

Q&A on the New Measures for Border Enforcement (27) (As of Tuesday, March 15)

*Primary changes

- (COVID-19 vaccine certification) Question 15
- (New entry of foreign nationals to Japan) Question 4-2
- (New entry of foreign nationals to Japan) Question 7

(Overview of the New Measures) —————P6

- 1 Please give me an overview of the New Measures for Border Enforcement (27) (hereafter simply referred to as “the New Measures”).
- 2 Does the calculation of the nth day before or after arrival include the arrival date?
- 3 How do I handle a change in the designated countries/regions in Item 3 of Question 1 if the designation of a country I stayed in changes within 14 days before my arrival date?
- 4 Where can I find information and related materials on the New Measures?

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan) —————P12

- 1 How has the quarantine period for entrants to Japan changed following these New Measures?
- 2 Are quarantine periods for entrants to Japan different for Japanese and foreign nationals?
- 3 How should I administer the self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later while quarantining at home/accommodations?
- 4 Is a qualitative antigen test (an antigen test kit) a valid self-COVID-19 test for the third day or later while quarantining at home/accommodations?
- 5 Are COVID-19 tests taken with testing organizations not listed on the MHLW’s website valid?
- 6 Can I go out to receive a COVID-19 test during my period of quarantine at home/accommodations?
- 7 Am I allowed to end my quarantine before I am contacted by the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants regarding my self-COVID-19 test taken on the third day or later while quarantining at home/accommodations?
- 8 What should I do if my COVID-19 test results come back COVID-19 positive?
- 9 When sending specimens to a testing organization by mail, is it permitted to use specimens taken before the third day of my quarantine?
- 10 I am entering Japan before the application of these New Measures (on March 1). Is it acceptable for me to shorten my quarantine period? What if I have had my booster

shot (third dose)?

- 11 I am entering Japan before the application of these New Measures (on March 1). If I administer a self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later of my quarantine at home/accommodations, how should I notify the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants of my COVID-19 test results?

(COVID-19 vaccine certification) _____P17

- 1 What are the conditions for a COVID-19 vaccine certification to be accepted as valid?
- 2 My date of birth is not included on my country's vaccine certification. However, is it still a valid vaccine certification if it has my passport or ID number?
- 3 In my country, a vaccine other than Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna, or Janssen is approved for the first and second doses. In this situation, will my vaccine certification be accepted as valid even if I took such a vaccine?
- 4 In my country, a vaccine other than Pfizer and Moderna is approved for booster shots (third dose). In this situation, will my vaccine certification be accepted as valid even if I took a vaccine other than the two above?
- 4-1 How is the number of doses, etc. treated for the Janssen vaccine?
- 5 The manufacturer of Comirnaty is written as "BioNTech" on my country's vaccine certification. Is my vaccine certification valid?
- 6 Moderna's vaccine is written "Spikevax" on my country's vaccine certification. Is my vaccine certification valid?
- 7 Do all my doses have to be of the same vaccine type?
- 7-1 Will I be accepted as the holder of valid vaccine certifications if I took my three doses in different countries and have the vaccine certifications from these countries?
- 8 What should I do if there are no details for my first and second doses on my vaccine certification?
- 9 What should I do if there is only recent inoculation information on my vaccine certification and the applicable inoculation does not indicate that it is my third dose?
- 10 Is there a period of validity for the third dose (for my vaccine certification to be accepted)?
- 11 What should I do if my country's vaccine certification is not written in English?
- 12 Are electronically issued vaccine certifications accepted? Is it acceptable if I present a two-dimensional code?
- 12-1 Are copies of vaccine certifications also accepted instead of originals?
- 13 For vaccine certifications issued in Japan, do you consider certificates other than the Vaccination Certificate of COVID-19, Certificate of vaccination for COVID-19, or

Record of vaccination for COVID-19 valid?

- 14 Are vaccine certifications issued by private organizations acceptable?
- 15 Is it allowed to shorten the quarantine period for children for whom it is not acceptable to receive a booster shot (third dose) due to age restrictions, as with the booster shot?

(Use of public transportation) _____P24

- 1 After entering Japan, is it acceptable to use public transportation to travel to my accommodations for quarantine, such as my home?
- 2 As for the use of public transportation during my quarantine period, is it acceptable to use public transportation for travel other than from the airport to my accommodations for quarantine, such as my home?
- 3 Is it acceptable to use public transportation to take a self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later while quarantining at home/accommodations?

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan) _____P25

- 1 In what cases is the new entry of a foreign national to Japan permitted?
 - 1-1 Is the new entry of a foreign national to Japan allowed for tourism?
 - 2 Is the new entry of foreign nationals to Japan allowed to visit relatives or friends? If not, what procedures should be taken?
 - 3 Are there any restrictions on the countries/regions that foreign nationals stay in before newly entering Japan?
 - 4 What is the method of application for a foreign national to enter Japan? Is prior application from a receiving organization required?
 - 4-1 Is prior application from a receiving organization required for re-entrance to Japan of foreign nationals who have residence status?
 - 4-2 Is it possible for family members to accompany foreign nationals and to enter Japan with the New Measures?
 - 5 What is a receiving organization?
 - 6 Are individual enterprises accepted as receiving organizations?
 - 7 What is required of receiving organizations?
 - 8 Is it possible for foreign nationals newly entering Japan to apply individually?
 - 8-1 If the new entry to Japan is for a technical intern trainee, which can be the receiving organization, the supervising organization or the enterprise that actually receives the technical intern trainee?
- 9 To where must prior applications for the new entry of foreign nationals to Japan be

submitted?

- 10 Can the paperwork related to an application be entrusted to a third party?
- 10-1 Is there an application period for a receiving organization to submit a prior application?
- 11 How long does it take for a Certificate for Completion of Registration to be issued after an application?
- 12 As in the “the New Measures for Border Enforcement (19)” from November 2021, is an application with and a review by the appropriate ministry of the Japanese government corresponding to the occupational category of a foreigners’ work required?
- 13 Am I still required to apply even if I received proof of completed screening under “the New Measures for Border Enforcement (19)” from November 2021?
- 14 Can the ID I acquired under “the New Measures for Border Enforcement (19)” from November 2021 also be used in this system?

(Visa applications) _____P33

- 1 What document is required for a visa application with an overseas diplomatic mission of Japan?
- 2 How long should I expect to wait until my visa is issued?

(Certificate of Testing for COVID-19) _____P34

- 1 Is a Certificate of Testing for COVID-19 proving negative required to enter Japan?
- 2 Is there a predetermined format for a Certificate of Testing for COVID-19? What should I do if I cannot acquire certification in the predetermined format?

(Fast Track) _____P35

- 1 What is Fast Track? Can it be used with these New Measures?
- 2 Should a foreign national use Fast Track to newly enter Japan?

(MySOS [the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants]) _____P36

- 1 Why does the App designated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare need to be installed on the smartphone of an entrant to Japan?
- 2 How do I download and set up the App designated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MySOS [the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants])?
- 3 What should I do when I cannot install the App designated by the Ministry of Health,

Labour and Welfare while overseas?

- 4 What should an entrant to Japan do if they cannot bring a smartphone to Japan?

(What do you do if you become COVID-19 positive?) —————P38

- 1 What should be done if it is found that an entrant to Japan tests COVID-19 positive during a COVID-19 test at quarantine when entering Japan?
- 2 What should be done if an entrant to Japan becomes COVID-19 positive, is a close contact of someone during a flight, or becomes symptomatic?

(Place for quarantine) —————P39

- 1 Is a single room required when an entrant to Japan secures a place for quarantine?
- 2 Is a home recognized as a place for quarantine?

(Health monitoring) —————P40

- 1 How should a newly entering foreign national's health be monitored specifically (as per the terms of a receiving organization's pledge)?

(Violation of a Written Pledge) —————P40

- 1 What measure should be taken when an entrant to Japan or receiving organization violates a Written Pledge or the terms of a pledge?

(Overview of the New Measures)

1 Please give me an overview of the New Measures for Border Enforcement (27) (hereafter simply referred to as “the New Measures”).

(Answers)

- 1 The New Measures include the contents covering (1) “Change in the period of quarantine at home/accommodations after entering Japan,” (2) “Use of public transportation by entrants to Japan,” and (3) “Updates to restrictions on the new entry of foreign nationals to Japan.”

- 2 For entry to Japan by the end of February 2022,
 - while measures concerning the suspension of the new entry of foreign nationals to Japan and the suspension of measures to relax restrictions on the movement of valid vaccine certification holders are enacted,
 - we have entrants to Japan quarantine at home/accommodations for seven days after entering Japan, avoid using public transportation, and participate in health follow-ups.

- 3 Additionally, based on the state of COVID-19 infections in each country or region, for example,
 - if, within the 14 days prior to the arrival date, there was a stay in a “designated country/region of 3-day quarantines at specific facilities designated by the Chief of the Quarantine Station” (hereafter referred to as a “designated country subject to a 3-day quarantine,”
 - after entering Japan, a 3-day quarantine at a facility designated by the Chief of the Quarantine Station and a COVID-19 test on the third day will be requested (during the period of 7-day quarantine at home/accommodations).

*Designated countries/regions are updated occasionally. Please refer to the website below for specific designated countries/regions.

(3. [Quarantine measures] on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ “Border measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)” web page.)

https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ca/fna/page4_005130.html

(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare’s “Stay at an accommodation of the Quarantine Station/Submission of a Written Pledge” web page)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00249.html

(Change in the period of quarantine at home/accommodations after entering Japan)

4 On and after March 1, for measures related to the “Change in the period of quarantine at home/accommodations after entering Japan,”

- upon a 7-day quarantine, in principle,
- whether or not there is an entry/arrival from a “designated country subject to a 3-day quarantine ” (whether an entrant to Japan has stayed in a “designated country subject to a 3-day quarantine” within the 14 days prior to their arrival date) and
- whether or not there is a valid COVID-19 vaccine certification that meets the requirements

may influence the quarantine period and accommodations for quarantine after entering Japan in the following manner:

- * If there are separate directions from a quarantine station or public health center about continuing quarantine at home/accommodations, you must follow them.
- * If you become COVID-19 positive or a close contact, your quarantine period will not be shortened.
- * We request entrants to Japan to monitor their health statuses by measuring their temperatures and the like for 10 days after entering Japan.

	Possession of a valid vaccine certification	Quarantine period after entering Japan
Arriving from a designated country/region	No	“3-day quarantine at a specific facility designated by the Chief of the Quarantine Station (+ negative self-COVID-19 test result (PCR test) at the facility)”
	Yes	“3-day quarantine at home/accommodations + a negative result of a voluntary test” (7-day quarantine without test)
Arriving from a non-designated country/ region	No	
	Yes	No quarantine

5 Regarding the self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later while quarantining at home/accommodations,

- the COVID-19 test method will be either a PCR or quantitative antigen test,
- and on the third day or later, get tested at a recognized testing center. Then submit your negative COVID-19 test result through “MySOS (the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants)” to the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants.

- Then, at the earliest, quarantine will be unnecessary from the fourth day onward if you receive a “notice of the completion of quarantine” from the Center (it is also possible for public transportation to be used once quarantine is no longer required).
- 6 Additionally, when quarantining at a specific facility designated by the Chief of the Quarantine Station, following a 3-day quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test result on the third day at the facility, quarantine after leaving the facility will not be requested of you (it is also possible for public transportation to be used after exiting the facility).
- 7 Following a negative result of a COVID-19 test at an airport quarantine station, entrants to Japan from a non-designated country/region who hold valid vaccine certifications do not need to quarantine after entering Japan (it is also possible for public transportation to be used after entering Japan).

(Use of public transportation by entrants to Japan)

- 8 The previously mentioned “entrants to Japan from designated countries/regions holding a vaccine certification” and “entrants to Japan from non-designated countries/regions who do not hold vaccine certifications” must quarantine at home/accommodations after entering Japan.
- However, when they travel from an airport to quarantine at their home/accommodations, on the shortest route necessary,
 - within 24 hours after their COVID-19 test (specifically, specimen collection) at an airport quarantine station,
- the use of public transportation is permitted (only applicable to the above, even during the period of quarantine at home/accommodations).

(Updates to restrictions on the new entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

- 9 From March 1, the new entry of foreign nationals into Japan under the supervision of receiving organizations (businesses, organizations, and the like) is permitted, except for tourism purposes (*).

* Foreign nationals newly entering Japan for a short-term stay (three months or less) for purposes including business and employment or foreign nationals newly entering Japan for a long-term stay.

- 10 Regarding foreign nationals newly entering Japan,
- for entrants to Japan, on the precondition that required quarantine measures are

secured, entry restrictions will be relaxed.

- Because of the management and support in providing information on necessary quarantine measures when entering Japan and securing accommodations for quarantine, confirming quarantines and health statuses, and the like for foreign nationals newly entering Japan, entry under the supervision of receiving organizations is permitted.

11 For the new entry of a foreign national to Japan,

- before entry to Japan, receiving organizations must first log in to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS), apply in advance online, enter information related to a foreign national's entry to Japan (including accommodations for quarantine), and agree to the terms of a Written Pledge.
- After the necessary items are entered, a Certificate for Completion of Registration (PDF) will be issued. The receiving organization should download the Certificate for Completion of Registration and send it to the scheduled entrant to Japan.
- After scheduled entrants to Japan present their Certificates for Completion of Registration to an overseas diplomatic mission of Japan, they must submit a set of visa application materials. After that, the overseas diplomatic mission of Japan will review it and issue a visa.
- After entry to Japan, in addition to confirming the health status of the entrant to Japan, location data, and the like through MySOS (the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants), the receiving organization must confirm the health status of the entrant to Japan while they quarantine at a facility, contact a medical facility if the entrant to Japan is symptomatic or becomes COVID-19 positive, and provide other required supervision and support.

12 Furthermore, please be aware that the above New Measures may change suddenly depending on the state of infections inside and outside Japan in the future.

(Overview of the New Measures)

2 Does the calculation of the nth day before or after arrival include the arrival date?

(Answer)

It does not include the arrival date. The arrival date is day 0. For example, if you enter on March 5, the third day prior to your arrival date would be March 2. Conversely, if you enter on March 5, the third day after your arrival date would be March 8.

(Overview of the New Measures)

3 How do I handle a change in the designated countries/regions in Item 3 of Question 1 if the designation of a country I stayed in changes within 14 days before my arrival date?

(Answers)

1 This will be determined depending on the status of the designation of the country an entrant to Japan stayed in at (said entrant's) time of entry to Japan.

2 For example, if an entrant to Japan stayed in country A within 14 days before their arrival date,

- if the designation of country A changed from a “designated country subject to a 3-day quarantine” to a “non-designated country” 9 days before the arrival date,
- country A, where the entrant to Japan stayed in (during the 14-day period before the arrival date), will be determined to be a “non-designated country.”

If, for example, an entrant to Japan possesses a valid vaccine certification in this situation, there will be no quarantine after arrival (before the change, it was a 3-day quarantine at home/accommodations) because the country they stayed in was recategorized as a “non-designated country.”

3 Conversely,

- if the designation of country A changed from a “non-designated country” to a “designated country subject to a 3-day quarantine” 9 days before the arrival date,
- country A, where the entrant to Japan stayed in (during the 14-day period before the arrival date), will be determined to be a “designated country subject to a 3-day quarantine.”

If, for example, the entrant to Japan does not possess a valid vaccine certification in this situation, there will be a 3-day quarantine at a government secured accommodation after arrival (before the change, it was a quarantine at home/accommodations) because the country they stayed in was recategorized as a “designated country subject to a 3-day quarantine.”

4 As above, because the quarantine periods and accommodations for quarantine of entrants to Japan may be affected after arrival in Japan depending on the designations of “designated countries/regions,” please be sure to collect the most recent information

on “designated countries/regions in response to COVID-19 variants of special treatment on border measures” and respond accordingly.

(3. [Quarantine measures] on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ “Border measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)” web page.)

https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ca/fna/page4_005130.html

(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare’s “Stay at an accommodation of the Quarantine Station/Submission of a Written Pledge” web page)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00249.html

(Overview of the New Measures)

4 Where can I find information and related materials on the New Measures?

(Answer)

Related information and documentation are posted on web pages related to the New Measures of the Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

* Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: New Border Enforcement Measures

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00209.html

* MOFA: Measures for Resuming Cross-Border Travel

https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ca/cp/page22_003380.html

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

1 How has the quarantine period for entrants to Japan changed following these New Measures?

(Answer)

On and after March 1, for measures related to the “Change in the period of quarantine at home/accommodations after entering Japan,”

- upon a 7-day quarantine, in principle,
- whether or not there is an entry/arrival from a “designated country subject to a 3-day quarantine” (whether an entrant to Japan has stayed in a “designated country subject to a 3-day quarantine” within the 14 days prior to the arrival date) and
- whether or not there is a valid COVID-19 vaccine certification that meets the requirements,

the quarantine period and accommodations for quarantine after entering Japan may change as follows:

- * If there are separate directions from a quarantine station or public health center about continuing a quarantine at home/accommodations, you must follow them.
- * If you become COVID-19 positive or a close contact, your quarantine period will not be shortened.
- * We request entrants to Japan to monitor their health statuses by measuring their temperatures and the like for 10 days after entering Japan.

	Possession of a valid vaccine certification	Quarantine period after entry
Arriving from a designated country/region	No	“3-day quarantine at a specific facility designated by the Chief of the Quarantine Station (+ negative self-COVID-19 test result (PCR test) at the facility)”
	Yes	“3-day quarantine at home/accommodations + a negative result of a voluntary test” (7-day quarantine without test)
Arriving from a non-designated country/ region	No	
	Yes	No quarantine required

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

2 Are quarantine periods for entrants to Japan different for Japanese and foreign nationals?

(Answer)

Quarantine periods do not differ for Japanese and foreign nationals who enter Japan.

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

3 How should I administer the self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later while quarantining at home/accommodations?

(Answers)

1 Regarding the self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later while quarantining at home/accommodations,

- the COVID-19 test method will be either a PCR or quantitative antigen test.
- On the third day or later, get a COVID-19 test at a recognized testing center (See question 5). Then submit your negative test result through “MySOS (the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants)” to the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants.
- At the earliest, quarantine will be unnecessary from the fourth day onward if you receive a “notice of the completion of quarantine” from the Center (it is also possible for public transportation to be used once quarantine is no longer required).

2 From March 1, please refer to the manual posted through the following link for details.
<https://www.hco.mhlw.go.jp/manual/jp.php>

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

4 Is a qualitative antigen test (an antigen test kit) a valid self-COVID-19 test for the third day or later while quarantining at home/accommodations?

(Answers)

1 Only PCR or quantitative antigen tests are valid COVID-19 tests. Antibody test kits are not suitable to asymptomatic individuals and cannot be allowed.

2 Please refer to the link below for testing organizations (recognized testing centers) offering PCR or quantitative antigen tests (at the recipient’s expense) to shorten your quarantine period.

<https://www.c19.mhlw.go.jp/search/>

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

5 Are COVID-19 tests taken with testing organizations that are not listed on the MHLW's website valid?

(Answer)

COVID-19 tests taken at testing organizations other than those in question 4 that are posted on the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's web page are not allowed as it cannot be confirmed whether they were taken at an actual medical institution or clinical laboratory.

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

6 Can I go out to receive a COVID-19 test during my period of quarantine at home/accommodations?

(Answers)

- 1 During the period of quarantine at home/accommodations, you must refrain from going on trips that are not essential. However, traveling to a testing organization to receive a COVID-19 test to end your period of quarantine at home/accommodations does not fall under the category of not essential. However, please do not travel using public transportation used by the general population. Instead, use your own vehicle and the like.
- 2 Furthermore, some testing organizations can hold COVID-19 tests by mailing test specimens. Therefore, please be sure to inquire with the relevant testing organization in advance by selecting "by mail" from the search form on the link below (please be aware that sample vials and the like need to be sent in advance).

<https://www.c19.mhlw.go.jp/search/>

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

7 Am I allowed to end my quarantine before I am contacted by the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants regarding my self-COVID-19 test taken on the third day or later while quarantining at home/accommodations?

(Answer)

No. If you end your quarantine before confirmation from the Center arrives, you will violate your Written Pledge.

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

8 What should I do if my COVID-19 test results come back COVID-19 positive?

(Answers)

- 1 If a COVID-19 test not administered by a physician is taken at a private testing organization and its results come back positive, please be sure to have a medical examination at a medical facility affiliated with the testing organization.
- 2 If the affiliated medical organization is in a remote area and the like and it is challenging to utilize, the test recipient is requested to either contact a nearby medical facility or their primary physician in advance to confirm the possibility of consulting them or consult with the local health consultation center.

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

9 When sending specimens to a testing organization by mail, is it permitted to use specimens taken before the third day of my quarantine?

(Answer)

The COVID-19 test must be done with specimens from the third day of your quarantine or later. Your test results will not be valid even if your COVID-19 test date is on the third day of your quarantine or later if your specimens are from the second day of the quarantine or earlier.

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

10 I am entering Japan before the application of these New Measures (on March 1). Is it acceptable for me to shorten my quarantine period? What if I have had my booster shot (third dose)?

(Answers)

- 1 Even if you arrive in Japan before March 1, a relaxed quarantine period will be permitted (except in cases where you received your vaccine booster shot with the following vaccines). For example, even if arriving from a non-designated country/region without having received a booster shot (third dose), and entering Japan on Monday, February 28, at the earliest, your quarantine from the fourth day onward (Friday, March 4) will end if you test negative on the third day of your quarantine at home/accommodations.

2 However, relaxation of quarantine periods through a vaccine booster shot (third dose) will not be permitted (because COVID-19 vaccine certifications cannot be confirmed at the Quarantine Station before March 1). Therefore, recipients of a vaccine booster shot (third dose [holders of valid vaccine certifications]) are permitted to enter Japan on or after March 1 through a non-designated country/region without a quarantine period.

* The treatment of quarantine relaxation for recipients of a vaccine booster shot (third dose) who enter Japan before March 1 will be the same as those who have not received their booster shot of vaccine.

(Quarantine period for entrants to Japan)

11 I am entering Japan before the application of these New Measures (on March 1). If I administer a self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later of my quarantine at home/accommodations. How should I notify the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants of my COVID-19 test results?

(Answer)

Take a COVID-19 test on the third day or later. Then submit your negative results through “MySOS (the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants)” to the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants. At the earliest, quarantine will be unnecessary from the fourth day onward once you receive a “notice of the completion of quarantine” from the Center. For those who have already entered Japan, please refer to the manual that will be posted on the link below from March 1 for the detailed application method.

<https://www.hco.mhlw.go.jp/manual/jp.php>

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

1 What are the conditions for a COVID-19 vaccine certification to be accepted as valid?

(Answers)

1 COVID-19 vaccine certifications accepted as valid need to meet the conditions of (1) through (4).

(1) They must be a vaccine certification issued by a public institution, such as a national government, and the like of a country/region.

(2) They must indicate a name, a date of birth, the name of the vaccine or manufacturer, the dates of inoculation, and the number of vaccinations (in Japanese or English).

(3) The vaccine names or manufacturers of the first and second doses must be one of the following:

- Corminaty intramuscular injection/Pfizer
- Vaxzevria intramuscular injection/AstraZeneca
- COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna intramuscular injection/Moderna
- Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine/Janssen

* Including Corminaty manufactured by Fosun Pharma/BioNTech and Covishield manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

(4) The vaccine names or manufacturers of the third dose (for the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine/Janssen, one dose is considered equivalent to two doses. Hereafter the same.) must be one of the following:

- Corminaty intramuscular injection/Pfizer
- COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna intramuscular injection/Moderna

* Including Corminaty manufactured by Fosun Pharma/BioNTech.

2 Please check the website below for details.

(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: Concerning vaccine certifications)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00342.html

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

2 My date of birth is not included on my country's vaccine certification. However, is it still a valid vaccine certification if it has my passport or ID number?

(Answer)

It will be recognized as a valid vaccine certification if a passport or ID number is detailed instead of a date of birth and if a date of birth can be verified through the passport or ID card in your possession.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

3 In my country, a vaccine other than Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna, or Janssen is approved for the first and second doses. In this situation, will my vaccine certification be accepted as valid even if I took such a vaccine?

(Answers)

1 It will not be accepted. At present, the only vaccines accepted as valid for the first and second vaccine doses are Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna, and Janssen.

* Corminaty manufactured by Fosun Pharma/BioNTech and Covishield manufactured by the Serum Institute of India are also valid.

2 Therefore, if you have been inoculated with vaccines other than the above, vaccine certifications will not be accepted as valid, even if the vaccine inoculations are valid as first and second doses in another country.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

4 In my country, a vaccine other than Pfizer and Moderna is approved for booster shots (third dose). In this situation, will my vaccine certification be accepted as valid even if I took a vaccine other than the two above?

(Answers)

1 It will not be accepted. For booster shots (third doses [for the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine/Janssen, one dose is considered equivalent to two doses. Hereafter the same.]), at present, the only vaccines accepted as valid on a vaccine certification are Pfizer and Moderna. However, Corminaty manufactured by Fosun Pharma/BioNTech will also be accepted.

2 Therefore, if inoculated with vaccines other than the above, vaccine certifications will

not be accepted as valid, even if the vaccine inoculations are recognized as booster shots in another country.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

4-1 How is the number of doses, etc. treated for the Janssen vaccine?

(Answers)

- 1 Based on the application of “the New Measures for Border Enforcement (27),” the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine/Janssen vaccine
 - is accepted as a vaccine for first and second doses,
 - and in this case, one dose is considered equivalent to two.

- 2 However (under the application of the measures), the Janssen vaccine is not recognized for a booster shot (third dose) (it must be either Pfizer or Moderna).

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

5 The manufacturer of Comirnaty is written as “BioNTech” on my country’s vaccine certification. Is my vaccine certification valid?

(Answer)

If other conditions are met, the vaccine certification will be recognized as valid.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

6 Moderna’s vaccine is written “Spikevax” on my country’s vaccine certification. Is my vaccine certification valid?

(Answer)

If other conditions are met, the vaccine certification will be recognized as valid.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

7 Do all my doses have to be of the same vaccine type?

(Answer)

It is not required.

- For the first and second doses, only Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna, or Janssen are approved.
- If the third dose (for the Janssen vaccine only, one dose is considered

equivalent to two. Hereafter the same.) is with Pfizer or Moderna, even if the dose is with a different type of vaccine, if the number of doses is three or greater, it will be recognized as valid.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

7-1 Will I be accepted as the holder of valid vaccine certifications if I took my three doses in different countries and have the vaccine certifications from these countries?

(Answer)

If each vaccine certification meets the required conditions and all certifications are presented at quarantine, they will be accepted as valid vaccine certifications.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

8 What should I do if there are no details for my first and second doses on my vaccine certification?

(Answers)

1 Vaccine certification

- must contain inoculation information indicating the vaccine type, the date of inoculation, and that it is the third dose (for the Janssen vaccine only, one dose is considered equivalent to two. Hereafter the same.) (For example, 3/3(if Janssen’s vaccine has been inoculated, 2/2)),
- and separately, in “Questions based on Article 12 of the Quarantine Act,” for which answers are requested at quarantine, if it can be confirmed that the vaccine that you received for your first or second dose was either Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna, or Janssen, it will be recognized as valid.

2 Furthermore, any combinations including proof of cure will not be accepted.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

9 What should I do if there is only recent inoculation information on my vaccine certification and the applicable inoculation does not indicate that it is my third dose?

(Answer)

For example, a combination of your vaccine certification with other certification, such

as a record of vaccine inoculation or certification issued when you received your second dose, etc. can verify that you received your third dose (for Janssen's vaccine, one dose is considered equivalent to two doses). In that case, you will be recognized as the holder of valid vaccine certification.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

10 Is there a period of validity for the third dose (for my vaccine certification to be accepted)?

(Answer)

At present, there is no period of validity for third doses (for the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine/Janssen, one dose is considered equivalent to two doses.)

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

11 What should I do if my country's vaccine certification is not written in English?

(Answer)

Translate your vaccine certification in advance (into Japanese or English) and present the translation along with your vaccine certification at quarantine (You may create the translation yourself.).

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

12 Are electronically issued vaccine certifications accepted? Is it acceptable if I present a two-dimensional code?

(Answer)

For electronically issued vaccine certifications, the format does not matter, such as an App, PDF, image, picture, and the like. If the details of your vaccine certification can be confirmed and it meets the conditions, it will be treated as a valid vaccine certification. Also, if there are two-dimensional codes of EUDCCs, ICAO-VDS, or SMART Health Cards, they can be read at quarantine.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

12-1 Are copies of vaccine certifications also accepted instead of originals?

(Answer)

As long as the details can be confirmed from the copy of a vaccine certification at the

Quarantine Station, it does not matter if it is a copy of the original.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

13 For vaccine certifications issued in Japan, do you consider certificates other than the Vaccination Certificate of COVID-19, Certificate of vaccination for COVID-19, or Record of vaccination for COVID-19 valid?

(Answers)

- 1 The following vaccine certifications are accepted as valid.
 - National or local government-issued Vaccination Certificate of COVID-19 (COVID-19 vaccine certification for overseas travel)
 - Local government-issued Certificate of vaccination for COVID-19
 - Record of vaccination for COVID-19 issued by a medical facility during a workplace inoculation, and the like

- 2 In addition to the above, vaccine certifications issued (by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to Japanese nationals living abroad who are returning home temporarily, vaccine certifications issued (by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) to participants of domestic clinical trials, and the like are also accepted.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

14 Are vaccine certifications issued by private organizations acceptable?

(Answer)

They are not acceptable. It must be a vaccine certification issued by a public institution, such as a national government.

(COVID-19 vaccine certification)

15 Is it allowed to shorten the quarantine period for children for whom it is not acceptable to receive a booster shot (third dose) due to age restrictions, as with the booster shot?

(Answers)

- 1 For children who are not able to receive booster shots (third doses) due to age restrictions on inoculation (and are not holders of vaccine certifications),
 - in principle, they are not permitted to have the shortened quarantine periods that come from having received booster shots.

- However, if they are accompanied by guardians who hold valid vaccine certifications and who will supervise the children, they will be recognized as holders of valid vaccine certifications, as an exception, and it will be acceptable to shorten the quarantine periods of both the children and their guardians.
- 2 The age restrictions on booster shots vary depending on the country of inoculation. For example, in Japan, because the age of eligibility for the booster shot is currently 18 or over, the exception above would apply to children under age 18 (if accompanied by guardians holding valid vaccine certifications who will supervise them).

*At the time of quarantine, please inform quarantine officers, with the information of the age restrictions on booster shots in your country, that you and your child, who is under the age of eligibility for the booster shots, wish to apply for the above exception. Then, quarantine officers confirm your request.

(Use of public transportation)

1 After entering Japan, is it acceptable to use public transportation to travel to my accommodations for quarantine, such as my home?

(Answers)

1 “Entrants to Japan from designated countries/regions holding a valid vaccine certification” and “entrants to Japan from non-designated countries/regions who do not hold valid vaccine certifications” must quarantine at home/accommodations after entering Japan.

- However, when they travel from an airport to quarantine at their home/accommodations, on the shortest route necessary,
- within 24 hours after their COVID-19 test (specifically, specimen collection) at an airport quarantine station, the use of public transportation is permitted

(Only applicable to the above, even during the period of quarantine at home/accommodations).

2 When using public transportation, please make every effort to prevent infection, including wearing a mask, sanitizing your hands, and avoiding the three C’s (closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings).

(Use of public transportation)

2 As for the use of public transportation during my quarantine period, is it acceptable to use public transportation for travel other than from the airport to my accommodations for quarantine, such as my home?

(Answer)

It is not acceptable. The use of public transportation during your quarantine period is only acceptable from your airport to your accommodations for quarantine, such as your home, within 24 hours of your COVID-19 test at the airport. Otherwise, the use of public transportation during this quarantine period will violate the Written Pledge.

(Use of public transportation)

3 Is it acceptable to use public transportation to take a self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later while quarantining at home/accommodations?

(Answer)

It is not acceptable. When traveling to receive a COVID-19 test, please use your own

vehicle and the like.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

1 In what cases is the new entry of a foreign national to Japan permitted?

(Answer)

It is permitted for (1) foreign nationals newly entering Japan for a short-term stay (three months or less) for purposes including business and employment or (2) foreign nationals newly entering Japan for a long-term stay. In either case, there must be a receiving organization in Japan.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

1-1 Is the new entry of a foreign national to Japan allowed for tourism?

(Answer)

No. Foreign nationals are not currently permitted to enter Japan for tourism through any procedures.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

2 Is the new entry of foreign nationals to Japan allowed to visit relatives or friends?
If not, what procedures should be taken?

(Answers)

1 Entry on short-term stays to visit relatives or friends is outside the scope of this measure because there is no receiving organization. However, new entries to Japan may be permitted if their circumstances fall into the following types of exceptional circumstances.

- A foreign national who is newly entering Japan for the purpose of visiting a relative where the foreign national is within the second degree of kinship of a Japanese national/permanent resident, or within the first degree of kinship of a “Long-Term Resident”
- A relative who supports or takes care of a resident in Japan who is sick or pregnant.
- A relative who is visiting a resident in Japan who has died or is in critical condition.
- A relative who is entering Japan to accompany a minor or a person who is not

capable of entering Japan by him/herself due to an illness or other reasons.

- 2 Separate from these New Measures, we will continue to determine whether to permit the entry of those with exceptional circumstances by examining the need for consideration case by case when there are humanitarian issues to be considered.
- 3 Please refer to the following material posted on the website of the Immigration Services Agency of Japan for details.

<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/001361129.pdf>

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

3 Are there any restrictions on the countries/regions that foreign nationals stay in before newly entering Japan?

(Answer)

There is no restriction.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

4 What is the method of application for a foreign national to enter Japan? Is prior application from a receiving organization required?

(Answer)

The prior application of a receiving organization is required for all individuals who enter Japan using this measure. First, a receiving organization must apply in advance through the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS), enter the required details, acquire a Certificate for Completion of Registration, and send the certificate to the foreign national scheduled to newly enter Japan. After doing so, the foreign national scheduled to newly enter Japan must apply with an overseas diplomatic mission of Japan with a Certificate for Completion of Registration and a visa application.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

4-1 Is prior application from a receiving organization required for re-entrance to Japan of foreign nationals who have residence status?

(Answer)

It is not required. Prior application from a receiving organization is required for the new

entry of a foreign national only.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

4-2 Is it possible for family members to accompany foreign nationals and to enter Japan with the New Measures?

(Answer)

- 1 It is possible for family members accompanying foreign nationals to enter Japan with the New Measures, if the receiving organization is responsible for the family members together with the foreign nationals, applies in advance for them or provides required supervision and support after their entry.
- 2 If foreign nationals are already resident in Japan and their family members wish to enter Japan later, those family members are outside the scope of this measure because there is no receiving organization. For those who, however, apply to certain categories, they may be permitted to enter Japan as their situations are regarded as “exceptional circumstances.” Please refer to Question 2 above for details.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

5 What is a receiving organization?

(Answers)

- 1 A “receiving organization” is an enterprise, organization, and the like employing an entrant or inviting the entrant for business or entertainment.
- 2 For the management and support in providing information on necessary quarantine measures when entering Japan and securing accommodations for quarantine, confirming quarantines and health statuses, and the like for foreign nationals newly entering Japan, entry to Japan is permitted under the supervision of receiving organizations.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

6 Are individual enterprises accepted as receiving organizations?

(Answers)

- 1 An individual enterprise that meets specific conditions is also accepted. However, they will not be accepted if the receiving organization and the entrant are the same

entity because they cannot enact the required supervision.

2 Please refer to the link below for conditions.

<https://entry.hco.mhlw.go.jp/>

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

7 What is required of receiving organizations?
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(Answers)

1 A receiving organization must

- log in to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS), apply in advance online, enter information related to a foreign national's entry to Japan (including accommodations for quarantine), and agree to the terms of a Written Pledge before entry to Japan.
- After entering the necessary items, a Certificate for Completion of Registration (PDF) will be issued. The receiving organization should download the Certificate for Completion of Registration and send it to the entrant to Japan.
- For the visa application of an entrant, each overseas diplomatic mission of Japan will confirm and screen the prior application by a receiving organization, a Certificate for Completion of Registration, and a set of visa documentation, then issue a visa. If there is a discrepancy in the content of the Certificate for Completion of Registration (name, date of birth, passport number, nationality/region) and the visa application, there will be a need to re-register on the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS).
- After entry to Japan, in addition to confirming the health status, location data, and the like of an entrant to Japan through MySOS (the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants), the receiving organization must confirm the 'health status of an entrant to Japan while the entrant isolates at a place of quarantine, contact a medical facility if the entrant to Japan is symptomatic or becomes COVID-19 positive, and provide other required supervision and support.

In addition, foreign nationals who do not have Japanese public medical insurance may bear expensive medical costs depending on medical treatment. A receiving organization is asked to make sure that their entrants to Japan prepare for unexpected burden of medical costs by taking out private medical insurances (including travel

insurances which cover medical costs during their stay in Japan) in advance, so that they will not be in trouble with medial costs when they go to medical institutions in Japan, and to support them if necessary.

- 2 Please refer to the link below for the terms of your Written Pledge when you applied.
https://entry.hco.mhlw.go.jp/doc/commitment_form.pdf

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

8 Is it possible for foreign nationals newly entering Japan to apply individually?

(Answer)

It is not possible. Also, it is not possible if the receiving organization and the entrant are the same entity either because they cannot enact the required supervision.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

8-1 If the new entry to Japan is for a technical intern trainee, which can be the receiving organization, the supervising organization or the enterprise that actually receives the technical intern trainee?

(Answer)

The enterprise that actually receives the technical intern trainee (implementing organization) is the receiving organization. Furthermore, if handling application procedures through the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS), securing a place for the trainee to quarantine, and the like are entrusted to a supervising organization, then it is possible for a supervising organization to handle these application procedures and the like. However, the agent responsible for accepting a trainee is the enterprise receiving the trainee, and the responsibility for the violation of a Written Pledge will be carried by the receiving enterprise.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

9 To where must prior applications for the new entry of foreign nationals to Japan be submitted?

(Answer)

A prior application must be made online through the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS). Moreover, it takes about one to two days to issue the ID and password required to log in to ERFS. Please refer to the

link below for details.

<https://entry.hco.mhlw.go.jp/>

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

10 Can the paperwork related to an application be entrusted to a third party?

(Answer)

The receiving organization can entrust a third party to complete the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS) login ID application with the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants and the prior application before entry to Japan on its behalf (However, having an entity that is not a certified administrative procedures specialist (corporation) complete application procedures on one's behalf for profit might violate the Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist Act. So, please exercise caution.). If having the process carried out by a third party, please submit a proxy statement including the following items for an ID application.

[Required items for a proxy statement]

1. The date of appointment/entrustment
2. Appointer/entrusting party: Address, name or designation, name of the representative, phone number, and email address
3. Appointed/entrusted party (proxy): Address, name or designation, name of the representative, phone number, and email address
4. Details of appointment/entrustment: Various application procedures through the Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System and the handling of personal information therein
5. Confidentiality obligation: A proxy must not disclose any information learned while performing their appointed/entrusted application procedures to anyone.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

10-1 Is there an application period for a receiving organization to submit a prior application?

(Answer)

There is no application period. However, please be aware of the period needed for issuing a visa and its period of validity (See question 2 [Visa applications].)

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

11 How long does it take for a Certificate for Completion of Registration to be issued after an application?

(Answers)

- 1 A Certificate for Completion of Registration can be issued online immediately by entering the name and contact information of the receiving organization and the name, date of birth, passport number, and other required information related to the entrant into the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS), submitting an application, and agreeing to the terms of the Written Pledge for the receiving organization related to the new entry to Japan of a foreign national.
- 2 Furthermore, one to two days are required to issue the ID and password for logging in to the ERFS.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

12 As in the "the New Measures for Border Enforcement (19)" from November 2021, is an application with and a review by the appropriate ministry of the Japanese government corresponding to the occupational category of a foreigners' work required?

(Answer)

It is not necessary to apply with or undergo a review by the appropriate ministry of the Japanese government corresponding to the occupational category of a foreigners' work.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

13 Am I still required to apply even if I received proof of completed screening under "the New Measures for Border Enforcement (19)" from November 2021?

(Answer)

Even those who were issued proof of completed screening in November 2021 must apply once again and acquire Certificates for Completion of Registration. Please understand that, unlike the system in November 2021, entry items, etc. have been greatly simplified in the application methods.

(New entry of foreign nationals to Japan)

14 Can the ID I acquired under “the New Measures for Border Enforcement (19)” from November 2021 also be used in this system?

(Answer)

The ID acquired in November 2021 can also be used with this Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS). Therefore, you do not need to reacquire an ID.

(Visa applications)

1 What document is required for a visa application with an overseas diplomatic mission of Japan?

(Answers)

1 It is required to have a “Certificate for Completion of Registration” that is acquired by following a predetermined application through the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare’s Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS) and a set of documents from either the following web page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the website of an overseas diplomatic mission of Japan.

<Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ website>

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/toko/visa/index.html>

<List of embassies, consulates, or consular offices of Japan>

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/annai/zaigai/list/index.html>

2 Furthermore, as for the period of validity of a certificate of eligibility for residence status, having the submission of the following document stating that the accepting organization, etc. “is able to continue accepting the foreign national with the same activity contents as were given at the time of the application for the certificate of eligibility” is considered a valid measure.

<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/930005022.pdf>

(Visa applications)

2 How long should I expect to wait until my visa is issued?

(Answer)

If there is no issue with the details of an application, the amount of time required from the visa application to issue is within five business days from the day after an application is received, in principle. However, if there is suspicion regarding the content of an application and the like necessitating an intensive screening by the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it may take longer for a visa to be issued.

(Certificate of Testing for COVID-19)

1 Is a Certificate of Testing for COVID-19 proving negative required to enter Japan?

(Answer)

The submission of a “Certificate of Testing for COVID-19 (proving negative) within 72 hours prior to departing” is required regardless of whether the individual is a Japanese or foreign national. If a certificate cannot be submitted, disembarkation to Japan will not be permitted.

(Certificate of Testing for COVID-19)

2 Is there a predetermined format for a Certificate of Testing for COVID-19? What should I do if I cannot acquire certification in the predetermined format?

(Answers)

1 Use the predetermined format for a Certificate of Testing for COVID-19. If it is difficult to acquire a Certificate of Testing for COVID-19 in the predetermined format, the submission of a form in another format may also be accepted. However, it is required to fulfill the “content that must be described in a Certificate of Testing for COVID-19.”

2 Please refer to the link below for details, including the predetermined format.

(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: Submission of a Certificate of Testing for COVID-19)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00248.html

(Fast Track)

1 What is Fast Track? Can it be used with these New Measures?

(Answer)

The operation of “Fast Track,” through the MySOS (the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants) some airport quarantine procedures of entering to Japan can be done online before arriving in Japan, began at some airports on February 7. Please refer to the link below for details.

<https://www.hco.mhlw.go.jp/fasttrack/>

(Fast Track)

2 Should a foreign national use Fast Track to newly enter Japan?

(Answers)

1 If an entrant prepares a smartphone before arriving in Japan and Fast Track is usable at the airport of arrival, before entering Japan, they must (1) install MySOS (the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants), (2) enter as much certification data as possible into MySOS before entering Japan and have completed pre-screening.

2 Please refer to the link below for details, such as airports that it can be used with.

<https://www.hco.mhlw.go.jp/fasttrack/>

(MySOS [the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants])

1 Why does the App designated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare need to be installed on the smartphone of an entrant to Japan?

(Answers)

- 1 During the quarantine period after entering Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants) will follow up on an entrant's health status, location data, address information, and the like through MySOS (the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants).
- 2 Therefore, a receiving organization should please notify an entrant to install MySOS if the entrant can prepare a smartphone before arriving in Japan.
- 3 Returnees or entrants to Japan who have received their third dose of vaccine from non-designated countries/regions are not subject to quarantines at home/accommodations after arrival. Therefore, they are not subject to follow-ups through MySOS. However, in case they become a close contact and the like they are requested to install the MySOS App for future communications.

(MySOS [the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants])

2 How do I download and set up the App designated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MySOS [the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants])?

(Answers)

- 1 Please refer to the "User Guide" on the website of the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants.
(The Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants)
<https://www.hco.mhlw.go.jp/>
- 2 If you have individual details you are unclear about, please contact:
 - followup@hco.mhlw.go.jp or
 - Phone: 03-6757-1038Furthermore, please contact us by email when possible because the phone line is extremely busy.

(MySOS [the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants])

3 What should I do when I cannot install the App designated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare while overseas?

(Answer)

If you can bring a smartphone to Japan, please install the App immediately after your plane lands in Japan. Furthermore, after disembarking in Japan, if it is determined that the smartphone you brought cannot install the App, you will need to rent a smartphone (at your own expense) at the airport (quarantine).

(MySOS [the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants])

4 What should an entrant to Japan do if they cannot bring a smartphone to Japan?

(Answer)

After disembarking in Japan, you will need to rent a smartphone (at your own expense) at the airport (quarantine).

(What do you do if you become COVID-19 positive?)

1 What should be done if it is found that an entrant to Japan tests COVID-19 positive during a COVID-19 test at quarantine when entering Japan?

(Answer)

You will need to follow the directions of the Chief of the Quarantine Station and recuperate at a lodging facility designated by the Chief of the Quarantine Station. In this situation, the quarantine period cannot be shortened.

(What do you do if you become COVID-19 positive?)

2 What should be done if an entrant to Japan becomes COVID-19 positive, is a close contact of someone during a flight, or becomes symptomatic?

(Answers)

- 1 If an entrant becomes COVID-19 positive during the period of quarantine at home/accommodations, the relaxation of their quarantine period will not be permitted. After immediately having an examination at a medical facility, please follow instructions from a public health center or another facility if you receive them.
- 2 If an entrant is designated as a close contact, the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants will notify the entrant through MySOS (the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants). If they become a close contact, a 7-day quarantine will become necessary, and their quarantine period cannot be relaxed.
- 3 If it is reported that an entrant is symptomatic, an automated call from the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants will link to a public health center as necessary. In this situation, the quarantine cannot be relaxed. Please follow instructions from a public health center or another facility if you receive them.
- 4 Additionally, if it is determined during a genome test of a COVID-19 positive individual at an airport quarantine that you are the close contact of someone who tested COVID-19 positive for a COVID-19 strain other than Omicron (such as the Delta strain), please be aware that your quarantine period will be 14 days. Furthermore, we will make contact with the entrant about the results of a genome test through MySOS (the Health and Location Monitoring App for Overseas Entrants).

(Place for quarantine)

1 Is a single room required when an entrant to Japan secures a place for quarantine?

(Answer)

Supervision by single room is required in principle during the quarantine period to prevent the spread of infections.

2 Is a home recognized as a place for quarantine?

(Answer)

In principle, if supervision by single room can be guaranteed, a home is also recognized. Please refer to the link below for points of caution.

(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: COVID-19 Q&A [for the general public])

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/dengue_fever_qa_00001.html#Q3-2

(Health monitoring)

1 How should a newly entering foreign national's health be monitored specifically (as per the terms of a receiving organization's pledge)?

(Answers)

- 1 Basically, please ask foreign nationals to take their temperature daily and check whether they have COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, respiratory symptoms, and fatigue.
- 2 If confirmed as symptomatic and the like please contact a medical facility immediately for consultation or examination as needed and follow instructions from a public health center or another facility if you receive them.

(Violation of a Written Pledge)

1 What measure should be taken when an entrant to Japan or receiving organization violates a Written Pledge or the terms of a pledge?

(Answers)

- 1 If an entrant violates the Written Pledge (they sign at quarantine when entering Japan [including if there has been a false statement. Hereafter the same.]), in addition to the possibility that their names and other information that contribute to preventing the spread of infection may be made public by the relevant authority, such as the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, they may be detained according to the provisions of the Quarantine Act (Moreover, foreign nationals may also be subject to the revocation of their residence status, procedures for deportation, and the like under Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Law).
- 2 Additionally, if a receiving organization violates the terms of the pledge when it was signed, or if an entrant violates their Written Pledge, the enterprise/organization name of the receiving organization may be made public. Additionally, the receiving organization's applications related to the new entry of foreign nationals may not be accepted in the future.