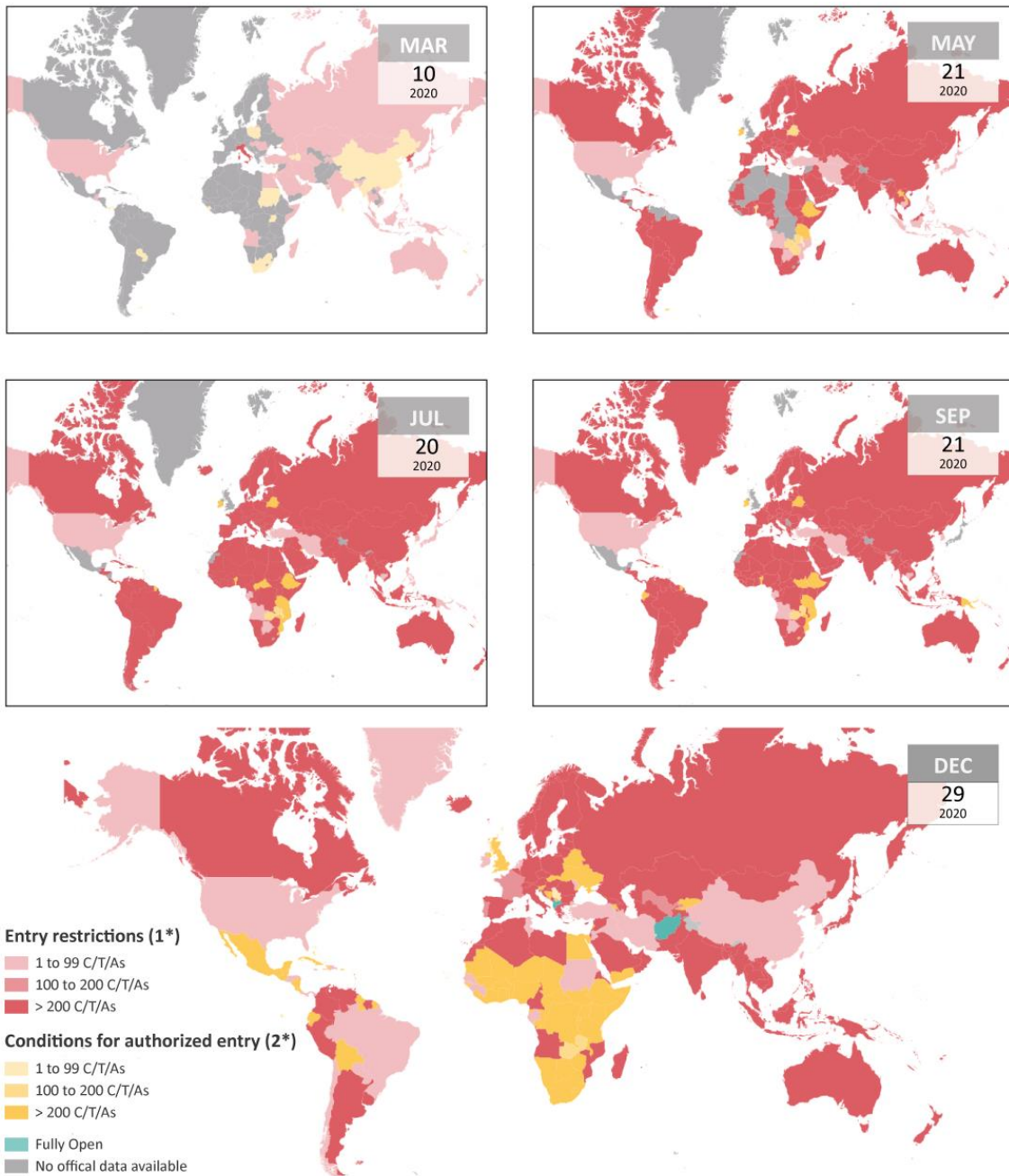
As of 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 226 C/T/As have imposed restrictions and conditions for authorized entry. Entry restrictions for passengers from restricted C/T/As remain relatively unchanged, representing 25 per cent of all restrictions and conditions. Medical measures are the most common condition 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.

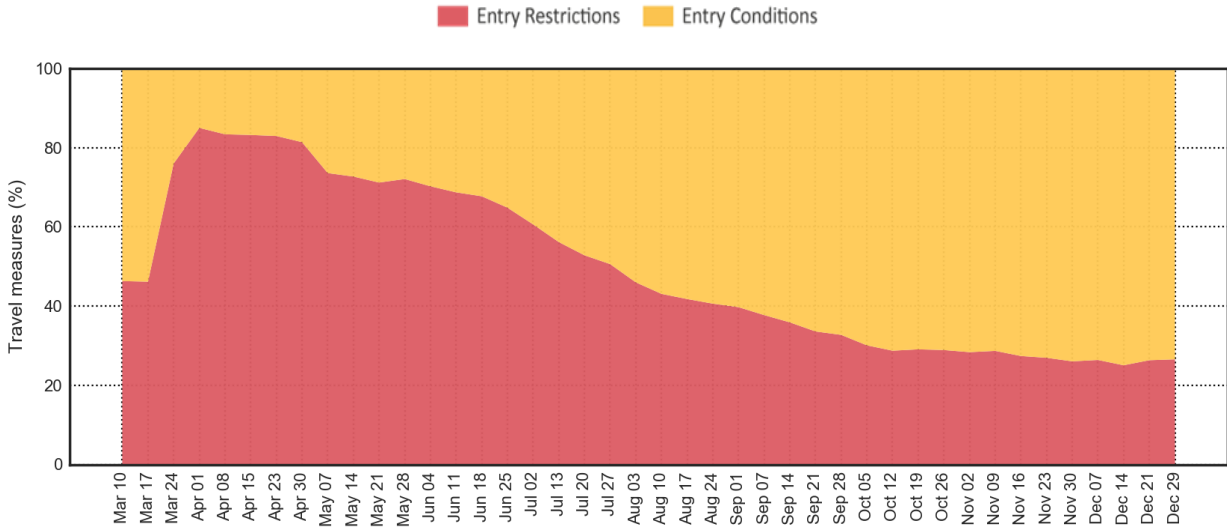


(1\*) Restricted entry on passengers coming from other countries, territories and areas (C/T/A).

(2\*) C/T/As imposing medical measures, changes in Visa or ID or other measures on arrival.

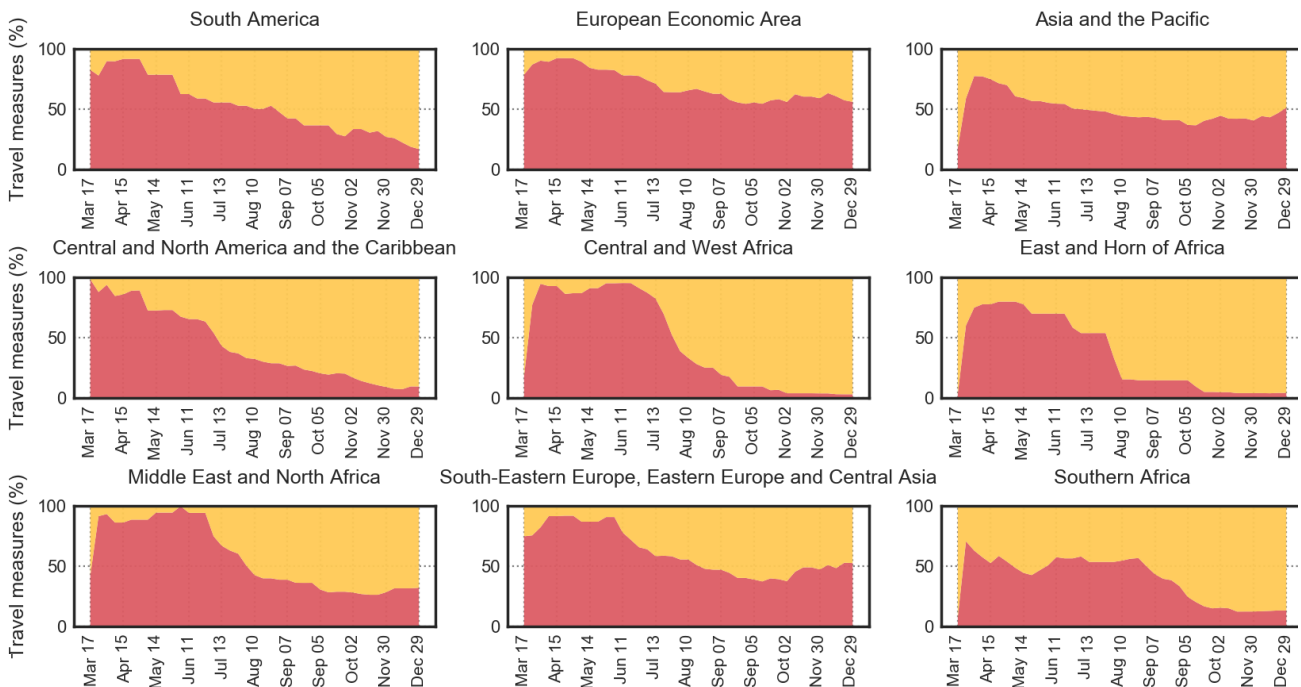
The chart below shows the shift from 'entry restrictions' to 'conditions for authorized entry' over time. In April 2020, entry restrictions constituted 80 per cent of all COVID-19 related measures (coloured in red), but this proportion has gradually decreased to 25 per cent, as of 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

### 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 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020. On the other hand, since October 2020 IOM regions of *European Economic Area; Asia and the Pacific; and South-Eastern Europe, 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.

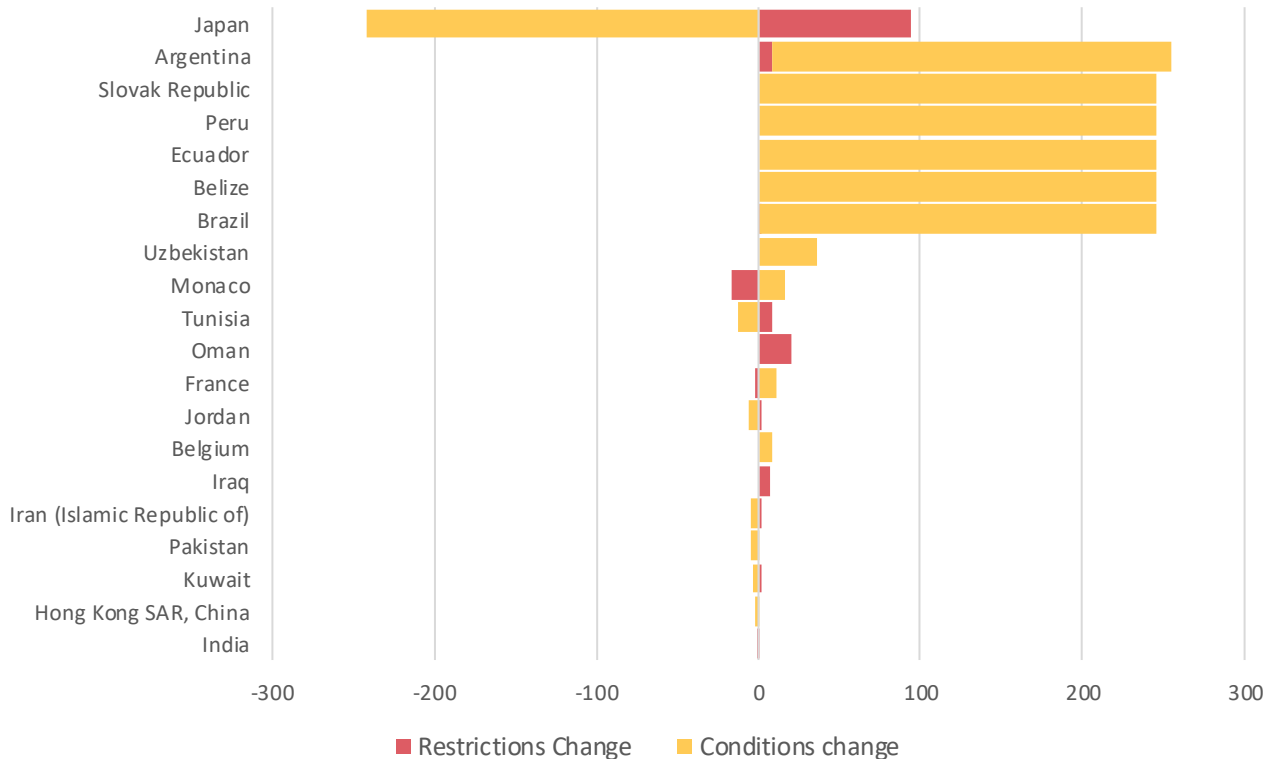
### Entry restrictions vs. conditions for authorized entry – Regional overview



## ■ 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 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 51 C/T/As added or removed some restrictions and/or conditions for authorized entry, with the majority making minor changes. Most C/T/As with a change added restrictions on entry.

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



<sup>1</sup> The new variant of the COVID-19 virus has directly affected travel restrictions as several countries, territories or areas have issued new stringent measures and restrictions in response.

### Key Highlights

- Existing passenger bans were extended by Belgium for all passengers until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, and by Canada until 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 for passengers arriving from the United States of America.
- Suriname suspended flights from the Netherlands; previously flights from the Netherlands were exempt of the flight suspension.
- Honduras issued a passenger ban on travellers who have been in South Africa in the past 21 days. Nationals and residents are exempt but are subject to quarantine for 14 days if they have been in South Africa.
- Germany issued a ban on residents from Uruguay. Previously they were exempt from Germany's passenger ban on arrivals from specific countries, territories or areas.
- Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China stipulated that any passengers who has been in South Africa for more than two hours in the past 21 days will be denied entry with no exception. Authorities also extended the period of quarantine from 14 to 21 days for all travellers.

<sup>1</sup> 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.



- Uzbekistan issued new conditions for authorized entry for all passengers, who must undergo COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test upon arrival.
- Belgium issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring that all passengers must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. The certificate must be in Dutch, English, French or German however, residents of Belgium and passengers younger than 12 years old are exempt from this measure.
- Tunisia issued a new passenger ban on all travellers from Denmark. Additionally, all flights from Australia, Denmark, South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are suspended. There are no exemptions to this restriction.
- Iraq issued a passenger ban on travellers arriving from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Netherlands and South Africa.
- Nigeria issued new conditions for authorized entry for travellers arriving from South Africa who must have a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test. The test must have been taken at most 4 days before boarding the flight to Nigeria. The certificate must be in English
- From 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Turkey issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring all passengers entering or transiting through Turkey must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken at most 72 hours before arrival. Children below the age of six are exempt.
- Angola issued a new condition stating that nationals and residents are exempt from the total passenger ban so long as they do not arrive from Australia, Nigeria, or South Africa.
- Barbados changed their condition for authorized entry and are now accepting Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test results that are issued up to four days before departure, instead of the previous three days' timeframe.
- Slovakia issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring that all passengers must provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result taken at most 72 hours before arrival. Passengers under ten are exempt and tests must be performed by laboratories in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Malaysia reduced its required quarantine period for all passengers upon arrival, from 14 to 10 days.
- Monaco issued a new condition for authorized entry requiring passengers arriving from Algeria, Bahrain, People's Republic of China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa, Turkey, United States of America, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates or Zimbabwe to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result. The test must have been taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point, and children under 11 are exempt.
- Montenegro issued alternative conditions for authorized entry for nationals and residents if they are not able to provide a medical certificate with a COVID-19 test result upon arrival, they will still be granted entry if they subject to self-isolation for 14 days.
- Singapore issued conditions for entry for Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents who are still able to enter Singapore despite the ban on travellers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland but are required to undertake an additional COVID-19 test upon arrival.
- New conditions for authorized entry were issued. Belize requires all passengers to undergo a COVID-19 test upon arrival. The Netherlands and Belize also now require passengers to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result to enter. For entering Belize, this must be issued at most 96 hours before departure from the first embarkation point are exempt.
- Brazil issued new conditions for authorized entry requiring all passengers and airline crew to present a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Rapid Test-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result valid at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point. The certificate must be in English, Portuguese or Spanish. Passengers below the age of 2, as well as passengers younger than 12 years and traveling accompanied by a companion are exempt. The companion must have a negative RT-PCR test result. Additionally, all passengers must complete a Traveler's Health Declaration form [online](#) and present it upon arrival.

## Special Focus: Impact on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland<sup>2</sup>

As a result of the new variant of COVID-19 several C/T/As have implemented more stringent mobility restrictions for individuals and cargo arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. As of 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020, a total of 78 C/T/As have issued some measure or travel restriction on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as a result of the new strain.

- On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, Canada extended the ban on travellers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an additional two weeks, until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.<sup>i</sup>
- Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China stipulated that any passenger who has been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for more than 2 hours in the past 21 days will be denied entry with no exception.
- The Islamic Republic of Iran specified an end date for the passenger ban which will be 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- Ireland extended the flight suspension with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- Lithuania, Latvia and Jamaica issued an end date to the passenger ban on travellers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. For Lithuania the ban will end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, Latvia on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, and for Jamaica on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- Norway extended the flight suspension until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Additionally, all travellers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be required to: Take a Polymerase Chain Reaction test within 24 hours of arrival and a second test no earlier than 7 days after arrival. They must register on arrival and notify local municipality about the location of their accommodation. Finally, all those who have travelled to Norway in the last 14 days are asked to immediately take another PCR test and to inform the municipality where they are staying.<sup>ii</sup>
- Pakistan extended the passenger ban for all travellers who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The ban was due to expire on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 but has been extended until 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Additionally, nationals of Pakistan who travelled to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on a business, visitor or transit visa; a family, settlement, study or work visa which will expire on or before 20 January 2021; and passenger who stayed in the international transit area of the airport when transiting through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are exempt. Additionally, nationals of Pakistan returning from a visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 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 the same test on arrival. They will also be required to home quarantine for seven days.
- In addition to a flight suspension, the Philippines issued a passenger ban on all passengers who have been in or transited through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the past 14 days.
- As of 28<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Republic of Korea extended the suspension of flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an additional week, until 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021.<sup>iii</sup>
- The Russian Federation extended the suspension of all flights between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as of the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020, until 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.<sup>iv</sup>
- Sweden extended the suspension of flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021. The previous suspension was until 28<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
- Dominican Republic issued a passenger ban on travellers from United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as those with a British passport with nationality "British Citizen".
- -Jordan and Sri Lanka issued a passenger ban on all travellers who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the last 14 days. This is in addition to the flight suspension issued.
- Malta issued a passenger ban on travellers from United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in addition to the flight suspension.

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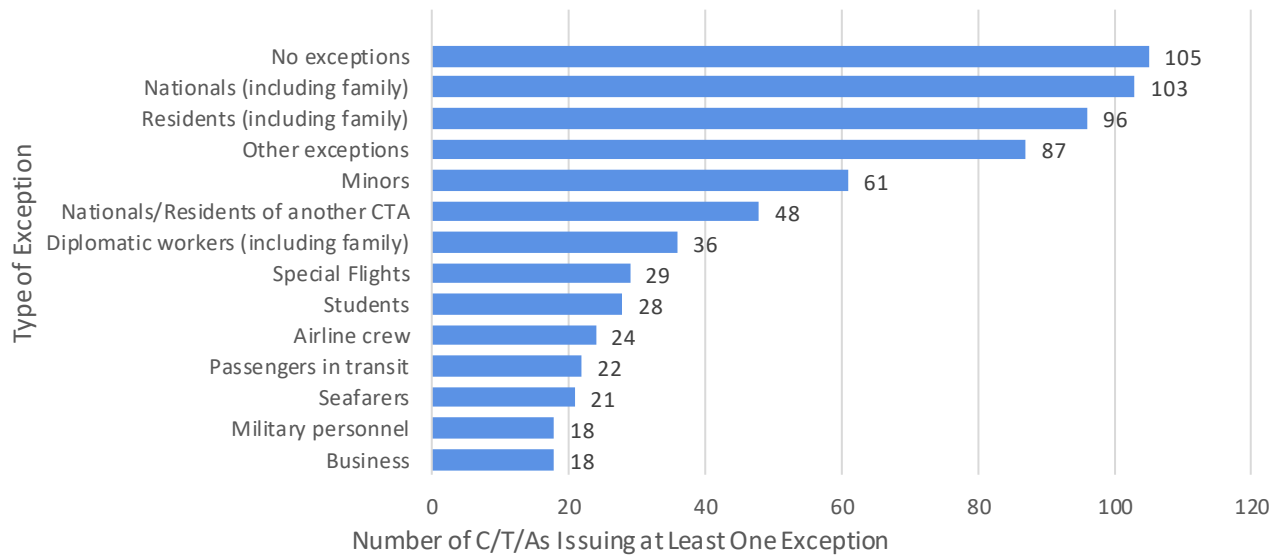
<sup>2</sup> This was last updated on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 15:00 GMT

- Angola issued a suspension of all travel to and from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as of the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Nationals and residents will still be allowed to enter Angola despite the passenger ban so long as they do not arrive from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Brazil issued a temporary suspension of incoming flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Authorities also issued a ban any passenger who has been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the last 14 days.
- Greenland issued a temporary suspension of flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021. However, UK residents will be allowed entry upon fulfilment of documentation providing proof of special worthy purposes for travel in addition to proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours before entry. Special worthy purposes include: Persons who act as the primary caregiver for minor children; Persons who are to visit seriously ill or dying family members or partners and persons who carry out freight transport to ensure security of supply.
- The People's Republic of China suspended all flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Lebanon issued a flight suspension on all flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.<sup>v</sup>
- San Marino issued a flight suspension on all flights from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- Russian Federation imposed a mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival for all passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, starting 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020.<sup>vi</sup>
- Nigeria announced that all travellers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must have a printed medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test. The test must have been taken at most 4 days before boarding the flight to Nigeria. The certificate must be in English.
- The United States of America issue new entry requirements for passengers arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. All travellers must have a negative (COVID-19) Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) or a viral antigen test result. The test must have been taken at most 3 days before departure from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Passengers below the age of two years and passengers who transiting for a maximum of 24 hours through the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are exempt.
- Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China announced that all passengers arriving directly from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or those who have been in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the previous 14 days, will be required to complete their mandatory 14-day quarantine at a designated quarantine centre. This applies to all nationalities and is irrespective of the purpose of travel. Upon completion of this 14-day quarantine, all passengers will be required to provide a negative COVID-19 test before they can leave quarantine. An additional 7-day self-health management period will then be required. Passengers arriving before 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 will be permitted to continue their mandatory quarantine in a designated quarantine hotel, or in their homes if they are residents.
- While Czechia has issued a passenger ban for travellers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. All passengers that are exempt such as nationals of Czechia residing in Czechia and their accompanying family members; nationals of Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Holy See residing in Czechia, and their accompanying family members; passengers with a D visa issued by Czechia; passengers with a residence permit issued by Czechia who arrive from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or antigen test result. The test must have been taken at most 72 hours before departure from the first embarkation point.



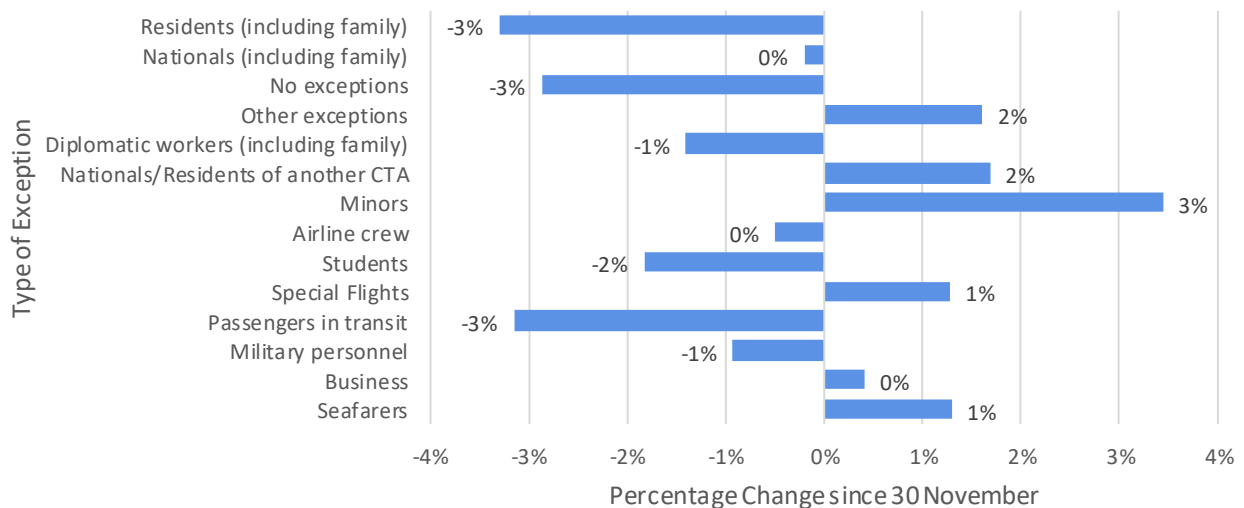
## ■ Exceptions to Entry Restrictions

Number of C/T/As by type of exception



C/T/As are most likely to issue at least one exception for Nationals (103) and for Residents (96) and their families. Exceptions for minors, issued at least once by 61 different CTAs, continue to increase and represent the third most common group receiving exceptions.

Changes in exceptions: groups that are allowed to enter



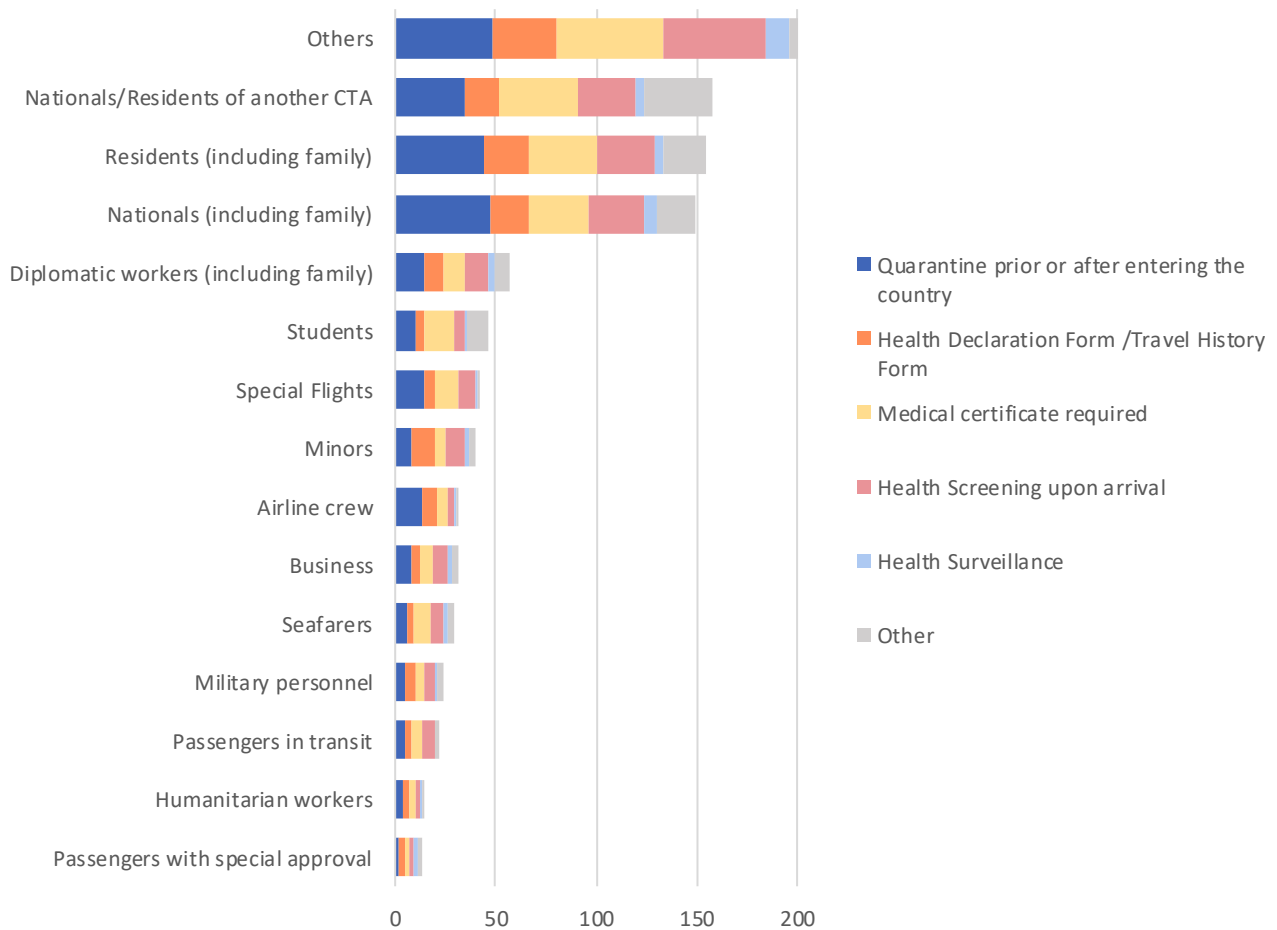
### Noticeable Trends for Exceptions:

- A total of 712 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 (15), Switzerland (14), Croatia (14), Austria (12), Uruguay (12), Belgium (12), Bulgaria (12), and Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China (12).
- Between 22nd and 29th December 2020, 17 countries, territories or areas issued 22 new exceptions whilst 10 countries, territories or areas removed 17 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 176 CTAs issuing exceptions for entry, a total of 122 have issued 1,054 conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups.
- The top five C/T/As issuing the highest number of conditions for authorized entry for exempted groups were, Singapore (37), Belgium (36), Philippines (36), India (32), Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (30), Indonesia (28).
- The main condition for authorized entry for exempted groups was quarantine prior or after entering the country, which was issued 264 times. This was followed by medical certificates (234) and health screening (204).

## ■ Key Exceptions Highlights

- Morocco changed the exceptions for its current flight suspension. Previously, all passengers who are visa exempt and have a hotel reservation confirmation or an invitation from a Moroccan company could enter Morocco. However, now this exception only applies to passengers arriving from a country other than the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Oman removed exceptions for humanitarian and return flights for nationals, as well as flights arriving from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates. Now all flights are suspended without exceptions.
- Maldives removed previously issued exceptions to their condition for authorized entry which require all passengers to provide a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result, removing exemptions for passengers with a Special Visa and Business Visa staying for more than 7 days.
- India issued new exceptions to its passenger ban allowing conditional entry to spouses of nationals of India, spouses of an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holder and passengers returning from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives or Nepal via India to their country of residence. Additionally, passengers arriving in India are no longer required to download the 'Arogya Setu' app upon arrival.
- New exceptions were issued by Fiji, exempting passengers under five years old from being required to provide a medical certificate with negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test 72 hours before departure.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/uk-flight-ban-extended-1.5853272#:~:text=Canada%20is%20extending%20its%20ban,for%20three%20days%2C%20implemented%20Monday>.

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/norway>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.yna.co.kr/view/AKR20201228092800530>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://crisis24.garda.com/insights/news-alerts/wip10011840432/russia-authorities-extend-commercial-flight-suspension-with-uk-over-new-covid-strain-until-jan-12-update-31>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.beirutobserver.com/2020/12/2369501/>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/12/25/russia-imposes-14-day-quarantine-for-uk-arrivals-due-to-mutated-virus-a72488>