

September 29, 2021

To all current and prospective students, faculty and staff members:

Updated Border Controls (COVID-19): Updated List of Countries/Regions Designated as having Novel Coronavirus Variants that Require Special Measures with regards to Border Controls, etc.

The following updated border control measures were announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Labour (MHWL). As Japan's border controls may change frequently, please be sure to confirm the latest information provided by official sources, such as Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the relevant overseas Japanese embassies and consulates-general.

1 Changes to the period of self-quarantine at a facility designated by the quarantine station

The periods of self-quarantine at a facility designated by the quarantine station have been changed as follows (the corresponding measures will be implemented from September 30).

< The period of self-quarantine at a facility designated by the quarantine station:>

Argentina, Costa Rica, Colombia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Philippines, Brazil, Venezuela, Peru: 6 days

Albania (added), Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Greece, Guinea (added), India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Russia (Moscow City, Khabarovsk Region), Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Turkey, UAE, UK, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia :3 days

<Countries for which the designation has been lifted:>

Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Spain, Nepal, Myanmar

Note: A free transportation (bus etc.) service from the airport to a facility (hotel) designated by the quarantine station will be provided. Accommodation, meals, and COVID-19 test costs will also be covered by the quarantine station during the stay at the facility.

For reference:

MOFA: Border enforcement measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

2 2. Self-quarantine period for travelers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate when entering (or returning to) Japan

From October 1, Japan's quarantine requirements for travelers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate who enter or return to Japan will be eased. For travelers who satisfy certain requirements, the 14-day period of self-quarantine at a designated place may be shortened, and the 3-day period of self-quarantine at a facility designated by the quarantine station may be waived. For more details, please see the notice below.

For reference,

- ① MHLW: Shortening or exempting quarantine period for arrivals who have a valid vaccination certificate
<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000836955.pdf>
- ② MHLW: Q&A
<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000836678.pdf> (in Japanese)
- ③ MOFA: Updated COVID-19 quarantine measures (self-quarantine period for travelers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate entering or returning to Japan)
https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/info/pcwideareaspecificinfo_2021C128.html (in Japanese)

Notes:

- Above mitigating measures shall not apply to travelers who have stayed in the countries/regions for which the designated periods of self-quarantine at a facility designated by the quarantine station for 6 days or 10 days within 14 days from the date of arrival to Japan.
- Please be sure to confirm the requirements that must be met to shorten the self-quarantine period. E.g., the vaccination certificate must be written in either Japanese or English (Translation of other languages may be accepted. Please see the above Q & A.), the certificate must be issued by a government agency or a public institution in countries listed in the annex table of the above notice ①, the type of vaccine must be Pfizer, Moderna, or AstraZeneca, etc.
- Electronic vaccination certificates are also valid if they satisfy the requirements. Please check with the quarantine officer on how to submit a copy of the certificate upon entry.
- In order to shorten the self-quarantine period, the person must take a COVID-19 detection test (PCR test or quantitative antigen test) at a government-approved testing facility on the 10th day after they entered Japan or later at their own cost, and submit the negative test result to the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants (HCO). The center will then notify the person that their self-quarantine period has been completed. Please be sure to use

transportation other than public transport to go to the government-approved testing facility, if necessary.

- If you are planning to travel (or return) to Japan with your family, please note that children who have not been vaccinated due to age restrictions, etc., will not be permitted to shorten their quarantine time.

3 Lifting of suspension of re-entry by foreign nationals with residence status (This notice originally issued on September 22)

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka have been removed from the list of countries subject to a suspension of re-entry by foreign nationals with residence status. Currently, no countries are designated as subject to a suspension of re-entry by foreign nationals with residence status.

For reference:

MOFA: Border enforcement measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)
https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

4 Continued suspension of new entries by foreign nationals (This notice originally issued on March 19)

On March 18, the Japanese government announced that the following border control measures, which were originally implemented until the state of emergency was lifted, shall continue until further notice.

1. Suspension of new entries by foreign nationals via the bilateral business track procedures and residence track procedures
2. Suspension of new entries of foreign nationals from all countries and regions (via residence track procedures)
3. The special measures to relax self-quarantine requirements for short-term business travelers returning to Japan have been suspended. Short-term business travelers returning to Japan from all countries are therefore currently subject to a 14-day period of self-quarantine.

- MOFA: Phased Measures for Resuming Cross-Border Travel
- MHLW: Border enforcement measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) (10) (Continued suspension of new entries by foreign nationals etc.,) (in Japanese)

5 Quarantine measures required for newly arriving foreign nationals with "Professor" status

New entry by foreign nationals via the residence track procedures has been suspended since January 14, 2021. However, cases have been reported in which foreign nationals who are about

to acquire the status of (“Instructor” or) “Professor,” and who are entering Japan to fill a vacancy at an educational institution with which they are, or will be, affiliated, are issued visas by a Japanese embassy/consulate-general and permitted to enter Japan if their absence would result in a suspension of educational activities at the educational institution.

Persons to whom such circumstances apply, should confirm the necessary quarantine measures with the embassy/consulate-general of their country of departure. It has been reported the instructions may vary, and in some cases written pledges issued by the university are required.

For reference (Please see the section 2(2))

Immigration Service Agency: [Regarding denial of landing to prevent the spread of COVID-19](#)

6 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: Establishment of the “Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants” (This notice originally issued on May 10, and revised on May 13)

Persons arriving in Japan are required to report their health status to the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants during the self-quarantine period. For more details, please see the website below.

MHLW: Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants

(English) <https://www.hco.mhlw.go.jp/en/>

(Chinese) <https://www.hco.mhlw.go.jp/zh-cn/>

7 Written pledge (individual) (This notice originally issued on July 16, and revised on October 1)

- Persons arriving in Japan are required to submit a designated written pledge to comply with various coronavirus prevention measures.
- Written pledge (individual) to be submitted to a quarantine officer at the arriving airport has been revised on October 1. Please be sure to use the latest version.
- Japanese nationals who violate the terms of the pledge required to be signed by persons entering Japan risk having their names publicly disclosed. Foreign nationals with resident status who violate the terms of the pledge risk having their names publicly disclosed, and may also have their status of residence revoked and be deported. Please be sure to comply with the required coronavirus prevention measures.

Consequences of violating of the terms of the pledge (MHLW) (Available in Japanese only)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00282.html

8 Smartphone rental (required for persons arriving in Japan who do not have a smartphone) (This notice originally issued on March 31)

Persons arriving in Japan who do not have a smartphone or cannot install the required

applications on their smartphones are required to rent one at the airport prior to entry. Individuals are responsible for their own rental fees, and the payment must be made by credit card.

Please see the URL below for further details of the rental fees and other information.

Smartphone rental service at the airport (as of March 25)

Vision Inc.: <https://www.vision-net.co.jp/news/20210319002098.html> (in Japanese)

9 Smartphone application that needs to be installed when entering Japan (This notice originally issued on July 16)

- When entering Japan, a quarantine officer will confirm whether the applications that are required to be used for 14 days after entry are installed on your smartphone. Please, therefore, be sure to install the required applications before entering Japan.

*Required operating system versions; iPhone iOS 13.5 or later, Android 6.0 or later.

- The following three applications and settings are required:

① Google map (location record app)

② MySOS (health and location monitoring, video call app)

③ COCOA (contact confirmation app)

Please note that the health report via MySOS app can only be used from the day after the date of entry, according to MHLW, as of July 16.

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare • Quarantine Station • Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants (HCO):To Anyone Entering/Returning to Japan: Regulations on Mandatory 14-Day Isolation

(English) <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000806890.pdf>

(Japanese) <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000806869.pdf>

(Chinese) <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000806903.pdf>

10 Negative COVID-19 Test Certificate (This notice originally issued on March 19, and revised on September 22)

- In accordance with the Quarantine Act, persons traveling to Japan who cannot present a negative COVID-19 test certificate shall either be denied entry Japan or denied permission to board their flight to Japan from March 19, and this also applies to Japanese nationals and foreign nationals with resident status.

- The requirements to present a negative COVID-19 test certificate upon arrival at the airport has further strengthened from April 19, 2021. There has been a great deal of problems and confusion over the validity of negative COVID-19 test certificates presented at the check-in counter upon departure and during the quarantine procedures upon arrival. To avoid such

problems, persons travelling to Japan are requested to obtain a negative COVID-19 test certificate in the format specified by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).

- Any negative COVID-19 test certificates issued using test specimens or methods other than those recognized as valid by the MHLW will not be accepted by the Japanese quarantine authorities and airlines. Therefore, please ensure that you fully understand the COVID-19 test certificate requirements stipulated by the MHLW, and that you receive a COVID-19 detection test that satisfies the MHLW requirements. Please confirm that all of the necessary information is included in your negative COVID-19 test certificate, and be sure to bring it with you.
- Negative COVID-19 test certificates in formats other than the format specified by the MHLW may be used provided they satisfy all of the MHLW's requirements. However, it may take some time to verify the validity of such certificates at the check-in counter for departure or at the quarantine area upon arrival. Please note that in accordance with the Quarantine Act, persons who present such certificates may, in some cases, be denied entry to Japan or denied permission to board their flight.
- On July 1, nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal (throat) swab/smear samples were added to the list of approved test methods for the negative COVID-19 test certificate that must be submitted upon flight boarding and entry to Japan. The required format for the negative test result certificate has also been revised in accordance with the changes to the approved test methods. Please be sure to use the latest version of the certificate, which is available from the link below:

MOFA: [Valid Format of Certificate of Negative Test Result](#)

(Available in Japanese/English, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Vietnamese)

MHLW: [Q&A on Negative COVID-19 Test Certificate](#)

11 Questionnaire (This notice originally issued on February 3, and revised on April 8)

- Travelers arriving via Narita, Haneda, Kansai (KIX), Chubu (CENTRAIR) International airports must complete and submit the online questionnaire prior to entering Japan. Once the online questionnaire is properly submitted, a QR code will be issued. When entering Japan, travelers must show the QR code to the quarantine officer.

Online questionnaire:

<https://arqs-qa.followup.mhlw.go.jp/#/>

- Note: Please select the appropriate language from the language options (Japanese, English,

Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Thai, Indonesian, and Tagalog) by clicking the "Language" section near the top of the screen.

- Brochure about the online questionnaire can be downloaded from the following link.

Japanese:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063743.pdf
English:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063744.pdf
Simplified Chinese:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063745.pdf
Traditional Chinese:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063746.pdf
Korean:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063747.pdf
Vietnamese:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063749.pdf
Tagalog:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063750.pdf
Indonesian:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063751.pdf
Thai:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063752.pdf
Portuguese:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063753.pdf
Spanish:	https://www.forth.go.jp/news/000063754.pdf

12 COVID-19 vaccination certificate for overseas travel

The COVID-19 vaccination certificate is official proof that you have received the COVID-19 vaccination. Persons traveling with the certificate may qualify for reduced quarantine measures when entering certain countries. Persons planning to travel overseas who wish to obtain a certificate should apply to their local municipality in Japan. For details of the application procedures, please visit the website of the relevant municipality.

For reference:

- MHLW: COVID-19 vaccination certificate for overseas travel
https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/vaccine_certificate.html (in Japanese)
Q&A on COVID-19 vaccination certificate for overseas travel
<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000822919.pdf> (in Japanese)
- MOFA: List of countries/regions in which a COVID-19 vaccination certificate for overseas travel can be used
<https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/covid19/certificationlist.html> (in Japanese)
- Kyoto City: COVID-19 vaccination certificate for overseas travel
<https://vaccines-kyoto-city.jp/certificate.html>
(in Japanese, automated translation services available in English, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese)
- Uji City: COVID-19 vaccination certificate for overseas travel (Vaccination Passport)
<https://www.city.uji.kyoto.jp/site/corona/42030.html>
(in Japanese, automated translation services available in English, Chinese, and Korean)

Please also refer to the attached list of “Strengthened Border Controls Imposed by the Japanese Government: Current Entry Procedures.”

Relevant websites:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

- Border enforcement measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)
https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html
- Phased Measures for Resuming Cross-Border Travel
https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/cp/page22e_000925.html
- Application for Visa for foreign nationals eligible for Phased Measures toward Resuming Cross-Border Travel
https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page22e_000921.html
- Business Track/ Residence Track/ Entry into Japan from all countries and regions (Procedures to be Followed and Forms to be Submitted for Entry into/ Return to Japan) (Countries and Regions which are Subject to Denial of Permission to Entry (Travel Advice & Warning on Infectious Diseases Level 3))
https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/cp/page25e_000337.html
- Business Track/ Residence Track/ Entry into Japan from all countries and regions (Procedures to be Followed and Forms to be Submitted for Entry into/ Return to Japan) (Countries and Regions which are not Subject to Denial of Permission to Entry (Travel Advice & Warning on Infectious Diseases Level 2))
https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/cp/page25e_000338.html
- Information on the Novel Coronavirus Diseases (COVID-19)
https://www.mofa.go.jp/p_pd/pds/page22e_000910.html

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

- Immigration procedures for foreign nationals newly arriving and re-entering via residence track procedures (in Japanese)
<https://www.meti.go.jp/covid-19/pdf/1020Rt2.pdf>
- FAQ on immigration procedures (in Japanese)
<https://www.meti.go.jp/covid-19/pdf/1020FAQ.pdf>

Immigration Services Agency of Japan

- Information related to COVID-19
https://www.isa.go.jp/en/covid-19_index.html
- Application for residence and support for daily life for foreign nationals
http://www.moj.go.jp/isa/nyuukokukanri01_00155.html

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Strengthened Border Controls Imposed by the Japanese Government: Current Entry Procedures (As of September 30, 2021)

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Japanese nationals and foreign nationals with residence status and re-entry permit (excluding entries via business truck)

	①Countries/Regions Designated as having Novel Coronavirus Variants that Require Special Measures with regards to Border Controls: Self-quarantine at the designated place for 6 days Argentina, Costa Rica, Colombia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Philippines, Brazil, Venezuela, Peru	②Countries/Regions Designated as having Novel Coronavirus Variants that Require Special Measures with regards to Border Controls, countries/regions designated as having Novel Coronavirus Strains other than Variants that Require Special Measures with regards to border measures: Self-quarantine at the designated place for 3 days Albania, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Greece, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Russia (Moscow City, Khabarovsk Region), Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Turkey, UAE, UK, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia	③Other countries: infectious disease warning level of 2,3
1	Submit "Pledge (individual) (original)" (Revised on Oct. 1)	Submit "Pledge (individual) (original)" (Revised on Oct. 1)	Submit "Pledge (individual) (original)" (Revised on Oct. 1)
2	Submit Certificate of negative test result	Submit Certificate of negative test result	Submit Certificate of negative test result
3	Receive COVID-19 test at the airport	Receive COVID-19 test at the airport	Receive COVID-19 test at the airport
4	Self-quarantine at the designated place for 6 days , receive COVID-19 test on the 3rd and 6th days	Self-quarantine at the designated place for 3 days , receive COVID-19 test on the 3rd day	
5	Smartphone to install necessary app	Smartphone to install necessary app	Smartphone to install necessary app
6	Install necessary applications to your smartphone	Install necessary applications to your smartphone	Install necessary applications to your smartphone
7	Self-quarantine for 14 days	Self-quarantine for 14 days	Self-quarantine for 14 days
8	Health status report via MySOS app	Health status report via MySOS app	Health status report via MySOS app
9	Refrain from using public transportation for 14 days	Refrain from using public transportation for 14 days	Refrain from using public transportation for 14 days
10	Present QR code of the questionnaire / Submit a questionnaire at the airport	Present QR code of the questionnaire / Submit a questionnaire at the airport	Present QR code of the questionnaire / Submit a questionnaire at the airport
11	Health Card	Health Card	Health Card

Note1: For the necessary quarantine measures applied to newly arriving foreign nationals with status of "Professor," please confirm with the embassy/consulate-general of the departing country.

Note2: Persons who do not submit the certificate of negative test result will be refused permission to board their flight and denied entry to Japan.

Note3: New entry by foreign nationals via residence truck procedures are currently suspended until further notice.

Note4: A free transportation (bus etc.) service from the airport to a facility (hotel) designated by the quarantine station will be provided. Accommodation, meals, and COVID-19 test costs will also be covered by the quarantine station during the stay at the facility. Please note that travelers are required to arrange their own transportation (such as special government-designated taxi or bus service) from the designated facility to another self-quarantine place (hotel or home) they will stay. Please be reminded that travelers must refrain from using public transportation for 14 days from the date of arrival to Japan.

Note5: From October 1, Japan's quarantine requirements for travelers with a COVID-19 vaccination certificate who satisfy certain requirements will be eased, The 14-day period of self-quarantine at a designated place may be shortened, and the 3-day period of self-quarantine at a facility designated by the quarantine station may be waived.