

## JAPAN

### JAPAN TO WAIVE PRE-DEPARTURE COVID TESTS FOR VACCINATED TRAVELERS



Japan will waive pre-departure COVID-19 tests for vaccinated travelers to the country, but daily caps on entrants will remain in place, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Wednesday, August 24, 2022.

Japan has maintained some of the strictest pandemic border measures among major economies, requiring travelers to present a negative coronavirus test taken within 72 hours of departure.

"From Sept. 7, we will no longer require people who have been vaccinated three times to present proof that they are not infected," said Kishida, who addressed reporters online as he is recuperating from COVID at his official residence. Domestic and foreign business groups have urged a greater relaxation of Japan's border controls, saying the measures risk inflicting further economic pain. Kishida said in May that he wanted to bring Japan's border measures more in line with those of other Group of Seven nations.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-pm-kishida-brief-about-new-measures-handling-covid-kyodo-2022-08-24/>

## SOUTH KOREA

### GOVERNMENT IS "COLLECTING OPINIONS ON WHETHER TO ABOLISH CORONA TEST BEFORE ENTRY"

The government said it was collecting opinions on whether to abolish the Corona-19 test before entering the country. At a briefing on August 24th, Park Hyang, head of the quarantine division at the Central Accident Resolving Headquarters (Central Suwon), said, "We are aware of the problem," and said, "The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is collecting expert opinions on this," he said. Park added, "There are many things to consider when traveling by plane because meals and other things are carried out in an enclosed space."



Currently, quarantine authorities are requiring all inbound travelers to issue a negative confirmation of a gene amplification (PCR) test within 48 hours or a rapid antigen test (RAT) for experts within 24 hours before entering the country. There are voices complaining about inconvenience, mainly in the tourism and travel industry. According to Japanese media reports, the Japanese government is considering a plan to waive the obligation to obtain and submit a negative certificate after performing a PCR test within 72 hours before entering the country.

Source: <https://www.yna.co.kr/view/AKR20220824086400530?input=1195m>