

Resumption of Cross-Border Travel and other measures

July 22, 2020

1. Re-entry/entry into Japan by foreign nationals who possess the status of residence and others

- (1) The Government of Japan (GOJ) is considering to incrementally permit the re-entry/entry into Japan by foreign nationals who possess the status of residence and others. This measure will start with the re-entry into Japan by a foreign national who has already departed from Japan with a re-entry permit (*1).
- (2) This measure will be implemented after the GOJ considers and identifies the details of additional quarantine measures, such as pre-departure PCR testing before leaving for Japan.

*1 A foreign national who departed from Japan with a re-entry permit before the day when a country/region where the foreign national is currently staying became an area subject to denial of permission to entry into Japan.

2. Expansion of countries/regions to be covered under the framework of “Phased Measures toward Resuming Cross-Border Travel” and other steps

In regard to the “Phased Measures toward Resuming Cross-Border Travel” (decision made at the 38th meeting of Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters dated June 18, 2020), while maintaining the current border control measures (*2), the GOJ will tentatively implement a special framework for cross-border business travelers and others on the condition of taking additional quarantine measures (*3), as follows:

- (1) The GOJ will start consultations with/begin approaching the following countries/regions where the spread of infections is contained. The GOJ intends to cover additional countries/regions under the framework, one after another, once arrangement is finalized, while comprehensively taking into account relevant factors including the status of infections.

Cambodia, Singapore, Republic of Korea, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Laos, and Taiwan

- (2) For other countries/regions, while taking into account business needs and other relevant factors, the GOJ will consider introducing a cross-border travel framework only applicable to a short period travel by a small number of people with further quarantine requirements (*4). The GOJ will start implementing such framework, one after another, after considering the details and finalizing such arrangement.

*2 PCR testing (for those who arrive from areas subject to denial of permission to entry into Japan), refraining from using public transportation upon arrival at Japan, and 14-day stay at home etc.

*3 Presenting a certificate of the result of pre-entry PCR testing, keeping location data for 14 days after entry into Japan (and for conducting business activities during the 14-day stay at home etc., the submission of “Schedule of Activities in Japan” including information such as location of stay and business destinations) and others.

*4 Limited length of stay in Japan (within 72 hours in principle), traveling by a business jet in a small

group, and further restricting the number of places to visit and people to meet.

3. Expansion of testing capacity in Japan

The GOJ will continue to promptly expand its testing capacity and system, including through introducing alternative testing methods and launching testing centers.

4. Continuation of the border control measures and other steps

(1) Additional designation of areas subject to the denial of permission to entry into Japan

Designating the entire areas of 17 countries and a region listed below as areas subject to the denial of permission to entry into Japan based on the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (*5). Entry into Japan by foreign nationals who have visited the designated areas within the last 14 days will not be permitted unless there are special exceptional circumstances (*6).

Uzbekistan, Kenya, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Surinam, Sudan, Somalia, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Palestine, Venezuela, Botswana, Madagascar, Libya, and Liberia

*5 As a result of this additional designation, a total of 146 countries/regions are subject to the denial of permission to entry into Japan.

*6 Foreign nationals with the status of residence of "Permanent Resident," "Spouse or Child of Japanese National," "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident," or "Long Term Resident," who have departed Japan with re-entry permits by July 23, are treated, in principle, as persons with special exceptional circumstances upon re-entering Japan presenting the re-entry permits from the abovementioned 17 countries and a region subject to the denial of permission to entry into Japan. This, however, is not applicable to foreign nationals who depart Japan on or after July 24. The "Special Permanent Resident" has not been subject to denial of permission to entry into Japan.

(2) Strengthened quarantine measures

PCR testing will be conducted for those who arrive in Japan with the record of visiting the countries listed in 4.(1) above within 14 days prior to their entry into Japan.

(3) Continuation of the current border control measures

The period of strengthened quarantine measures (*7), visa restrictions, limitation on the number of arrival airports for passenger aircraft and measures to curb the number of arrival passengers by flight to Japan to be implemented until the last day of July, which was decided at the 39th meeting of Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters on June 29, 2020, will be renewed and such measures will be implemented until the last day of August. The period of implementation can be renewed.

*7 Alternative testing method in lieu of PCR testing may be incrementally introduced when it becomes available.

The measures described in 4. (1) and (2) will be implemented from 0:00 am (JST) on July 24 and will remain in place for the time being. The measures will also be applied to those who will depart a country/region outside Japan before these measures become effective and arrive in Japan after they become effective.

(END)

Number of Foreign Nationals who possess the Status of Residence: 2.63 million (approx.)
 (excluding those who possess Diplomat, Official, Temporary Visitor, and Special Permanent Resident statuses)

July 2020

*approximate numbers

The "four categories" of Statuses of Residence
(1.2 million)

The other Statuses of Residence
(1.43 million)

Permanent Resident 800,000	Long Term Resident 210,000	Spouse or Child of Japanese National	Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	Business purposes etc. 850,000	Student 300,000	Dependent 200,000	Others 80,000
		150,000	40,000				
Staying in Japan: 1.1 million				Staying in Japan: 1.33 million			
Staying outside Japan: 108,000				Staying outside Japan: 100,000			
(Those who left Japan after April 3rd: 5,000)				(Those who left Japan after April 3rd: 12,000)			

Those who possess the "four categories" of statuses of residence and have left Japan with re-entry permit, before the day when country/region where such foreign nationals are currently staying was designated as an area subject to denial of permission to entry into Japan are, in principle, deemed to be under the "special circumstances" and will be permitted to re-enter Japan.

Under this measure, the GOJ will start with allowing the re-entry of those who possess statuses of residence excluding those listed as the "four categories," and have left Japan with a re-entry permit before the day when country/region where such foreign nationals are currently staying was designated as an area subject to denial of permission to entry into Japan (maximum 90,000).

(Note 1) The "four categories" of Statuses of Residence: "Permanent Resident," "Spouse or Child of Japanese National," "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident," and "Long Term Resident."
 (Note 2) The number of foreign nationals staying in Japan: as of end of April 2020. The number of foreign nationals staying outside Japan: as of July 1st, 2020.
 (Note 3) Number of foreign nationals who left Japan after April 3rd is specified here, since April 3rd is the day when most of the countries and regions were designated as areas subject to denial of permission to entry into Japan.