

June 23, 2021

## FAQ for Confirmation of Certificate of testing for COVID-19

### **1 If a valid specimen and test method are not listed, is it invalid?**

No, the certificate will not be valid if it does not contain a valid specimen or test method.

For example, if the certificate states nasal and throat swab, it is not valid.

For more information on specimens and testing methods that can be accepted as valid certificates, please refer to the Guidance "Requirements for Test Certificates Required for Entry into Japan" (hereinafter referred to as the Guidance).

### **2 If the doctor's name is not listed, will it be invalid?**

Certificates issued by the following countries/regions may be accepted for boarding even if the doctor's name is not listed:

Eswatini, Seychelles, Chile, Germany, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the United States of America, South Africa, Lesotho

### **3 Why are testing methods for specimens specified as nasopharyngeal swab and saliva only?**

The specimens required for the certificate at the time of entry into Japan are those that are recommended for testing asymptomatic persons in Japan. The recommended specimens for testing asymptomatic persons are listed in the Guidelines for Testing for Pathogens of Novel Coronavirus Infections (<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000747986.pdf>), and are currently nasopharyngeal swabs and saliva.

### **4 What happens if a flight is cancelled or delayed significantly on the day of departure, and the passenger has to leave the country after 72 hours?**

If the expected arrival time of changed flight is within additional 24 hours after 72 hours from the time you collected the specimen, you do not need to obtain another certificate. We ask for your understanding and cooperation in obtaining the test certificate, as it is necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

### **5 Do children also need to obtain a certificate?**

We request that children also obtain a certificate.

However, in consideration of the fact that many countries do not test preschool children as part of their system, the quarantine official will ask the reason why the child (generally under the age of 6) could not obtain the certificates. If the caregivers including parents who accompany with the child have a negative test certificate, the child does not need to have a certificate.

### **6 If the certificate is not in the format prescribed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, will it be invalid?**

In order to avoid confusion in such places as airport check-in counters, please use the format prescribed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Please also note that if you have no choice but to use an arbitrary format other than the prescribed format due to circumstances in your country or region, it may take time for verification at the time of boarding procedures and landing in Japan. Moreover, if such format turned out to be incomplete, you may be denied boarding or entry into Japan.

If there are unavoidable circumstances such as inability to obtain a test certificate in the format prescribed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare at medical or testing institutions at the place of departure, please consult with the diplomatic or consular missions of Japan at the place of departure well in advance.

Only test certificates that contain valid specimens and test methods will be considered valid. As such,

-Please check carefully designated criteria of the specimens and test methods so that they are regarded as valid.

-Please make sure that the information on the certificate is complete.

-In case you use an arbitrary format, please highlight the required information in the format, such as the specimen, and the test method, in order to facilitate verification procedures of the test certificate.

### **7 If an arbitrary certificate is not written in English or Japanese, is it invalid?**

If the certificate is written in languages other than English or Japanese, it will be considered invalid, because the contents of the certificate cannot be determined. However, if a translation

of the certificate to English or Japanese from the languages other than those is attached and the contents of the inspection certificate can be determined, the certificate is considered valid.

If a false translation is attached in order to make it appear as if it were a valid certificate, penalties may be applied in accordance with the Japanese Quarantine Law.