

Important Guidance on Japan's Border Control Measures Related to COVID-19

Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu

The Government of Japan (GOJ) has implemented multi-layer border control measures in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Due to the complexity of these measures, the Consulate has created this guidance to highlight the essential points which are applicable to the majority of foreign nationals currently living/staying in the United States. For more detailed information on Japan's border control measures, please refer to the relevant websites by the related Ministries and Agencies of Japan.

1. Denial of Permission to Enter

Until further notice, the GOJ will deny permission to enter Japan to **foreign nationals** in the categories listed below, as they fall under *Article 5, paragraph (1), item (xiv) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act*, unless there are "**Exceptional Circumstances**."

- (1) **Foreign nationals who have been physically present in the U.S. in the 14 days prior to their arrival to Japan.**
- 158 countries/regions other than the U.S. that the GOJ has applied entrance restrictions to can be found here: https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html
 - (2) Foreign nationals who hold a Chinese passport issued in the Hubei Province or the Zhejiang Province of China.
 - (3) Foreign nationals who were on the cruise ship Westerdam, which departed from Hong Kong.

Note: Foreign nationals with the "Special Permanent Resident" status are NOT subject to Article 5, paragraph (1), item (xiv) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act. Therefore, they will not be denied permission to enter Japan based on Japan's Border Control Measures Related to COVID-19.

<Exceptional Circumstances>

Foreign nationals who fall under the cases below are considered to be under Exceptional Circumstances.

RE-ENTRY

- **Foreign nationals with Status of Residence (regardless of its category), who have departed from Japan with a valid Re-entry Permit/Special Re-entry Permit.**
 - https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001074.html
- **Those who have departed from Japan on or before August 31, 2020, who possess "The Letter of Confirmation of Submitting Required Documentation for Re-entry into Japan" obtained from the Embassy or Consulates of Japan prior to departure from the U.S. to Japan.**
 - https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page25e_000334.html
- **Those who have departed from Japan on or after September 1, 2020, who possess "The Receipt for Request of Re-entry" obtained from the Immigration Services Agency of Japan prior to departure from Japan.**
 - http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyuukokukanri07_00245.html

NEW ENTRY

- **Foreign nationals who will newly enter Japan (i.e. enter Japan without re-entry permit) under the cases below with a proper entry visa of Japan:**
 - Foreign nationals who have departed from Japan on or before August 31, 2020 with a valid Re-entry

Permit/Special Re-entry Permit, but have been unable to re-enter Japan because the validity of the permit has expired after their departure from Japan.

- The spouse or child of a Japanese national or permanent resident of Japan.
- The spouse or child of a foreign national with the status of residence of “Long-term resident” whose family is staying in Japan and who have been separated from their family.
- A foreign national who is going to acquire the status of "Instructor" or "Professor" and who needs to enter Japan to fill a vacancy at the educational institution s/he is employed by or will be employed by, provided such a vacancy would result in the suspension of educational activities at the above-mentioned educational institution.
- A foreign national who is going to acquire the status of "Medical Services" and will contribute to the enhancement and strengthening of the Japanese medical profession.
- Those who are eligible for “Phased Measures toward Resuming Cross-Border Travel”

Starting from October 1, 2020, [1] foreign nationals with a Certificate of Eligibility (this includes all types of Status of Residence except for “diplomatic” and “official”) who intend to enter Japan for a mid to long term stay, as well as [2] those who intend to enter Japan for a short-term stay for the purpose of temporary business will, in principle, be incrementally permitted to enter Japan under the condition that the person is hosted by a company / entity that can assure the observation of quarantine measures. However, the number of people who will be permitted to enter Japan will be restricted. Foreign nationals intending to enter Japan using this scheme should apply for the entry visa (even for a short-term stay), and will need to submit the same documents as the applicants of the “Residence Track”.

→ https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page22e_000921.html

OTHERS

- Foreign nationals who do not fall under the cases above, but have been acknowledged to have special exceptional circumstances (e.g. cases that require humanitarian consideration) by the Japanese authorities.

< Negative Test Result prior to departure from the U.S.>

Excluding those with the status of “Special Permanent Resident,” “Diplomatic,” or “Official,” **ALL foreign nationals** (Re-entry and New entry) who are under Exceptional Circumstances, in principal, are also required to obtain a **“Certificate of Negative Test Result”** before departing the U.S. for Japan (the test must be conducted within 72 hours of the intended departure). If they fail to submit these documents to the immigration officer, then they will be denied entry into Japan based on the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act. Please make sure to read the link below for the further details.

→ https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page25e_000334.html

Further information about denial of permission to enter can be found here:

http://www.moj.go.jp/EN/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/m_nyuukokukanri01_00003.html

2. Suspension of Visa Validity

- (1) Validity of the visas indicated in the link below have been suspended.
→ https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html#section3
- (2) While the validity of visas issued by the Embassy/Consulates in the U.S. have NOT been suspended, foreign nationals with a valid entry visa of Japan that was issued on or before April 2, 2020 will, in principal, be subject to “Denial of Permission to Enter.”
- (3) New visa applications made by anyone who falls under the categories listed in the “Denial of Permission

to Enter” section above will not be accepted based on the "[Criteria of Visa Issuance](#)." However, those who are under Exceptional Circumstances (NEW ENTRY) will be allowed to apply for a visa.

3. Suspension of Visa Exemption Measures

- (1) Visa exemption measures with the countries and regions indicated in the link below have been temporarily suspended.
→ https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html#section4
- (2) While the Visa exemption measure to U.S. citizens has NOT been suspended, those U.S. citizens who intend to newly enter Japan without a proper entry visa will, in principal, be subject to “Denial of Permission to Enter.”

4. Quarantine Measures after Entry into Japan

- (1) All people traveling from the U.S. (including Japanese nationals and those foreign nationals permitted to enter Japan as a result of their Exceptional Circumstances) will be required to take COVID-19 tests at the port of entry in Japan.
- (2) They will also be required to self-quarantine at their home/place of accommodation for 14 days after entering Japan. In addition, those people will be required to refrain from using public transportation (including trains, buses, taxis, or domestic flights) in Japan for 14 days after their arrival. You should secure accommodations where you can stay for 14 days and private transportation from the airport to your destination.
 - Further information including applicable countries and regions other than the U.S. can be found here: https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/covid19_qa_kanrenkigyuu_00003.html

Contact List

- For inquiries about the Entry Visa or Re-entry Confirmation Letter, please contact the Embassy / Consulate of Japan which has jurisdiction over your residential address.
 - List of Embassy/Consulate in the U.S.
<https://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/consulate-guide.html>
 - The Japan Visa Information Hotline is also available: TEL 1-888-671-4583 (24/7)
- For inquiries on Status of Residence or Certificate of Eligibility, please contact the Immigration Services Agency of Japan.
 - Information Center: TEL +81-570-013904
- For inquiries on Quarantine Measures, please contact the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.
 - Hotline: TEL +81-3-3595-2176