

Regarding denial of landing to prevent the spread of COVID-19
(novel Coronavirus)

January 12, 2022

1. Regarding denial of landing

Regarding COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), which is spreading throughout the world, based on Cabinet approval on January 31, 2020 and the announcement by the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, and so on for the time being, the Ministry of Justice considers foreign nationals who hold the record for staying in the countries / regions listed in attached table 1 within 14 days before the day of application for landing to be foreign nationals who fall under Article 5, paragraph (1), item (xiv) of the Immigration Control (Note 1) and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as the “Immigration Control Act”) and unless there are **special exceptional circumstances**, the foreign national will be subject to denial of landing.

With regard to foreign nationals corresponding to attached table 2 who are subject to the denial of landing before now, these designation of denial of landing has been cancelled(Thailand was once removed from the list of the areas subject to landing denial on November 11, 2020, but it was added again to the list on May 21, 2021). Special permanent residents are not subject to the examination under Article 5, paragraph (1) of the Immigration Control Act and therefore landing will not be denied based on the above-mentioned measures.

2. Regarding special exceptional circumstances

If any of the following (1) to (4) applies to the foreign national, landing will be permitted on the premise that there are **special exceptional circumstances**.

As emergency precautionary measure from a preventive perspective against coronavirus variant Omicron (B.1.1.529), the **special exceptional circumstances** are as follows. In accord with this measure, from 0:00 am (JST) December 2, 2021, validity of visas already issued by December 2, 2021 are suspended except for the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of a Japanese National”,

“Spouse or Child of a Permanent Resident” or “Diplomat”.

Also from the standpoint of preventing and controlling epidemics, please note that, in principle, it is necessary to obtain a pre-departure Certificate of Testing for COVID-19(see the Ministry of Justice website [“Certificate of Testing for COVID-19”](#)).

- (1) Foreign nationals entering Japan with re-entry permit (including a special re-entry permit; the same applies hereinafter)(Note 2).
- (2) Foreign nationals newly entering Japan who fall under any of the following (Note 3).
 - Foreign nationals who departed from Japan with a re-entry permit before August 31, 2020 and who were not permitted to re-enter Japan because the validity period of the re-entry permission expired after the country/region of stay was designated an area subject to denial of landing.
 - Spouse or child of a Japanese national/permanent resident.
 - Spouse or child of a foreign national where the foreign national has the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident”, whose family is staying in Japan and who has been separated from his/her family.
- (3) A foreign national who has or is about to acquire the status of residence of "Diplomat" or "Official"(Note 4).
- (4) Foreign nationals who are recognized to be in special exceptional circumstances corresponding to an individual situation such as the true need for humanitarian consideration (Note 5) or the need for large public benefit (Note 6).

(Note 1) Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Extract)
(Denial of Landing)

Article 5 (1) A foreign national who falls under any of the following items is denied permission to land in Japan:

Paragraphs (i) to (xiii) (Omitted)

(xiv) Beyond those persons listed in items (i) through (xiii), a person whom the Minister of Justice has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to commit an act which could be detrimental to the interests or public security of Japan.

(2) Omitted

(Note 2) Measures to deny foreign nationals with re-entry permit who hold the record staying in Angola, Eswatini, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, Mozambique, Resoto or the Democratic Republic of the Congo have ended on 0:00 am(JST) January 12, 2022.

(Note 3) Depending on the purpose of your entry, you may need to get a Certificate of Eligibility at the regional immigration bureau and get Japan

Visa at the Japanese embassy/consulate in the country/region.

(Note 4) Regarding “Official”, it is limited to a case with a high necessity and a high urgency.

(Note 5) The following are examples of cases where the true need for special humanitarian consideration is recognized.

A foreign national who is to acquire the status of “Temporary Visitor”, and who falls under any of the following.

- A relative who supports or takes care of a resident in Japan who is sick or pregnant.
- A relative who is visiting because a resident in Japan 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.

(Note 6) Public benefit is recognized when there is a high necessity and a high urgency. The following is an example where the public benefit is recognized.

- Engineers engaged in vaccine development

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Table 1 List of areas subject to landing denial

	Asia	Oceania	North America	Latin America	Europe	Middle East	Africa
6 4 S A P r i l o r i n i s e s /	Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia		Canada, United States	Ecuador, Chile, Dominica, Panama, Brazil, Bolivia	Iceland, Ireland, Albania, Armenia, Andorra, Italy, United Kingdom, Estonia, Austria, Netherlands, Northern Macedonia, Cyprus, Greece, Croatia, Kosovo, San Marino, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Vatican, Hungary, Finland, France, Bulgaria, Belgium, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Portugal, Malta, Monaco, Moldova, Montenegro, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Romania, Luxembourg	Israel, Iran, Turkey, Bahrain	Egypt, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mauritius, Morocco
A P r i l 2 9 s				Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominican Republic, Barbados, Peru	Ukraine, Belarus, Russia	United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia	Djibouti
M a y 1 6 s	Maldives			Uruguay, Colombia, Bahamas, Honduras, Mexico	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan		Cabo Verde, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Equatorial Guinea
M a y 2 7 s	India, Pakistan, Bangladesh			Argentina, El Salvador	Kyrgyz, Tajikistan	Afghanistan	Ghana, Guinea, South Africa
2 0 2 0 J u l y 1 1 s				Guyana, Cuba, Guatemala, Grenada, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Nicaragua, Haiti	Georgia	Iraq, Lebanese	Algeria, Eswatini, Cameroon, Senegal, Central African Republic, Mauritania
J u l y 2 4 s	Nepal			Suriname, Paraguay, Venezuela	Uzbekistan	Palestine	Kenya, Comoros, Congo, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Somalia, Namibia, Botswana, Madagascar, Libya, Liberia
A u g u s t 3 0 s	Bhutan			Trinidad and Tobago, Belize			Ethiopia, Gambia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Nigeria, Malawi, South Sudan, Rwanda, Lesotho
N o v e m b e r 1 1 s	Myanmar					Jordan	
M a y 2 1 s	Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, East Timor, Mongolia			Saint Lucia			Seychelles
2 0 2 1 A u g u s t 2 6 s		Fiji					
D e c e m b e r 2 5 s							Angola, Mozambique

Table 2 Removal list of landing denial

1. Foreign nationals holding a passport issued in Hubei or Zhejiang, China (2020/11/1remove)
 2. Foreign nationals who were onboard the cruise ship Westerdam that departed from Hong Kong (2020/11/1remove)
 3. Foreign nationals who stayed in the countries / regions listed in the table below within 14 days before the application for landing (2020/11/1remove)
- ※ Thailand was removed from the list of the areas subject to landing denial on November 11, 2020, but will be added again to the list on May 21, 2021.

		Asia	Oceania
2 0 2 0	s A p r i l 3	g r e g i o n e s / /	
		Singapore, Korea, Taiwan, China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Brunei, Vietnam	Australia, New Zealand