

Mobility: Immigration alert

September 2020



Japan

Immigration information: As of 1 September 2020

Executive summary

Re-entry of status of residence holders allowed from 1 September 2020

Re-entry from jurisdictions subject to denial of landing:

Japan is currently denying entry to foreigners from 146 countries and territories. However, all foreign nationals with a status of residence, who have left Japan before 31 August 2020 with a valid re-entry permit (including use of the special re-entry system), are now eligible to re-enter Japan from 1 September 2020, regardless of their current country of stay or date of departure from Japan.

Please note that there will be some procedures required prior to leaving the current country or region of stay.

Required Documents:

- 1) "Re-entry Confirmation Letter - issued by the Japanese embassy/consulate in the country/region where applicant currently resides¹
- 2) "Certificate of Negative Test Result" - document issued by a medical institution to prove negative test result on corona virus testing conducted within 72 hours of the departure time of the flight¹

Note that after 1 September 2020, "Permanent Resident", "Spouse or Child of Japanese National", "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident" and "Long Term Resident" (including the spouse of a Japanese national or Japanese child who does not have these statuses of residence), and those who

have special exceptional circumstances will also be required to present the above document 2 for entry, and the above documents 1 and 2 for re-entry.

Departure and re-entry of Residence Card (RC) holders to jurisdictions subject to denial of landing:

Starting 1 September 2020, foreigners who currently reside in Japan with a RC, who hold a valid passport and a valid re-entry permit (or is eligible to use the special re-entry system using the RC) may depart Japan and re-enter.

*Note that specific procedures at the Immigration Services Agency are required.

- ▶ Application to the Immigration Office prior to departure via email (reentry-confirmation-req01.immi@i.moj.go.jp) is necessary¹
- ▶ Additional disease prevention measures will be implemented upon re-entry - measures may differ depending on the length of stay outside of Japan¹

Foreigners wishing to come to Japan

I am to be seconded to a subsidiary in Japan

- ▶ You should apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) with the entity in Japan as your sponsor¹.
- ▶ After receiving your COE, you will be required to apply for your work visa at the Japanese embassy/consulate that has jurisdiction over your place of residence.

Most Japanese embassies/consulates are currently NOT accepting visa applications.

- ▶ The validity period of the COE, which is normally 3 months, has been extended to 6 months after the date your country/region of stay is deleted from the list of nations subject to denial of landing, or 30 April 2021, whichever comes first. Thus, you should hold on to your COE until visa processes are resumed at the Japanese embassy/consulate.

I need to come to Japan to attend a business meeting (business visitor) and my wife would like to visit me in Japan (visitor)

- ▶ As of August 2020, foreign nationals coming to Japan from 146 nations/regions around the world are subject to denial of landing.
- ▶ Thus, even if you hold a passport of a visa-exempt nation, you will NOT be able to enter Japan, unless you already have a valid Japan RC and departed Japan with a re-entry permit. Please wait for further notice from Japan.

I am a holder of a Japan RC, and left Japan with a re-entry permit. Can I come back?

- ▶ If you hold a valid RC and left Japan with a re-entry permit or under the special re-entry system, you will be allowed to re-enter Japan regardless of your status of residence, current country/region of stay, or date of departure.
- ▶ If you re-enter Japan after 1 September 2020, you must comply with infection prevention measures, such as the submission of a negative COVID-19 test result.
- ▶ You will also need to obtain a "Re-entry Confirmation Letter" from the Japanese embassy/consulate in your country/region of stay.

Foreigners currently residing in Japan:

I wish to leave Japan to visit my family abroad. Will I be able to return to Japan?

- ▶ YES. You may leave Japan and return if:
 - 1) you hold a valid Japan RC
 - 2) use the special re-entry system with your RC or obtain a valid re-entry permit
 - 3) apply to the Immigration Services Agency beforehand and pledge to comply with additional quarantine measures when re-entering Japan

Other updates

"Phased Measures for Resuming Cross-Border Travel"

On 18 June 2020, the Japanese government announced the "Phased Measures for Resuming Cross-Border Travel," which aims to establish a special quota pertaining to cross-border business travelers and others for entry into and departure from Japan, that operates separately from general procedures for cross-border travelers.

While maintaining the current border control measures, the government will tentatively implement a special framework to facilitate cross-border business travelers and others on the condition of adopting additional quarantine measures.

Coverage of this framework is limited to nationals of either Japan or the other country/region, residing either in Japan or the other country/region, and traveling on a direct flight between Japan and the country/region.

The government will assess the implementation status and consider the future effective extent of this framework. This framework will become effective to relevant jurisdictions sequentially.

The government has initiated consultations with the following jurisdictions where the spread of COVID-19 is relatively contained: Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Cambodia, Singapore, Republic of Korea, China Mainland, Hong Kong, Macau, Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Laos, and Taiwan.

Since 29 July 2020, the "Residence Track" has been put into effect, allowing the resumption of travel between Japan and the following two countries while maintaining the requirement of 14-days quarantine at home or another designated area:

- Thailand
- Vietnam

In early September, Japan plans to implement the "Residence Track" for Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, and the "Residence Track" and "Business Track," which enables limited business activities during the 14-day stay at home period, for Singapore.

¹ For further information on required documents and professional guidance, please contact EYGH.

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