

TRAVEL TO JAPAN COMMON QUESTIONS

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Due to the current influx in phone calls, we request that all parties interested in traveling to Japan read this document before calling the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit. If your questions are not answered here, we ask for your patience and understanding when getting back to your phone call.

Thank you!

CAN I GO TO JAPAN?

Q: I read on _____ website that U.S. passport holders don't need a visa to go to Japan. Is that correct?

A: Due to COVID, the visa waiver policy is currently inactive. All foreign nationals traveling to Japan must have a visa to enter the country at this time, regardless of their nationality or point of departure.

Q: I heard Japan is opening its borders as of June 1st, are you sure I need a visa?

A: Many news outlets have been reporting the most recent border policy change as a “border reopening.” However, the visa waiver agreement is still not in place, and we remain unable to issue many kinds of visas. **All foreign nationals still must have a valid visa to enter Japan.** Please see the [Revised Visa Application Procedure](#) page for more information on currently issuable visas.

Q: There's lots of conflicting information on the internet right now about travel to Japan, and I'm not sure which sources are correct. Where should I be looking?

A: If you live within our jurisdiction (Michigan and Ohio) and would therefore be applying for a visa through our consulate, please see the [Revised Visa Application Procedure](#) page.

Q: Once I apply for a visa, how long does it take?

A: Our processing time is, in most cases, approximately five business days. If applying by mail, bear in mind that it will take some additional time for your materials to travel to and from our consulate. We cannot expedite applications.

COVID QUARANTINE AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Q: What are the current COVID related requirements for travel to Japan? Do I need a COVID test?

A: A negative COVID test that meets Japan's requirements must be taken within 72 hours of departure. Please see the links below for more information.

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/covid-19/bordercontrol.html>

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000799426.pdf>

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000905811.pdf>

Q: Do I need to quarantine?

A: On and after June 1st 2022, PCR test at a Japanese airport and a mandatory/self-quarantine will not be required for entrants from countries and regions classified as "Blue" regardless of their vaccination status. Entrants from countries and regions classified as "Blue" regardless of vaccination status can use public transportation without any restrictions. The U.S. is classified as "Blue": [Border measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Q: Where should I take my pre-departure test that meets Japan's requirements and do you have a list of the medical facilities?

A: You are able to take a test at any facilities only if your test meets Japan's testing requirements. As of March 9th, Japan now accepts PCR tests conducted with a nasal swab, so it should be much easier to get a COVID test in the United States that will be accepted by Japan.

We have [the reference list of medical facilities](#) in your area that may provide you with the services you need. Please be aware that this information is for your reference only and does not mean our office recommends or endorses these listed facilities that can do the necessary testing for entry to Japan.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION FORM

Q: On the application form, there is a field that asks for an I.D. number issued by my government. Is that my social security number? Or my driver's license number?

A: That field does not actually apply to U.S. citizens. If you are applying with a U.S. passport, you can leave that field blank, or write "N/A."

Q: What do I put for the place of issue and issuing authority? It doesn't list those things in my U.S. passport.

A: For issuing authority, U.S. passport holders should put the U.S. department of state, and for place of issue, it is sufficient to simply put "United States."

Q: I have not yet purchased plane tickets. What should I put for the Date of Arrival, Port of Entry, and Name of Ship or Airline fields?

A: Please put the information for the flight arrangements you intend to make, assuming your visa is issued. It is not necessary to purchase plane tickets in order to apply for a visa.

TRANSITING THROUGH JAPAN

Q: I have a connecting flight in Japan on my way to another country. Do I need to worry about Japanese entry restrictions? Do I need a visa? Is it possible to transit through Japan at all?

A: Transiting through Japan is possible under the current policy as long as you are:

- (1) arriving and departing from the same airport,
- (2) arriving and departing on the same calendar day, and
- (3) you do not leave the airport at any time.

If your itinerary meets these three requirements it is possible to transit through Japan, and you do not need to worry about Japan's COVID testing or quarantine requirements since you are not technically considered to be entering the country.

Q: I have a connecting flight in Japan on my way to another country and have a long layover. I would like to leave the airport to spend the night in a hotel before moving on. Can I get a transit visa?

A: Due to COVID it is not possible for us to issue transit visas at this time. Under the current border policy, it is therefore not possible to do this at this time. Please work with your airline to rearrange your plans.