



International Students and Staff who have to Travel for an Emergency

As mutant strains of the coronavirus have been detected in Japan and the number of people infected continues to rise rapidly, the government has issued an “Avoid All Travel” order, and tightened border controls to restrict entry.

Since moving to BCP Level 2 in the new year, Tohoku University has also cancelled all business trips and is strongly urging students, faculty and staff to refrain from non-essential travel.

International students, faculty and staff who need to temporarily return home for urgent reasons - such as a family emergency - should refer to the website of Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to check if they meet the requirements for re-entry. They should also check with their embassy, as different countries may have different travel restrictions.

Foreigners with resident status will be allowed to leave and re-enter Japan if they have a valid re-entry permit and have followed all the required protocols. These include (but are not restricted to) providing proof of a negative COVID-19 test result and following quarantine guidelines.

Links to Website of Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- [Border enforcement measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Valid Format of “Certificate of Negative Test Result”](#)

Students, faculty and staff must also get permission from the university to travel, so they should consult with their department director - through their academic advisor or another faculty member – before making plans. If the travel is approved, the following information must be submitted to the department:

- purpose of trip
- duration of trip
- current place of residence in Japan
- intended place of residence after returning to Japan
- intended place of 14-day quarantine upon re-entry to Japan

Since the health observation period is 14 days, anyone who travels will need to arrange accommodation to quarantine for 15 nights/ 16 days upon return to Japan. They can quarantine at their own home or at a hotel (at their own expense), **but they cannot use the university’s student or staff dormitories.**

Everyone should also note that if they travel out of Japan, there is a possibility that they may be refused re-entry, especially if they test positive for the coronavirus when departing their home country, or if there are changes to Japan’s border control measures. Please check the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ website regularly for the most updated information and instructions.

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