# Re: Revision of the Implementation of Pre-Entry Tuberculosis Screening

March 31, Reiwa 7 (2025)

From:
- Director, Residency Management Division, Immigration Services Agency of Japan
- Director, Foreign Nationals Division, Consular Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Director, Tuberculosis and Infectious Disease Control Division, Health Service Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
(\*Official seals omitted\*)

To: Whom it May Concern

Regarding the notice dated December 26, Reiwa 6 (2024), titled "Implementation of Pre-Entry Tuberculosis Screening" (Document No. 4384 of the Immigration Services Agency, Document No. 1335 of the Foreign Nationals Division, Document No. 1226-1 of the Infectious Disease Division), please be informed that the attached document has been revised as outlined below.

The revised full text is also attached herewith.

## Changes:

### Section 3: Target Individuals

Before the revision:
Among individuals with nationalities from the designated countries, the following are excluded for the time being:
- JET Program participants
- JICA trainees (short-term and long-term)
- JDS scholarship students under the JICA Human Resource Development Scholarship program
- Government-sponsored international students recommended by embassies
- Foreign students in educational training programs
- Nurses and certified care workers under the EPA agreement with the respective country
- Specified skilled workers
- Specified activity under Notification No. 55 (preparation for designated motor vehicle transport services)
- Foreign household support workers (under Article 16-4 of the Special Zone Law)

After the revision:
Identical to the above, with “Specified activity under Notification No. 55” added to the excluded categories.

## Attachment

# Guidelines on the Implementation of Pre-Entry Tuberculosis Screening

Issued:
- December 26, Reiwa 6 (2024)
- Partially revised: February 19, Reiwa 7 (2025)
- Fully revised: March 31, Reiwa 7 (2025)

By:
- Immigration Services Agency
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

## 1. Background

In Japan, the number and rate of tuberculosis (TB) patients (number of new cases per 100,000 population) have been declining each year. However, about 10,000 people still develop TB annually, and about 1,500 die from it.

In recent years, the number of foreign-born TB patients has been increasing. Among the 10,096 newly registered TB patients in 2023, 1,619 were born outside Japan. Notably, cases have been found among people born in countries with high TB prevalence who developed TB while staying in Japan.

Given this situation, Japan has decided to introduce pre-entry tuberculosis screening to confirm that medium- to long-term foreign residents from high-risk countries are not suffering from TB before entering. Those who cannot prove they are free from TB will not be permitted entry.

## 2. Legal Basis

Tuberculosis is classified as a Category II Infectious Disease under Article 6(3)(ii) of the Infectious Disease Prevention and Treatment Law (Act No. 114 of 1998).

Under the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Immigration Act), Article 5(1)(i), TB is a ground for denial of landing. Therefore, a foreigner suffering from TB is generally not allowed to enter Japan as they do not meet the landing conditions stated in Article 7(1)(iv).

Additionally, Article 7-2 of the Immigration Act states that during Certificate of Eligibility screening, it must be confirmed that the person meets the landing requirements in Article 7(1)(ii). Under Article 6-2(5) of the Immigration Control Regulations, if it is clear that a person does not meet the conditions in Article 7(1)(i), (iii), or (iv), the certificate may be denied.

As such, the Immigration Services Agency requires TB-free certification as a supplementary document when evaluating applicants for mid- to long-term stays to confirm compliance with landing requirements.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (via embassies and consulates) will also require TB clearance certificates in certain cases to confirm that applicants do not fall under any grounds for denial of landing.

## 3. Target Individuals

Based on a decision made in the 9th Tuberculosis Committee of the Health Science Council (Feb 26, 2018), the following are subject to screening:

- Nationals of countries with high TB incidence among foreign-born TB patients in Japan:
 Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar, China

- Who plan to stay in Japan mid- to long-term,
 including under “Designated Activities No. 53 and 54” (Digital Nomads and their families)
 (Excludes re-entrants with permission to return)

Exceptions (Exempt from screening):
If the applicant’s current residence is verified to be outside of the target countries through official residence permits or other documents, they are exempt.

Also, the following categories are excluded from screening requirements for the time being:
- JET Program participants
- JICA trainees
- JDS scholars
- Government scholarship students
- Foreign students in training programs
- EPA-based healthcare workers
- Specified Skilled Workers
- Specified Activity No. 55
- Household support workers under the Special Zone Law

## 4. Screening Procedure

Applicants subject to screening must submit a TB clearance certificate during one of the following stages:

1. When applying for a Certificate of Eligibility at a local immigration bureau
2. When applying for a visa at a Japanese embassy/consulate if the certificate was not submitted during Certificate of Eligibility
3. When applying directly for a visa without obtaining a Certificate of Eligibility (e.g., for certain types of residence like Specified Activities)

## 5. TB-Free Certificate

The certificate must be issued by a designated medical institution located in the applicant's home country and approved by the Japanese government.

These institutions can only issue the certificate after verifying, in accordance with the "Guidelines for TB Screening before Entering Japan," that the applicant does not have active tuberculosis.

## 6. Screening Start Dates

| Country | Start of TB Check | Mandatory Certificate Submission |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Philippines & Nepal | March 24, 2025 (planned) | June 23, 2025 (planned) |
| Vietnam | May 26, 2025 (planned) | September 1, 2025 (planned) |
| Indonesia, Myanmar, China | Under preparation – dates to be announced |