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Coronavirus/COVID-19: Japan status update

At the time of writing, Japan has 18,874 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 975 people having died as a result of contracting the virus. These figures exclude the 712 cases and 13 deaths of people who were onboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship. The nationwide State of Emergency was completely lifted on May 25 and life is gradually returning to normal, but the number of cases has begun to creep back up in certain prefectures, particularly Tokyo, over the past few weeks as people return to their pre-pandemic routines.

Permission for re-entry

On June 12, the Ministry of Justice released specific examples of cases where permission may be granted to foreign nationals to re-enter Japan from countries that are subject to denial of landing. Foreign nationals who possess the status of residence of “Permanent Resident”, “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” or “Long-Term Resident” (including the spouse of a Japanese national or a child of a Japanese national who does not possess these statuses of residence) and departed from Japan with a re-entry permit may be allowed to re-enter if their circumstances are considered to qualify them for a special exemption. Such circumstances would be, for example, if they left Japan prior to the travel restrictions and have become separated from their family in Japan or have a child with them who needs to resume their education in Japan. Even someone who departed after the travel restrictions were implemented could be allowed to return if they left Japan, for example, in order to visiting a critically ill relative or attending the funeral of a family member.

Travel ban

The wide-ranging travel ban implemented by the Japanese government in late March remains in effect. At the time of writing, people travelling from the following countries, as well as those who have spent time in any of these countries during the previous 14 days, are unable to enter Japan:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, The Central African Republic, Chile, China (entire country including Hong Kong and Macau), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, The Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea (entire country), Romania, Russia, San Marino, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vatican City, and Vietnam.

At this stage, the above restrictions are set to remain in place until the end of July.

Suspension of visa validity

Validity of visas listed below are suspended until the last day of July (please note that the period may be renewed):

1. Single and multiple-entry visas issued by March 08, 2020 by Japanese Embassies or Consulates General in China (including Hong Kong and Macau) and Republic of Korea
2. Single and multiple-entry visas issued by March 20, 2020 by Japanese Embassies or Consulates General in the following countries:



Andorra, Austria, Bulgaria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Vatican.

3. Single and multiple-entry visas issued by March 27, 2020 by Japanese Embassies and Consulates General in the following countries:

Bahrain, Brunei, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia (*), Israel, Malaysia, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

(*including seal of "visa waiver registration certificate")

4. Single and multiple-entry visas issued by April 02, 2020, by Japanese Embassies and Consulates General located in or accredited to the following countries and regions

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentine, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Cook, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Krygz, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Congo, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates(*) Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

(*including seal of "visa waiver registration certificate")

Suspension of visa exemption measures

As visa exemption measures with the countries listed below are temporarily suspended, those who fall under the measures are required to obtain visas before visiting Japan. The measures will be in place until the last day of July (please note that the period maybe renewed):

Andorra, Argentine, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Monaco, Myanmar, Nauru, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Qatar, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Uruguay, Vatican, Vietnam

The effect of Pre-Clearances (i.e. visa exemptions) granted by the Japanese Government to APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) issued by the following countries are also suspended:

Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand Vietnam.

Extension of validity of Certificates of Eligibility

In parallel to the travel ban and visa controls put in place, the period of validity for all approved COE (Certificate of Eligibility) documents issued by the Japanese Ministry of Justice has been extended from three (3) to six (6) months.

Sent on behalf of Bryce Conlan and William Titus, COOs for Nagoya, Kobe, and Tokyo