

Japan Tax & Legal Inbound Newsletter

Introduction of Japanese “Vaccine Passports” for international travel

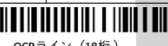



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Background

On 26 July 2021, local municipalities began accepting applications for the issuance of COVID-19 vaccination certificates for international travel, known as “vaccine passports,” for residents that have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccine passport may not be used for domestic purposes but may eventually replace the current vaccination certificate issued as official proof of inoculation against COVID-19.

Overview of current vaccination certificate

The current vaccination certificate for COVID-19 is attached to the vaccination ticket (or “coupon”) and is the official proof of inoculation for domestic purposes. Local governments and companies are offering gift certificates or discounted services to vaccination certificate holders to stimulate the local economy. Although the certificate is recognized as an official document, it cannot be used for international travel. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test (as specified by the destination country) generally is required for traveling abroad.

接種券				予診のみ				新型コロナウイルスワクチン 予防接種済証(臨時) Certificate of Vaccination for COVID-19					
券種	2	ワクチン接種	1	回目	券種	1	予診のみ	1	回目	1回目	接種年月日 2021年 月 日 接種場所 メーカー/Lot No. (シール貼付け)		
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券番号	1234567890				券番号	1234567890				月 日			
氏名	厚生 太郎				氏名	厚生 太郎				接種場所			
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<p>接種を受ける方へ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●シールは剥がさずに、台紙ごと接種場所へお持ちください。 ●右側の予防接種済証は接種が終わった後も大切に保管してください。 										氏名		厚生 太郎	
										住所		〇〇県〇〇市〇〇 999-99	
										生年月日		〇〇年 〇〇月 〇〇日 生	
												〇〇県〇〇市長 日本 一部	

(Image from Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)

Overview of vaccine passports

The Japanese vaccine passports are designed for international travelers who are residents of Japan and have been vaccinated under the Preventive Vaccination Act. The purpose of the vaccine passport is to relax the quarantine measures required by certain destinations. Initially, a paper-based vaccine passport with forgery prevention will be issued by local municipalities and available both in Japanese and English. For the future digital version, it is expected that a QR code will be placed on the vaccine passport. Foreign nationals that are resident in Japan can apply for the vaccine passports by using their foreign passport.

新型コロナウイルス感染症 予防接種証明書 Vaccination Certificate of COVID-19	
姓(旧姓)(別姓)名(別名) [Surname(Former surname)(Alternative surname) Given name(Alternative given name)]	
生年月日 [Date of Birth] (YYYY-MM-DD)	
国籍 [Nationality]	
旅券番号[Passport Number]	
<u>1回目接種[First Dose]</u>	<u>2回目接種[Second Dose]</u>
ワクチンの種類 [Vaccine Type]	ワクチンの種類 [Vaccine Type]
メーカー [Manufacturer]	メーカー [Manufacturer]
製品名 [Product Name]	製品名 [Product Name]
製造番号 [Lot Number]	製造番号 [Lot Number]
接種年月日 [Vaccination Date] (YYYY-MM-DD)	接種年月日 [Vaccination Date] (YYYY-MM-DD)
接種国 [Country of Vaccination]	接種国 [Country of Vaccination]
証明書発行者[Certificate Issuance Authority]	
日本国厚生労働大臣 [Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Government of Japan]	
証明書ID [Certificate Identifier]	証明書発行年月日 [Issue Date] (YYYY-MM-DD)

(Image from Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)

Countries that will accept Japanese vaccine passports

As of 21 July 2021, the Japanese vaccine passports are valid for the following countries (the exemption or relaxation of quarantine measures are subject to the regulatory requirements of each country):

- Italy
- Austria
- Turkey
- Bulgaria
- Poland
- South Korea: The Japanese vaccine passports can be a replacement of the certificate of immunization
- Estonia: PCR test and self-isolation are not required upon entry

The Japanese government still is negotiating with other countries and aims to expand the list to approximately 30 countries in the near future.



Deloitte's View

Currently, foreign nationals who wish to newly enter Japan are required to apply for a visa, except for those who have a valid re-entry permit (in some cases, re-entry permit holders currently are subject to denial of entry if from certain countries). The issuance of visas has been suspended due to the entry ban to Japan and it is anticipated to be continued into the foreseeable future. The vaccine passports are expected to be an effective method to re-open the border in the current COVID-19 environment. Even with a Japanese vaccine passport, a negative COVID-19 certificate issued by the local medical authorities from the country of departure within 72 hours prior to departure is still necessary for those returning to Japan. Upon re-entry to Japan, quarantine procedures must be followed and self-isolation for 14 days is still required. At present, foreign vaccine passports are not accepted for entry into Japan; however, mutual agreements for the use of vaccine passports between Japan and other countries are expected to be negotiated in the future.

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