

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

September 8th, 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.

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 eligible criteria to apply for a visa at this time.

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) A foreign national who is to acquire the status of residence of "Long-Term Resident"
- (d) 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****.
- (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).***

DIPLOMATIC / OFFICIAL

Foreign Nationals who are going to acquire/have acquired the status of “**Diplomatic**” or “**Official**”

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

- A foreign national whose purpose of entering Japan is to get medical treatment.
- 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.
- A foreign national whose relative/s residing in Japan is/are critically ill or deceased.
- 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.