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

June 10th, 2022

The Government of Japan (GOJ) has implemented multi-layer border control measures in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Due to the complex nature of these measures, this page will guide and highlight the essential points which are applicable to the majority of foreign nationals currently living/staying in the United States.

From 0:00 am (JST) April 8th, 2022, those foreign nationals who have been physically present in the U.S. 14 days prior to their arrival to Japan will not be subject to denial of permission to enter Japan. However, until further notice, the GOJ will suspend the visa exemption measures for the U.S. passport holders. Hence, all new entry to Japan requires a visa.

Down below are the exceptional circumstances to apply for a visa at this time.

**Exceptional Circumstances**

1. **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. Those foreign nationals do NOT need to apply for a visa to enter Japan.

2. **NEW ENTRY**
   Foreign nationals who will newly enter Japan (i.e., enter Japan without a re-entry permit) under any of the cases below. Those foreign nationals **MUST** apply for a visa to enter Japan.

   (a) 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 their permit has expired after their departure from Japan.

   (b) Spouse, child, and relative of a Japanese national or a permanent resident of Japan.

   (c) The spouse or child of a foreign national with the status of “Long-term resident” (their Resident card should indicate “Long-term resident”) whose family is staying in Japan and who have been separated from their family.
(d) Foreign nationals who will acquire the status of “Dependent” or “Designated Activities (limited to Public Notice Numbers 7, 18, 19, 23, 24, 30, 31, 34, 38, 45, and 47).”

(e) Foreign nationals newly entering Japan for purposes of visiting acquaintances under the below circumstances.
   * To visit fiancé/a partner of common-law marriage in Japan
   * To attend a wedding or a funeral in Japan
   * To visit an acquaintance residing in Japan who is critically ill

(f) Foreign nationals newly entering Japan for a short-term stay (less than 90 days) for purposes of **BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT**.

   Foreign nationals newly entering Japan for a **LONG-TERM STAY**.

(g) Foreign nationals newly entering Japan for a short-term stay for **TOURISM** (only when a travel agency among others organizing the trip serves as the receiving organization of the entrants)

   **To become eligible to enter Japan under (f) and (g) category, prior to visa application a receiving organization in Japan (e.g., inviting/employing/travel agencies and organizations) needs to complete prescribed application through the Entrants Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS) and obtain a Certificate for Completion of Registration (受付済証).**

3. DIPLOMATIC / OFFICIAL
Foreign Nationals who are going to acquire/have acquired the status of “Diplomatic” or “Official”

4. HUMANITARIAN REASONS / PUBLIC INTERESTS
Foreign nationals who do not fall under the categories above, but have been acknowledged to have special exceptional circumstances by the Japanese authorities.

(a) Humanitarian Reasons

   o A foreign national whose purpose of entering Japan is to get medical treatment.
   o A foreign national whose purpose of entering Japan is to provide nursing assistance or support to the family member who resides in Japan and who is sick or will give/has given birth.
   o A foreign national whose relative/s residing in Japan is/are critically ill or deceased.
   o A foreign national who will accompany a relative who is unable to travel by him/herself (e.g., minor or sick).
(b) **Public Interests**

Any Public Interests cases are examined by the relevant Ministry/Agency on a case-by-case basis.

*Please note that we do not issue any tourist or transit visas at this time.*