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SITUATION

## Travel restrictions between Japan and Switzerland

Summary of the latest developments regarding COVID travel restriction measures

Swiss rules to enter the country are changing for people coming from Japan. The restrictions are still in force, making it extremely difficult for Swiss nationals to enter Japan.

We cover the latest development for Japan to Switzerland in the first section and Switzerland to Japan in the second section.

Please note that it is possible at all times for Japanese and Swiss nationals to enter their respective countries. Requirements will apply such as having a COVID certificate or a negative PCR test, filling in forms and/or going into quarantine.

## 1. Japan to Switzerland

It is more difficult for Japanese citizens to travel to Switzerland since September 27.

Switzerland is implementing a binding decision for all countries in the Schengen area.

*Non-vaccinated people*

Non-vaccinated travelers are no longer authorized to enter the Schengen area when coming from Japan (or if they have been in Japan during the last two weeks e.g. in transit). A few exceptions exist, however, for family or business purposes. But tourism is currently not possi-



Federal Councilor Berset explaining the new measures on Sept 24th.

ble.

The Federal Office of Public Health has created a useful [Travelcheck page](#) that will give you the current situation for every specific case and what documents and procedures are required. This page works for every country.

*Vaccinated people*

For vaccinated people (over 60% of the Japanese population), it is still possible to enter Switzerland (and other countries in the Schengen area). The following are required:

- The Swiss COVID certificate (or temporary proof of vaccination also works)
- Submission of the [online form](#) all inbound travelers now have to submit.

If you already have an EU certificate issued by any of the 27 EU states, you don't need the Swiss certificate as both are fully compatible and mutually recognized. For people who have been vaccinated abroad, it is possible to get the Swiss COVID certificate (which will work for the EU too).

*How to get the Swiss certificate when vaccinated abroad?*

The Swiss government is now willing to centralize the request at Federal level. "A special page should be created by October 11," said Federal Councilor Berset on September 24th during the press conference on COVID.

Until October 24th, the use of a human-readable vaccination certificate is possible in order to give enough time to get the proper COVID certificate with the QR code. As the certificate must be readable in Switzerland, it must be in a local language or English. If not, a certified translation must be provided.

This exception may not be known by everyone. To avoid any trouble we recommend getting the certificate as soon as possible.

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# Travel restrictions between Japan and Switzerland

(continued from page 1)

In the meantime, it is better to keep a copy of [the September 24th press release on](#) the coronavirus on which this exception is written.

### *Still possible to get the certificate from some cantons*

Before the decision to centralize the request and delivery of the certificate to people that have been vaccinated abroad, cantons were in charge of it. Most of them continue to provide it until the federal form is ready.

The list of all cantonal authorities is available on this [page](#).

Cantons will require proof of vaccination and evidence of your stay in Switzerland, such as a hotel or flight booking.

Currently, only the vaccines authorized by the European Medical Agency (EMA) are recognized. This list currently includes the vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson. In very specific cases, the vaccines on the WHO emergency list can be recognized, including Sinovac and Sinopharm.

## 2. Switzerland to Japan

Japanese nationals traveling back to Japan from Switzerland will need to have a negative PCR test and to go through 14 days of quarantine. The quarantine will be reduced to 10 days for fully vaccinated people for some countries but Switzerland is not on the latest list.

Quarantine is strictly controlled. The installation of a specific app is mandatory. Random controls can

take place to check that you are at the place you chose for your quarantine.

### *Inbound restrictions for Swiss nationals*

Swiss nationals are currently not authorized to visit Japan. There is a very small number of exceptions but they do not include tourism or business purposes.

### *No certificate yet*

Currently Japan does not have a digital certificate. The government is discussing this possibility. The Nikkei [newspaper reported](#) in early September that such a certificate with a QR code would be issued in December. It would mostly have been used for travel purposes.

Until now, Japan has not been differentiating between vaccinated

and non-vaccinated people. The country maintains a strict inbound restriction policy. However, the situation could change in the near future as the vaccination rate is growing fast with 10 million doses administered every week since June. Currently over 60% of the population is vaccinated.

### *End of the state of emergency*

Japan went through a difficult summer regarding COVID infections, forcing authorities to call a state of emergency. Social activities, restaurants and bars were restricted.

Thanks to the improving situation, the state of emergency will end on September 30 in the whole country for the first time since six months.

Source: [Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (MOFA)

## New rules on entering Switzerland

From 20 September

### Vaccinated or recovered



Complete entry form



Present COVID certificate

### Not vaccinated and not recovered



Complete entry form



Present negative test result



Further test 4-7 days after entry

### No test or entry form required for:

- Cross-border commuters
- Professional drivers
- People transiting without stopping
- People entering from border regions

### No test required for:

- Children under the age of 16
- People exempted from testing

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Federal Council

Unfortunately, for Japanese travelers the negative tests no longer suffice

## Japanese economy recovers well, but private consumption is still affected

The second preliminary figures regarding Japan's second quarter are better than initially announced. Instead of 0.3%, the GDP grew by 0.5% with the corrected figures. Annualized, the growth would be 1.9%.

The main difference comes from public demand, which was significantly higher than initially calculated (0.7% instead of 0.1%). Pri-

ivate consumption and foreign trade remained stable at a high level between the publications (more details in our [August edition](#)).

Source: [Cabinet Office of Japan](#)

In an online speech, Governor Kuroda of the Bank of Japan (central bank) welcomed the recovery and resilience of the Japanese economy, but also reminded us that economic

activity is still about 3% lower than the pre-crisis level.

Nonetheless, and despite challenges such as COVID resurgences and a disturbed supply chain, the economy has proven to be robust. The downward pressure affecting private consumption will gradually end.

Source: [Bank of Japan](#)

分析

ANALYSIS

## KISHIDA Fumio to become Japan's new Prime Minister

On September 29th, Mr. Fumio Kishida won the presidential election of the Liberal Democratic Party (right-wing/conservative). In Japan, there is no direct election of the prime minister. The leader of the largest party will form a government and head it. This system has similarities with the German, British and Italian ones.

On October 3rd, an extraordinary session of the Diet will take place to formally appoint Mr. Kishida as new Prime Minister. As the LDP has a majority in the lower house, he is certain to become the 100th Prime Minister (PM) of Japan. The decision of current PM Suga not to continue as head of the party opened a one-month campaign for his succession.

Four candidates formally applied (two women and two men). Mr. Kishida was elected in the second round with 257 voices against 170 for his challenger Mr. Kono.

Mr. Kono had more support coming from the non-parliamentarian members of the party that can vote to some extent, but Mr. Kishida was preferred by the sitting members of the party. Mr. Kishida is considered to be a man of consensus and able to guarantee continuity and stability.

Kishida's government will succeed Suga's with several challenges ahead. The new government will have to continue dealing with the pandemic and its economic consequences. Concerned about economic inequality, he is willing to have an economic recovery plan that benefits everyone. He is also aware of the importance of balancing the national budget and will continue the efforts of the past administration in this regard. Foreign policy will be a delicate point as the situation is tense in the region. The five years of experience as minister of foreign affairs will certainly be

helpful in this regard.

The new PM will also have to lead the party to the coming general elections in November. Indeed, the LDP wants to secure its majority.

Readers of the [NZZ](#) and [LeTemps](#) can read about it in their respective languages. Japanese media are extensively covering the news. For news in English we recommend [Nikkei Asia](#) or [JapanTimes](#).



Fumio Kishida during his last visit in Europe in 2017 as foreign minister.

Picture from German foreign ministry found on Wikipedia

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SITUATION

## 革新

INNOVATION

## Japanese innovative companies showcasing at TechCrunch Disrupt 2021

For the 2021 edition of Disrupt (one of the world largest start-up event), JETRO hosted 19 innovative Japanese startups between September 21-23. On September 23rd, 10 of these startups also participated in a special pitch event. This year's exhibitors come from various sectors such as wellness, entertainment, fitness, healthtech, and sustainability. Japan is known for having advanced technology and unique methods of problem solving, and these 19 companies exemplify that. This time we introduce the first five companies with a short description. Check their website for more information.

**AC Biode**

[AC Biode](#) is developing bio toilets - no water, no infrastructure, using normal woodchips/sawdust. Use

cases include islands, remote areas, ships, campgrounds, during natural disasters, and more.

**Advanced Original Technologies Co., Ltd.**

[AOI](#) uses proprietary Memorism Processors which are accelerator processors that revolutionize information processing. These processors will dramatically evolve information processing.

**AMATELUS Co., Ltd.**

[SwipeVideo](#) is a proprietary software that allows you to live-stream or archive stream multi-angle video over any web browser. With SwipeVideo you give control over the direction of the content to the viewer, increasing engagement by providing a totally new video viewing experience.

**Cardio Flow Design Inc.**

[Cardio Flow Design](#) develops blood flow analysis techniques. The aim of analysis is to help diagnosis, treatment, and surgery planning for cardiovascular disease. Their technologies are 4D Flow MRI software, computational fluid dynamics, and echocardiography analysis software.

**Engineerforce Inc.**

[Engineerforce](#) provides a system specifically designed for IT engineers to make estimating man-hours easier and more accurate. All data is stored, so you don't have to search through spreadsheets. The entire process is online, from creating quotations to receiving orders and processing inspections.

## Agenda

## 日程

AGENDA

## ✓ "Automne de la culture japonaise"

Once more, the Japanese consulate in Geneva collaborates with specialists and local associations to promote the Japanese culture in the western area of the country. Several conferences, exhibitions, shows, tasting events, and initiation to traditional handcraft will take place from late-September to mid-December.

The [full program](#) is available on the website of the Consulate.

JETRO is a government-related organization that works to promote mutual trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world. Originally established in 1958 to promote Japanese exports abroad, JETRO's core focus in the 21st century has shifted toward promoting foreign direct investment into Japan and helping small to medium size Japanese firms maximize their global export potential.

The JETRO Switzerland Newsletter can also be viewed and/or downloaded online: <http://www.jetro.go.jp/switzerland/newsletter>

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