

As of May 8, 2023, COVID-19 is no longer classified as “pandemic influenza (novel influenza or re-emerging influenza) etc.” under the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases, and is categorized as a Class 5 infectious disease. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) also lifted its COVID-19 infectious disease travel warnings for all countries and regions on May 8. The decision to lift the travel warnings was based on a general improvement in the global situation regarding COVID-19 infection and a statement issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) to the effect that, as of May 5, COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). However, the risk of COVID-19 infection has not yet been eliminated, and the WHO has stated that “the global risk assessment remains high.” It should also be noted that some countries and regions are still imposing strengthened quarantine measures for COVID-19, such as a requirement to submit a COVID-19 vaccination certificate upon entry. Therefore, please be sure to confirm the following points regarding overseas travel.

Note: as the university's Disaster Response Task Force was abolished on May 8, 2023, “Kyoto University's Policy on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Ver. 19) -Regarding Overseas Travel, Etc.” has been partially superseded by this notice.

1. Criteria for overseas travel permission with regards to COVID-19

- Kyoto University has established “Criteria for overseas travel permission.” and the final decision regarding the permission for overseas travel is made by the authorized persons (deans, directors, etc.) in the relevant faculty/department. In view of the impact of COVID-19, please confirm the following points when making decisions regarding travel permission.
- Even in the case of overseas travel for personal purposes, including travel for research, sightseeing, or returning to one's home country, it is recommended to confirm the following and take appropriate precautions.

Students

- In accordance with “Kyoto University's Criteria for Travel Permission for Study Abroad through an Inter-University Student Exchange Agreement during the Prevalence of COVID-19” (issued on May 8, 2023 [in Japanese], available to faculty and staff members only), it is no longer necessary for decisions regarding travel permission for study abroad through an inter-university student exchange agreement to be made based on the COVID-19 infectious disease warnings issued by MOFA. However, students are still required to submit the “Checklist for exchange students studying abroad under inter-university student exchange agreements (dispatch) during the prevalence of COVID-19” to ensure their safety.
For more details, please contact the International Education and Student Mobility Division (IESMD).
Email: outbound.exchange@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp (please change * to @)
- The same criteria as above may apply to study abroad through an inter-faculty student exchange agreement, etc. If travel permission is granted, be sure to take sufficient safety measures, such as complying with the requirement to submit the abovementioned checklist.

Faculty and staff members

- Overseas travel permission should be granted in accordance with “Criteria for overseas travel permission.”
- If permission is granted, please take the necessary precautions regarding COVID-19, referring to “Overseas Travel and Entry (Re-entry) into Japan during the Prevalence of COVID-19” (available to faculty and staff members only).

2. Postponing or cancelling travel

Persons authorized to grant permission for travel for university-related work or for participation in university programs must prioritize the safety of the persons who will undertake the travel, and must instruct them to postpone the travel, cancel the travel, or return to Japan, if appropriate, including in cases such as the following:

- If the travelers may not be able to return to Japan due to travel restrictions, border closures, and/or suspension of flight services.
- If daily life may become difficult, or it may become difficult to complete the planned education/research activities due to a local lockdown or activity restrictions.
- If it may be difficult to receive proper medical care for novel coronavirus infection or other illnesses due to an insufficient local health care system.

【Contact】

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