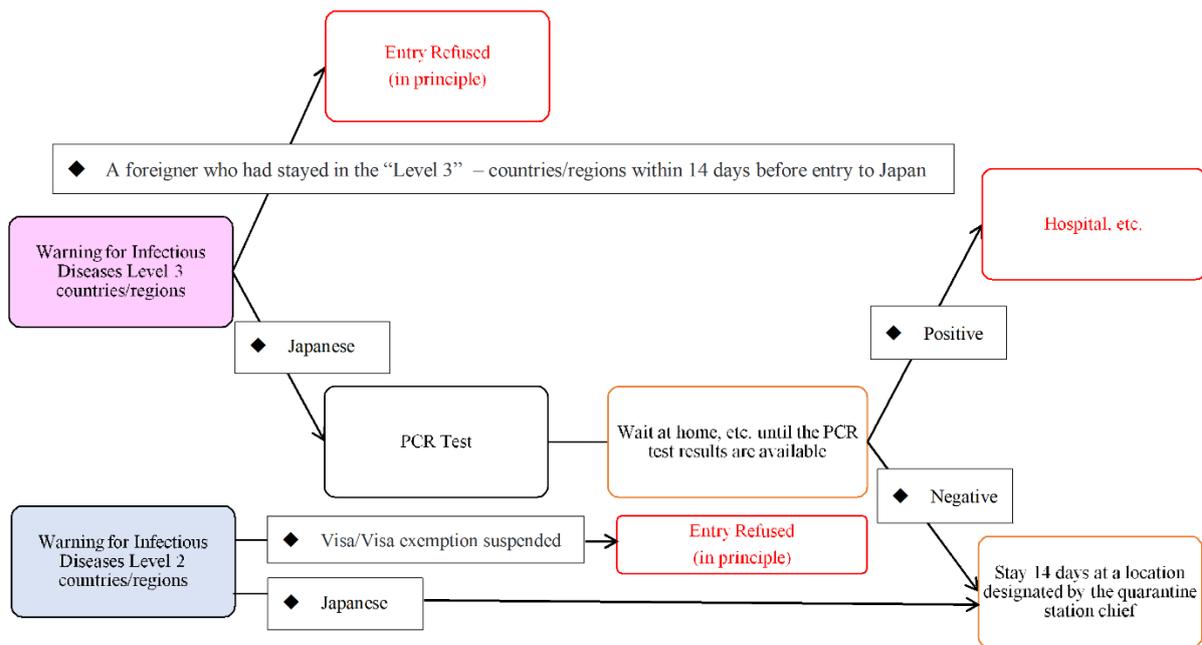


## 2. Japan Immigration Response to COVID-19

### 1. Overview

Since Japan is an island nation, entry control is directly linked to the infection prevention and control. In response to Covid-19 outbreak, Japan has tightened entry restrictions in accordance with a decision by the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters set up in the Cabinet. The restrictions can be classified roughly into two categories: one is the entry restrictions by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the other is visa measures by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Currently, foreigners from **87** countries/regions are subject to denial of landing and for the rest of the countries, Japan visas have become invalid.



Level 3: Avoid All Travel

Level 2: Avoid Non-essential Travel

**Overview of Border Control Measures** (Source: [website](#) of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, translated)

### 2. Denial of Landing - MOJ

Entry into Japan is denied pursuant to the provision of Article 5, paragraph (1), item (xiv) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as the “Immigration Control Act”) for the time being, if a foreign national falls under any of the

following. The denial of landing based on the Immigration Control Act only applies to foreigners and does not apply to Japanese nationals or special permanent residents.

**Passport:** Possession of a valid passport is one of the conditions for landing in Japan, but foreign nationals

holding a passport issued in Hubei or Zhejiang, China are subject to denial of landing for that reason alone.

**Past Stay:** Foreign nationals who stayed in the [list of countries](#) within 14 days before the application for landing are subject to denial of landing. At the beginning of the outbreak, the infection was concentrated in the People's Republic of China and later spread to all continents except Antarctica. As a result, the area initially limited to parts of China and South Korea was expanded to include Europe from March 27, the United States from April 3, Russia from April 29, and now a total of 87 countries and regions.

### 3. Visa Restrictions - MOFA

Generally, a foreign national who wishes to enter Japan must first obtain a visa. Nationals and citizens of certain countries may be able to visit Japan without a visa under the Visa Exemption Agreements. Currently, the validity of issued visa and visa exemption measures has been suspended.

**Suspension of Visa Validity :** Validity of visas listed [here](#) are suspended until the last day of May (the period may be renewed).

**Suspension of Visa Exemption Measures:** Visa exemption measures with the countries and regions listed [here](#) are temporarily suspended until the last day of May (the period may be renewed). Those subject to the measures are required to obtain visas before visiting Japan.

### 4. Special Measures for Japan Travelers/Residents

The following special provisions are also in place for foreign nationals who are already staying or residing in Japan. On April 6, the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau announced on Twitter that, it will limit the number of people who enter the building to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a result, some people will

have to wait a long time outside the building until it is their turn.

**Temporary Visitor:** For those who have difficulty returning to their home countries due to flight suspensions or travel restrictions, permission to extend the period of stay for “Temporary Visitor (90 days)” is allowed. This extension permission enables Japan travelers to stay longer than originally permitted.

**Long term Residents:** Those foreign nationals whose expiration date for their period of stay is in March, April, May or June, could apply for extension or change of status of residence up to three months after their expiration date due to the spread of COVID-19.

**Certificate of Eligibility (COE):** Due to the spread of the infection, there were cases where people could not come to Japan before the original period of validity (three months), so it was decided to treat the COE as valid for “six months” for the time being.

**Online Application / Residence Card Delivery by Mail:** The immigration offices are open to the public despite the emergency. However, they encourage the online application for applications that do not require face-to-face contact. In addition, qualified immigration lawyers will be able to receive the permission (i.e., new residence card of the applicant) by mail.

*Note: Information is being updated frequently. Please refer to the most updated information.*

If you have any question, please contact our Immigration Team under:

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