

Q&A on the New Border Measures (27) (As of Friday, March 25)

*Primary changes

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- 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?
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- 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?
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- 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)?
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(Overview of the New Measures)

1 Please clarify an overview of the New Border Measures (27) (hereinafter referred to as “the New Measures”).

(Answers)

1 The New Measures include contents covering (1) Change of home quarantine period after entry into Japan, (2) Use of public transportation after entry into Japan, and (3) Review on restriction on new entry of foreign nationals into Japan.

2 For entry into Japan by the end of February 2022,

- While measures concerning the suspension of new entry of foreign nationals into Japan and the suspension of measures relaxing restrictions on the movement of valid vaccination certificate holders were taken,
- Cross-border travelers are required to be quarantined in places such as their home or other accommodations (hereinafter referred to as “home quarantine”), to follow-up checks conducted by the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants (HCO) and to refrain from using public transportation for seven days after their entry into Japan, .

3 In addition, taking into consideration infection situations of COVID-19 in each country or region, for example;

- if cross-border travelers have stayed in a “designated country/region subject to a 3-day quarantine at specific facilities designated by the Chief of the Quarantine Station”, (hereinafter referred to as a “designated country subject to a 3-day facility quarantine”)
- after entry into Japan, they are subject to a 3-day facility quarantine and to take a test (PCR test) on the third day (during the total period of 7-day home quarantine).

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

(3. [Quarantine measures] on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)’ “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 (MHLW)’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 of home quarantine after entry into Japan)

4 On and after March 1, based on the measures related to the “Change of home quarantine period after entry into Japan,”

- a 7-day quarantine is required in principle;
- whether cross-border travelers and returnees come from a designated country subject to a 3-day facility quarantine (whether they have stayed in a designated country subject to a 3-day facility quarantine within 14 days prior to their arrival date) and
- whether they obtain a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate that meets the requirements

may influence on the length and location of quarantine after entry into Japan in the following manner:

* If there is an additional direction from a quarantine station or public health center about continuing home quarantine, kindly follow the direction

* If you become COVID-19 positive or are a close contact, your quarantine period will not be shortened.

* We request cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan to monitor their health statuses by measuring their temperatures for 10 days after their entry into Japan.

	Possession of a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate	Quarantine period after entry into Japan
Arriving from a designated country/region	No	3-day facility quarantine (+ negative COVID-19 self-test result (PCR test) at the facility)
	Yes	3-day home quarantine + a negative test result of a voluntary self-test (7-day quarantine required without taking a self-test)
Arriving from a non-designated country/ region	No	
	Yes	No quarantine

5 As for the self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later during home quarantine,

- The test method should be either a PCR test or a quantitative antigen test.
- On the third day or later, travelers should get tested at a recognized testing center and submit your negative 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 not be required from the fourth day onward if you receive the “notice of the completion of quarantine” from the Center (the use of public transportation will be allowed once quarantine is no longer required).
- 6 In addition, in case of quarantine at a specific facility designated by the Chief of the Quarantine Station, following a 3-day facility quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test result on the third day at the facility, quarantine after leaving the facility will not be required for (the use of public transportation will be allowed too after leaving the facility).
 - 7 Following a negative test result of a COVID-19 test at the airport quarantine station, cross-border travelers into Japan from a non-designated country/region who obtain a valid vaccination certificate are not required to be quarantined after entry into Japan (the use of public transportation will be allowed upon entry into Japan).

(Use of public transportation by cross-border travelers to Japan)

- 8 The abovementioned “cross-border travelers and returnees into Japan from designated countries/regions who obtains a valid vaccination certificate ” and “those from non-designated countries/regions who do not obtain valid vaccination certificates” are required to be quarantined after entry into Japan.
 - However, when they travel from an airport to home/accommodation for home quarantine, 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 allowed (only applicable to the above, even during the period of home quarantine).

(Review on restrictions on new entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

- 9 From March 1, new entry of foreign nationals into Japan under the supervision of receiving organizations (such as businesses, organizations) is allowed, 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 cross-border travelers to Japan, on the precondition that required quarantine measures are secured, entry restrictions will be eased.
- 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 for foreign nationals newly entering Japan, entry under the supervision of receiving organizations is allowed.

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

- before entry into Japan, receiving organizations must first log in to the MHLW's Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS), apply in advance online, enter information related to a foreign national's entry into 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 cross-border travelers to Japan.
- After scheduled cross-border travelers 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 into Japan, in addition to confirming the health status of the cross-border travelers to Japan and location data through MySOS, the receiving organization must confirm the health status of the cross-border traveler to Japan at a specific quarantine facility, contact a medical facility if the cross-border traveler 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 without prior notice 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 Japan on March 5, the third day prior to your arrival date would be March 2.

Conversely, if you enter Japan 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 cross-border traveler and returnee to Japan stayed in at (said cross-border traveler and returne's) time of entry into Japan.

2 For example, if cross-border travelers and returnees 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 facility quarantine to a non-designated country 9 days before the arrival date,
- country A, where the cross-border travelers and returnees 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, cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan obtain a valid vaccination certificate in this situation, there will be no quarantine after arrival (before the change, it was a 3-day home quarantine) 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 facility quarantine 9 days before the arrival date,
- country A, where the cross-border travelers and returnees 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 facility quarantine.

If, for example, the cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan do not obtain a valid vaccination certificate in this situation, there will be a 3-day facility quarantine after arrival (before the change, it was a home quarantine) because the country they stayed in was recategorized as a designated country subject to a 3-day facility quarantine.

4 As above, because the quarantine periods and accommodations for quarantine of cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan may change after arrival in Japan depending on the designations of designated countries/regions, please make sure to check 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 MOFA's "Border measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)" web page.)

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

(MHLW'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 (MOJ), the MOFA, and the MHLW.

*MHLW: 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 cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan)

1 How has the quarantine period for cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan changed following these New Measures?

(Answer)

On and after March 1, based on the measures related to the “Change of home quarantine period after entry into Japan,”

- a 7-day quarantine is required in principle;
- whether cross-border travelers and returnees come from a designated country subject to a 3-day facility quarantine (whether they have stayed in a designated country subject to a 3-day facility quarantine within 14 days prior to the arrival date) and
- whether they obtain a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate that meets the requirements will make a difference on the length and location of quarantine after entry into Japan in the following manner:

* If there is an additional direction from a quarantine station or public health center about continuing at home/accommodations, kindly follow the direction.

* If you become COVID-19 positive or are a close contact, your quarantine period will not be shortened.

* We request cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan to monitor their health statuses by measuring their temperatures for 10 days after entry into Japan.

	Possession of a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate	Quarantine period after entry into Japan
Arriving from a designated country/region	No	3-day facility quarantine (+ negative self-COVID-19 test result (PCR test) at the facility)
	Yes	3-day home quarantine + a negative result of a voluntary test (7-day quarantine without a test)
Arriving from a non-designated country/ region	No	
	Yes	No quarantine required

(Quarantine period for cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan)

2 Are quarantine periods for cross-border travelers and returnees 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 cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan)

3 How should I administer the self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later during home quarantine?

(Answers)

- 1 As for the self-COVID-19 test on the third day or later during home quarantine,
 - The test method should be either a PCR test or a quantitative antigen test.
 - On the third day or later, travelers should get tested at a recognized testing center (See question 5) and submit your negative test result through MySOS to the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants.
 - Then at the earliest, quarantine will no longer be required from the fourth day onward if you receive the “notice of the completion of quarantine” from the Center (the use of public transportation will be allowed 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 cross-border travelers and returnees 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 the 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 cross-border travelers and returnees 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 MHLW'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 cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan)

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

(Answers)

- 1 During the home quarantine period, you must refrain from going on trips that are non-essential. Nonetheless, going to a testing organization to receive a COVID-19 test to end your period of home quarantine does not fall under the category of not essential. However, please do not use public transportation used by the general population. Instead, use your own vehicle to get tested.
- 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 need to be sent in advance).

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

(Quarantine period for cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan)

7 Am I allowed to end my home 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 home quarantine before confirmation from the Center arrives, you will violate your Written Pledge.

(Quarantine period for cross-border travelers and returnees 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 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 with them or consult with the local health consultation center.

(Quarantine period for cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan)

9 When sending specimens to a testing organization by mail, is it allowed 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 cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan)

10 I entered 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 allowed (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 home quarantine.
- 2 However, relaxation of quarantine periods through a vaccine booster shot (third dose)

will not be allowed (because COVID-19 vaccine certificates cannot be confirmed at the Quarantine Station before March 1). Therefore, recipients of a vaccine booster shot (third dose [holders of valid vaccination certificates]) are allowed 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 cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan)

11 I entered 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 home quarantine. 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 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 vaccination certificate)

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

(Answers)

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

(1) They must be a vaccination certificate issued by a public institution, such as a national government 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.

(MHLW: Concerning vaccination certificates)

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

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

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

(Answer)

It will be recognized as a valid vaccination certificate 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 vaccination certificate)

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 vaccination certificate 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, vaccination certificates will not be accepted as valid, even if the vaccine inoculations are valid as first and second doses in another country.

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

4 In my country, a vaccine other than Pfizer and Moderna is approved for booster shots (third dose). In this situation, will my vaccination certificate 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 vaccination certificate 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, vaccination certificates will not be accepted as valid, even if the vaccine inoculations are recognized as booster shots in another country.

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

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

(Answers)

1 Based on the application of “the New Border Measures,” 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 vaccination certificate)

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

(Answer)

If other conditions are met, the vaccination certificate will be recognized as valid.

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

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

(Answer)

If other conditions are met, the vaccination certificate will be recognized as valid.

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

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 vaccination certificate)

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

(Answer)

If each vaccination certificate meets the required conditions and all certificates are presented at quarantine, they will be accepted as valid vaccination certificates.

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

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

(Answers)

1 Vaccination certificate

- 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 a documentation of recovery will not be accepted.

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

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

(Answer)

For example, a combination of your vaccination certificate with other certificate, such as a record of vaccine inoculation or certificate 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 vaccination certificate.

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

10 Is there a period of validity for the third dose (for my vaccination certificate 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 vaccination certificate)

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

(Answer)

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

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

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

(Answer)

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

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

12-1 Are copies of vaccination certificates also accepted in behalf of originals?

(Answer)

As long as the details can be confirmed from the copy of a vaccination certificate at the Quarantine Station, it does not matter if it is a copy of the original.

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

13 For vaccination certificate 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 vaccination certificates are accepted as valid.
 - National or local government-issued Vaccination Certificate of COVID-19 (COVID-19 vaccination certificate 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.

- 2 In addition to the above, vaccination certificates issued (by the MOFA) to Japanese nationals living abroad who are returning home temporarily, vaccination certificates issued (by the MHLW) to participants of domestic clinical trials are also accepted.

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

14 Are vaccination certificates issued by private organizations acceptable?

(Answer)

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

(COVID-19 vaccination certificate)

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?

(Answer)

For children under the age of 18 who have not received booster shots (third doses) or do not obtain vaccination certificates,

- in principle, they are not allowed to benefit from the shortened quarantine periods for having received booster shots.
- However, if they are accompanied by a guardian with a valid vaccination certificate and who will supervise the children, they will be regarded as holders of valid vaccination certificates, as an exception, and it will be acceptable to shorten the quarantine periods of both the children and the guardian.

*If children under the age of 18 without holding vaccination certificates enter Japan by themselves (without being accompanied by a guardian with a valid vaccination certificate), they are not eligible for the above exception.

(Use of public transportation)

1 After entry into Japan, is it acceptable to use public transportation to travel to my accommodation for quarantine, such as my home?

(Answers)

- 1 Cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan from designated countries/regions obtaining a valid vaccination certificate and cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan from non-designated countries/regions who do not obtain valid vaccination certificates are subject to a home quarantine after entry into Japan.
- However, when they travel from an airport to home/accommodation for home quarantine, 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 allowed
- (Only applicable to the above, even during the period of home quarantine).
- 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 accommodation 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 accommodation for home quarantine 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.

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

1 In what cases is the new entry of a foreign national into Japan allowed?

(Answer)

It is allowed 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 into Japan)

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

(Answer)

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

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

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

(Answers)

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

- A new cross-border traveler to Japan who is a relative of a Japanese or permanent resident within the second degree of consanguinity or a relative of a fixed resident within the first degree of consanguinity, for the purpose of visiting relatives
- Relatives to care for or support ill individuals or pregnant individuals who live in this country
- A relative visiting Japan because someone who live in this country has died or is in critical condition
- A relative accompanying someone for whom traveling alone is difficult

2 Apart 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/001347330.pdf>

(New entry of foreign nationals into 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 into 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 MHLW'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 into Japan)

4-1 Is prior application from a receiving organization required for re-entry into 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 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 residing in Japan and their family members wish to enter Japan at a later date, 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 allowed to enter Japan as their situations are regarded as “special exceptional circumstances.” Please refer to Question 2 above for more details.

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

5 What is a receiving organization?

(Answers)

- 1 A receiving organization means an enterprise or organization which employs or invites an cross-border traveler for business or entertainment purposes.
- 2 New entry of foreign nationals into Japan will be allowed under the supervision of receiving organizations which manage and support in providing information on necessary quarantine measures when entering Japan and securing accommodations for quarantine, confirming quarantines and health statuses.

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

6 Are individual enterprises accepted as receiving organizations?

(Answers)

- 1 An individual enterprise that meets certain requirements is also accepted. However, they will not be accepted if the receiving organization and the cross-border traveler are the same entity because they cannot enact the required supervision.
- 2 Please refer to the link below for requirements.

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

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

7 What is required of receiving organizations?
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(Answers)

1 Responsibilities of receiving organizations are as follows:

- A receiving organization should log in to the ERFS (MHLW's Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System) and apply in advance online, enter information related to a foreign national's new entry into Japan (including accommodations for quarantine), and agree to terms of the Written Pledge before entry into Japan.
- It should input necessary information on the ERFS and download the Certificate for Completion of Registration (in PDF format) and send it to the cross-border traveler(s) to Japan.
- Regarding the visa application of an cross-border traveler, the overseas diplomatic missions of Japan confirm and screen the prior application for the Certificate for Completion of Registration and necessary documents of visa application, then issue a visa. If there is any 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 register on the ERFS once again.
- After entry into Japan, the cross-border traveler gets check-up of necessary information such as health status and location data via MySOS. The receiving organization is supposed to take necessary management and support including confirming health status of the cross-border traveler at a place of self-quarantine, contacting a medical facility in case the cross-border traveler is symptomatic or becomes COVID-19 positive.

In addition, foreign nationals who are not covered by the Japanese public medical insurance may bear expensive medical costs depending on medical treatment. A receiving organization is required to make sure that their cross-border travellers 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 medical 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 into Japan)

8 Is it possible for foreign nationals who newly enter Japan to apply to the ERFS by themselves?

(Answer)

It is not possible. It is not allowed either the receiving organization and the cross-border traveler are the same entity because they cannot enact the required supervision.

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

8-1 If the new cross-border traveler 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 ERFS, securing a place for the trainee to be quarantined, they are entrusted to a supervising organization, then it is possible for a supervising organization to handle these application procedures. 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 into Japan)

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

(Answer)

A prior application must be made online through the ERFS. Moreover, it takes about one to two days to issue the ID and password required to log in to the ERFS. Please refer to the link below for details.

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

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

10 Is it possible to consign procedures related to the application to a third party?

(Answer)

The receiving organization can entrust a third party to complete the application for a log-in ID of the ERFS with the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants and the prior application procedures before entry into Japan on its behalf (Please note that, 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.). 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 letter of attorney]

1. The date of delegation/consignment
2. Delegator/cosigner: Address, name or designation, name of the representative, phone number, and email address
3. Appointee/consignee (proxy): Address, name or designation, name of the representative, phone number, and email address
4. Details of delegation/consignment: Application procedures on the ERFS and the handling of personal information therein
5. Obligation of confidentiality: the proxy are not allowed to disclose any information learned through conducting application procedures to any other person.

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

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

(Answer)

There is no application period. Meanwhile, please be aware of the time required for visa issuance and validity of the visa (See question 2 [Visa applications].)

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

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

(Answers)

- 1 The Certificate for Completion of Registration will be issued online immediately by inputting and submitting information such as the name and contact information of the receiving organization, the name, date of birth, passport number, and other required information of the cross-border traveler into the ERFS, as well as complying with the terms of the Written Pledge for the receiving organization related to the new entry of foreign nationals into Japan..
- 2 It will take one to two days that the ID and password for logging into the ERFS be issued.

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

12 As mentioned in the “the New Border Measures (19)” in November 2021, do I need to apply to and get screening by an appropriate Ministry or Agency of the Government of Japan (hereinafter referred to as the “Ministry in charge of the business”)??

(Answer)

It is not necessary to apply to and get screening by the Ministry in charge of the business.

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

13 Am I still required to apply even if I already have a certificate of completion of screening under “the New Border Measures (19)” from November 2021?

(Answer)

Even if you already obtain a certificate of completion of screening in November 2021, you are required to apply once again and obtain a Certificate for Completion of Registration via the ERFS system, which comes with far more simplified sequences compared with the previous system in November 2021, We appreciate for your understanding.

(New entry of foreign nationals into Japan)

14 Does the ID I obtained under “the New Border Measures (19)” in November 2021 also work on the current system?

(Answer)

The ID you obtained in November 2021 works on the ERFS. Thus, you do not need to obtain another ID.

(Visa applications)

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

(Answers)

1 It is required to show/submit a “Certificate for Completion of Registration” that is acquired by following a predetermined application through the ERS and a set of documents from either the following web page of the MOFA or the website of an overseas diplomatic mission of Japan.

<MOFA 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 Regarding 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)

The processing period for visa issuance is approximately 5 working days from the day after the date of the acceptance of application as long as there are no particular problems with the content of the application.

If there is any problem with the content of the application, the Embassy/Consulate General transmits the application to the MOFA in Tokyo for further examination. In such cases visa issuance may take longer time.

(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 allowed.

(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 certificate 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.

(MHLW: 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 some airport quarantine procedures of entering 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 cross-border traveler 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, (2) enter as much certificate 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)

1 Why does the App designated by the MHLW need to be installed on the smartphone of cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan?

(Answers)

- 1 During the quarantine period after entry into Japan, the MHLW (the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants) will follow up on cross-border travelers and returnees' health status, location data, address information through MySOS.
- 2 Therefore, a receiving organization should please notify cross-border travelers and returnees to install MySOS if the cross-border travelers and returnees can prepare a smartphone before arriving in Japan.
- 3 Cross-border travelers or returnees to Japan who have received their third dose of vaccine from non-designated countries/regions are not subject to quarantines at home/accommodation after arrival. Therefore, they are not subject to follow-ups through MySOS. However, in case they become a close contact, they are requested to install the MySOS App for future communications.

(MySOS)

2 How do I download and set up the App designated by the MHLW (MySOS)?

(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)

3 What should I do when I cannot install the App designated by the MHLW 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)

4 What should cross-border travelers and returnees 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 of arrival (quarantine).

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

1 What should be done if it is found that cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan test COVID-19 positive during a COVID-19 test at quarantine when

(Answer)

You will need to follow directions of the Chief of the Quarantine Station and recuperate at a specific 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 cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan become COVID-19 positive, is a close contact of someone during a flight, or becomes symptomatic?

(Answers)

- 1 If cross-border travelers and returnees become COVID-19 positive during the period of home quarantine, the relaxation of their quarantine period will not be allowed. 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 cross-border travelers and returnees are designated as a close contact, the Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants will notify the cross-border travelers and returnees through MySOS. If they become a close contact, a 7-day quarantine will become necessary, and their quarantine period cannot be eased.
- 3 If it is reported that cross-border travelers and returnees are 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 eased. 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 cross-border travelers and returnees about the results of a

genome test through MySOS.

(Place for quarantine)

1 Is a single room required when cross-border travelers and returnees 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.

(MHLW: 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, 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 cross-border travelers and returnees to Japan or receiving organization violate a Written Pledge or its terms?

(Answers)

- 1 If cross-border travelers and returnees violate 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 MHLW, 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 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 cross-border travelers and returnees violate 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.