

COVID-19 GLOBAL PORT RESTRICTIONS

JAPAN



General Application

Due to the current increase in Covid-19 cases, also the newfound imported new variant virus (from UK/South Africa), JP Government has indeed started tightened the entry procedure for visitors to JP. As consulted with Immigration office on 28th Dec, regulation related on Crew on/off-signing remains unchanged at this moment, which means at this stage we can still assist them with their entry to JP via shore pass entry. HOWEVER, pls note: 1) This regulation is subjected to change again, there is a possibility to be banned prior your crew's arrival (shall recheck on 4th Jan 1st working day after New Year Holiday) 2) In case joining crews have visited UK and South Africa in 14 days prior departure home port, their joining onboard might be refused, or extra Quarantine days required upon their arrival JP airports even in case their COVID-19 test result is negative. In this regards, if crew change is to be affected, we need travel history summary for all on-signers within 14 days prior departing home countries. 3) COVID-19 free Certificate which needs to be certified by Doctor in 72 hrs. (from sampling time till departure time from home port) is still compulsory with NO exception.

All vessels arriving Japan ports will be required to submit a health questionnaire. This report should be accomplished by the vessel captain and submitted to the relevant quarantine officer before arriving at any Japanese port.

This needs to be submitted to immigration during their working hours, prior ship arrival. To ensure prompt checking and feedback from the Authorities, Master needs to provide this at least 36 hours in advance. In case vessel is due to arrive during a weekend or Monday, the health questionnaire must be submitted latest by Friday AM JPLT.

Quarantine measures

Intensified quarantines (14 days) required for all travelers entering JP regardless of nationalities.

Effective April 29, entry ban on travelers is updated as below. Visas issued by Japanese Embassy or Consulates located in all countries other than those listed will cease to be in effect and visa-free entry, which had been granted to citizens of the same countries, will be suspended as well.

- Foreigners who have Chinese passports issued by Hubei or Zhejiang Province in China.
- Foreigners who have embarked from Passenger vessel "Westerdam"
- Foreigners who have been to the following countries for the past 14 days:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Isreal, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morrocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, PRC (including HKG and Macau), Qatar, Republic of Djibouti, Romania, Russia, Sao Tome Principe, South Korea, San Marino, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, USA, Vatican, Vietnam.

All major ports with practical access to JP major international airports: NRT, KIX and HN-



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For On Signer

If crew have a valid Seaman's book (to identify their crew status), they might be allowed to enter Japan with following procedure:

- As of Aug 25th, it has been officially informed by JP Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) that Effective from Sep 1st, it will be mandatory for crew to have a negative Covid-19 test result (taken 72 hours prior their flight), to present to quarantine officers upon arrival in Japan. Crew will not be allowed to enter Japan otherwise.
- After arrival, they will undergo another test conducted by airport quarantine officers, and will only be able to join vessel if both results are negative.
- PCR test results are usually available after 2hrs – 6hrs (at HND and NRT airport) and 4-5hours to 1 day (at KIX airport), depending on airport congestion. While waiting, individuals will need to stay at a government-assigned facility.
- Upon approval to join vessel, they need to be transported to join vessel by agent's car / chartered bus.
- Immigration/Quarantine recommends that on-signers' test result follow Japanese format which can be obtained from operations@benline.co.jp . It would be best to request the hospital/clinics where the crew take the test in their home country to fill in this form and sign/stamp. If hospitals insist on using their own form, we will try to negotiate with Immigration but note that test shall need to contain all info as listed in Japanese form in English. Omitting any of the information listed below may result in denial of permission to entry into Japan in accordance with the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act.
 - Personal information of an applicant (name, passport number, nationality, date of birth, sex)
 - Proof of authenticity of the COVID-19 test result (test method, test result, date and time of sampling, date of test result, date of issuance of the certificate)
 - Information of the medical institution – name and address of the medical institution, name of the doctor, stamp/seal/signature of the doctor
- Whether on-signers can enter Japan or not still depends on airport Quarantine's final judgement upon their arrival.
- Please note that currently Chinese Embassy has announced updated regulations for COVID-19 which applied for all vessels which have crew changes within 14 days before calling any China ports, mentioned that the signing-on seafarers have to conduct nucleic acid amplification technique (NAT) tests for Covid - 19 and IgM antibody test at a hospital designated by Chinese Embassy showing negative results within 48hours before boarding the vessels (subject to test sampling date).



For Off Signer

- For vessels which were at sea for 14 days after leaving previous foreign port before entering Japanese port, shore passes (landing permits) might be able to issued at first port, but only for off signers (who possess valid Seaman's book). In case vessel calls a foreign port, which is not target area as mentioned here (https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html), within 14 days, it might be possible to negotiate with local Immigration for off signers' disembarkation too. However same need to be confirmed on case-by-case basis
- They need to be escorted by agent's car too, no public transportation (such as Domestic airplane, Bullet train, Bus, etc.) is allowed.



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For Off Signer

Following procedure will be applied for the onsigning crews in case one of the crew in the crew batch has positive PCR test result at the arrival Japan airport:

- Positive crews will be isolated and comply with further instruction from airport Immigration/Quarantine. They shall most likely be required to admit to hospital and undergo treatment after their isolation time.
- All remaining crews in same crew batch will be rejected to enter Japan with no room for negotiation with airport Immigration. They will need to leave ASAP with the earliest flight. Please kindly note that even the return flight need to be approved by airport Immigration. In case Immigration requests to book their preferred flight for crews, we also have to follow their guidance.
- In case remaining crews need to wait at the airport overnight to catch return flight on the day after, watchmen fee will arise as per request from airport immigration.
- Currently, most airports in Japan is not available for international flights except Narita Airport, Haneda Airport (with very limited international flight option) & Kansai airport (KIX). Hence, it will be most convenient to arrange crew change (if permitted by Immigration) at the major Japan ports located near these 3 international airports due to the fact that all transportation should be made by.

For the other ports that are far away from above airports, the possibility to arrange same subject to escort agent's availability and need to be checked carefully on case-by-case basis.

Public transportation is still allowed in case they have completed 14 days self-quarantine in Japan as per Quarantine bureau's request. But considerate the nature of crew change operation, this option seems not recommendable.



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