

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

Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles

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 Embassy has created this guide to highlight the essential points which are applicable to the majority of foreign nationals currently living/staying in the United States. For more information on how Japan's border control measures apply to countries and regions outside of the U.S., 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>

- **ALL 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, are considered to be under Exceptional Circumstances.**

Required documents for those who have departed from Japan on or before **August 31, 2020**:

"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

Required documents for those who will depart from Japan on or after **September 1, 2020**:

"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

- Foreign nationals who do not fall under the Exceptional Circumstance indicated above, but are in situations similar to the examples indicated in the link below, may also be granted entry to Japan. If you think your case is eligible for Exceptional Circumstances, please contact the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles (only for Southern California, or Arizona residents).

- <http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001327576.pdf>

< 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. 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 of Japan and the Consulates General 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 still be subject to “Denial of Permission to Enter,” unless there are Exceptional Circumstances. Please contact the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles (only for Southern California, or Arizona residents), if you plan to visit Japan with a valid entry visa of Japan issued on or before April 2, 2020 AND you think you fall under Exceptional Circumstances.
- (3) Please also note that 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,” unless there are Exceptional Circumstances.

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 Waiver Agreement between Japan and the U.S. has NOT been suspended, foreign nationals who intend to enter Japan under the agreement will still be subject to “Denial of Permission to Enter,” unless there are Exceptional Circumstances. Please contact the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles (only for Southern California, or Arizona residents), if you plan to visit Japan under the Visa Waiver Agreement AND if you think you fall under Exceptional Circumstances.

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
 - For questions regarding the quarantine measures, please contact the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare directly: Tel: +81-3-3595-2176