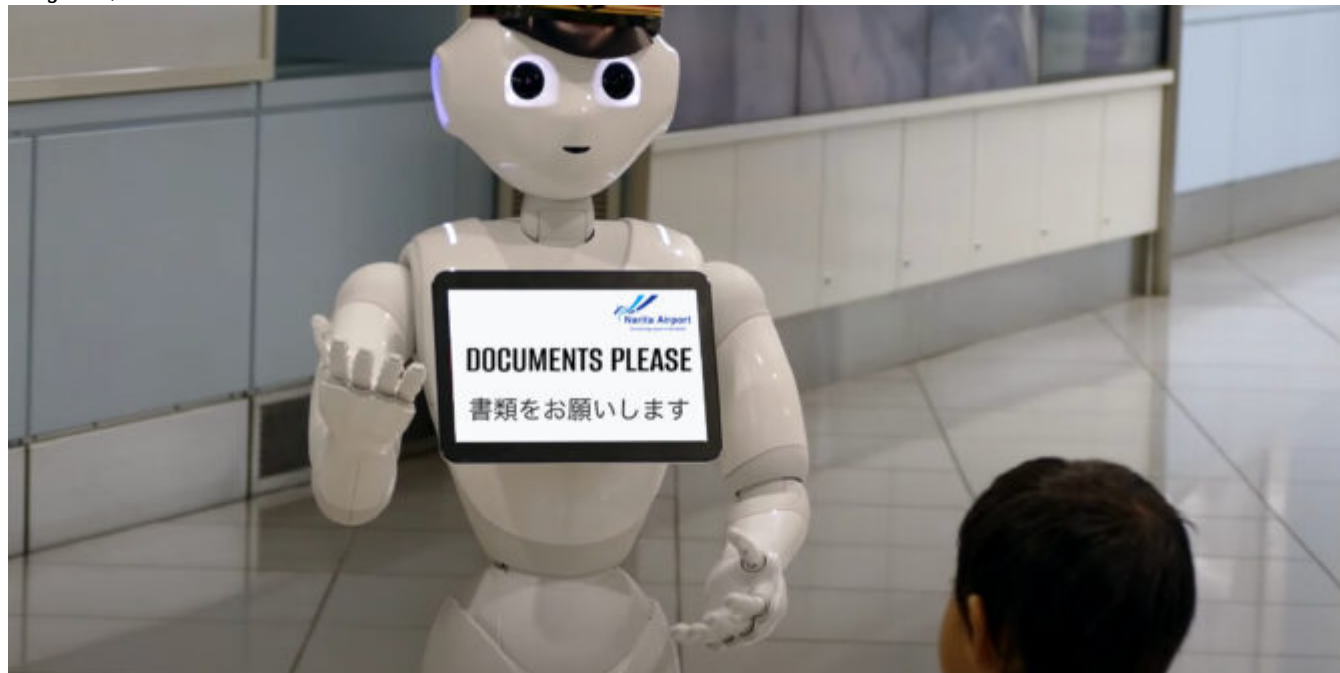


# Declassified: New Crew Rules in Japan

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On June 13, **crew entry rules** were eased – under certain conditions, you **no longer have to isolate** in your hotel room. It's great news for layovers – icy cold Asahi beer and delicious gyoza await.

The problem is where to find that information. The guidance online is all for passengers. So, we reached out to a local agent, who provided us with an 'Administrative Circular' recently issued by Japan's CAA with all the rules just for crew.

But for some reason, **we are not allowed to share it**. *Why?* We're not sure – it is apparently top secret. Before it becomes mission impossible and self-destructs, here is a rundown of what it contains. But you'll have to take our word for it...

## Blue, Yellow and Red

Japan has broken the world's countries down into three categories – yep you guessed it, the colours above.

Countries and Regions of each category

	Asia and Oceania	North America	Latin America	Europe	Middle East and Africa
<b>RED</b>	Pakistan, Fiji			Albania	Sierra Leone
<b>YELLOW</b>	India, North Korea, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Nauru, Niue, Nepal, Vanuatu, Bhutan, Brunei, Viet Nam, Marshall Islands, Macao, Micronesia, Maldives		Antigua and Barbuda, Uruguay, Guyana, Cuba, Grenada, Suriname, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, Nicaragua, Haiti, Bahamas, Barbados, Venezuela, Belize, Peru, Honduras	Andorra, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Cyprus, Kosovo, San Marino, Georgia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Vatican, Belarus, Portugal, Malta, Moldova, Liechtenstein	Angola, Yemen, Egypt, Eswatini, Eritrea, Oman, Cabo Verde, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kuwait, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Saudi Arabia, Sao Tome and Principe, Syria, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Seychelles, Equatorial Guinea, Senegal, Somalia, Chad, Central African Republic, Tunisia, Togo, Turkey, Namibia, Niger, Western Sahara, Palestine, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Botswana, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Libya, Liberia, Lesotho, Lebanon
<b>BLUE</b>	Indonesia, Australia, Republic of Korea, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, China, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Bangladesh, East Timor, Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Laos	Canada, United States of America	Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, Jamaica, Chile, Dominican Republic, Panama, Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico	Iceland, Ireland, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Italy, United Kingdom, Estonia, Austria, Netherlands, Greece, Kyrgyz Republic, Croatia, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Hungary, Finland, France, Bulgaria, Belgium, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Monaco, Montenegro, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Luxembourg, Russia	Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Israel, Iraq, Iran, Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Qatar, Cameroon, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Zambia, Djibouti, Tanzania, Nigeria, Bahrain, Benin, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa, South Sudan, Mozambique, Morocco, Jordan, Rwanda

The rules you need to follow depend on where you have been in the past fourteen days – the **most restrictive country** applies.

#### Blue Countries:

This includes the US, Canada and much of Western Europe. If you haven't been outside the list of blue countries, you will only need to provide a Covid test that is **less than 72 hours old** – more on that in a moment.

There is no need to provide proof of vaccination.

#### Yellow Countries:

Many South American, Caribbean and Eastern European countries fall into this category.

If you've been in one of these, you will need the same test as above with the additional requirement of being **triple vaccinated** – yep, all three jabs of an approved vaccine.

#### Red Countries:

There's only a few of these. At the time of writing, just Pakistan, Fiji, Albania and Sierra Leone .

Unfortunately, if you have been in one of them, you will need to **isolate** in the hotel in addition to all the other requirements.

### **What Covid tests are accepted?**

You can view the list in full here, which of course includes the gold standard PCR test.

The biggest gotcha is that **rapid antigen tests** (the super easy ones you can do at home) are not allowed. They are what are known as 'qualitative' antigen tests, and Japan has said no bueno. 'Quantitative' antigen tests are allowed, but they are not the same thing.

Here's a little graphic that might help you get your head around which tests are okay for entry. Some of the details are in Japanese, but effectively the ones on the left in are okay, the ones on the right with crosses are no good.







## 日本入国時に必要な検査証明書の要件（検体、検査方法、検査時間）

※ 有効な検体、検査方法等が記載された検査証明書のみ有効と取り扱います。

&lt;有効な検査証明書として認められる要件&gt;

&lt;有効な検査証明書として認められない主な例&gt;

## 検体

- Nasopharyngeal/Nasopharynx/NP (Swab/Smear)
- Rhinopharyngeal/Rhinopharynx (Swab/Smear)  
(鼻咽頭ぬぐい液)
- Nasal Swab (鼻腔ぬぐい液)  
※Nasal Swab (鼻腔ぬぐい液) は核酸増幅検査のみ有効  
(Anterior nasal/nares)
- (Deep throat) Saliva (唾液)
- Nasopharyngeal (※) (and /, /+)
- oropharyngeal(throat) (swabs /smear)/NP&OP  
(鼻咽頭ぬぐい液・咽頭ぬぐい液の混合)  
(Naso and oropharyngeal/Rhino and oropharyngeal/oro and nasopharyngeal (※))  
(※)Nasopharyngeal/Nasopharynx/Rhinopharyngeal/Rhinopharynx)

- × Oral (swab/smear) (口腔ぬぐい)
  - × Throat (swab/smear) (咽頭ぬぐい)
  - × Gargle Water (うがい液)
  - × mixture of sample "A" and "B"  
(「鼻咽頭ぬぐい液と咽頭ぬぐい液の混合検体」を除く、  
複数箇所から採取した検体の混合検体)  
(なお、“A”、“B”は検体を指す)
- <Example>
- × Nasal and throat (swab/smear) (鼻腔・咽頭ぬぐい)
  - × Pharyngeal and nasal (swab/smear) (咽頭・鼻腔ぬぐい)
  - × Nasal and oropharyngeal/oropharynx (swab/smear)  
(鼻腔・口腔咽頭ぬぐい)

## 検査方法

- 核酸増幅検査  
Nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT)
  - ・ PCR法 (real-time (RT-)PCR、(RT-) PCR、Q-PCR、Fluorescence-PCR、Multiplex-PCR)
  - ・ LAMP法 (LAMP、RT-LAMP)
  - ・ TMA法
  - ・ TRC法
  - ・ Smart Amp法
  - ・ NEAR法 (例: ID-NOW®)
  - ・ Next generation sequence(次世代シーケンス法)
- 抗原定量検査  
Quantitative antigen test (CLEIA/ECLIA)

- × Antigen (test/kit)  
(抗原検査)
- × Rapid antigen (test/kit)  
(迅速抗原検査)
- × Antibody (test/kit)  
(抗体検査)

※日本で無症状者への検査として推奨している検体・検査方法。

※日本で無症状者への検査として推奨されていない検体・検査方法。

## 検査時間

- 検体採取が  
出国前の72時間以内

- × 結果判明が  
出国前の72時間以内

※今後、国内外の状況に鑑み、上記取扱いを変更する可能性があります。

参考：新型コロナウイルス感染症（COVID-19）病原体検査の指針第5.1版 (<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000914399.pdf>)

## A word about vaccines too.

Any **vaccine certificate** must be issued by the government, or other official source. In either English or Japanese is fine.

You need to have received one of the following:

- Pfizer
- Astra Zeneca
- Moderna
- Janssen
- Bharat Biotech
- Novavax

In some cases, a single dose counts as two. You can also mix vaccine doses. More on that [here](#).

## I don't meet some of these requirements - can I still go?

Yep! But you'll have to isolate in a hotel and use private transport to and from the airport.

## Can I present a 'Certificate of Recovery' instead of a Covid test?

It's not mentioned in the official guidance, but local agents advise the answer is no. At this stage, you'll have to stick to the guidelines above if you don't want to isolate.

## What do operators have to do?

Effectively screen all crew for **symptoms** beforehand – anyone with signs of cold and flu are not allowed to operate to Japan.

In flight, if someone starts feeling unwell, the operator needs to let the authorities know – the crew member will be tested on arrival. It will then be on the operator to get the rest of the crew tested too.

Just a note though – pilots and cabin crew are considered as being in 'segregated' areas. So there is no need to test a pilot if a flight attendant becomes unwell, and vice versa.

## So, there you have it.

Crew are free to enjoy their layovers in Japan, as long as they meet these requirements. It also goes without saying that **common precautions** apply when out of your hotel – including hand washing and mask wearing.

Never washed your hands before? We've got you covered. Here is a detailed 'how-to' video along with some **soothing electric keyboard**.

## Still have a question?

Reach out to us on [news@ops.group](mailto:news@ops.group), and we'd be happy to help.