

## **Effective from 9 March 2020, 00:00 KST**

### **South Korea takes countermeasures to Japanese nationals in response to Japan's entry restrictions on Korean nationals (2<sup>nd</sup> update)**

For the details about Japan's entry restrictions on South Korean citizens, please double check with the Immigration department or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan as their decisions keep changing.

Below are the measures being taken by the South Korean government on Japanese citizens from 9 March 2020, 00:00 KST in response to Japan's decision to impose entry restrictions on South Korean citizens.

#### **Suspension of Visa Waiver Agreement**

90 days of visa waiver agreement for Japanese nationals have been suspended. This measure is not only for regular passport holders but also includes diplomatic and government official passport holders.

All Japanese citizens must obtain a proper visa before entering South Korea. Japanese passengers' boarding either on a flight or a cruise to South Korea will be blocked if they don't have a valid visa. Immigration officers at airports and ports in South Korea will recheck their passports to confirm their visas' validity.

#### **Invalidation of Issued Visas**

All the visas issued from the South Korean Consulates in Japan have been invalidated regardless of the remaining number of permitted entries (single or multiple) and whether it's used or not.

**If a Japanese expat is already working and living in South Korea as a foreign resident, holding a valid ARC (Alien Registration Card), his/her ARC will not be invalidated and there are no restrictions to stay in South Korea until their ARC expiry date.**

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#### **FOR MORE INQUIRIES**

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# IMMIGRATION UPDATE – SOUTH KOREA

9 March 2020



## Stiffer Visa Screening

All foreigners applying South Korean visa from at Korean Consulates in Japan must fill out a 'Health Report Form' by handwriting. The health report form will be updated on the official website of South Korean Embassy and Consulate offices in Japan, once it's confirmed.

If Coronavirus outbreak continues in Japan, South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs may designate some hospitals for all applicants to get official medical tests before applying for a South Korean visa.

Application screening will be longer than before in all South Korean Consulate offices in Japan. There is no clear notice about new processing time, but we expect it will be a minimum of 2 weeks, considering that the virus incubation period is two weeks. The average processing time used to be 3~5 working days.

## Separate Quarantine Process

No details fully released yet about this measure. According to the press released by the Ministry of Justice, a "special entry procedure" will be applied to all visitors coming from Japan, which will be carried out jointly by four government Ministries:

- Ministry of Justice → control Immigration offices
- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation → control Airports
- Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries → control Ports
- Ministry of Health and Welfare → control Quarantine stations

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