



**AMBASSADOR**

**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
TOKYO**

3 April 2020

To Australian English Teachers and Advisors in Japan

The spread of COVID-19 has caused untold suffering and continues to greatly impact our daily lives. The Australian Government is working with the States and Territories to implement measures to prevent the spread of the virus and protect Australian communities.

At the Australian Embassy in Tokyo and the Australian Consulate-General in Osaka, our key priority is securing the welfare of Australian citizens in Japan. As English teachers and advisors, your roles inevitably require close contact with members of the community. Several Australians have been in touch with concerns about the lack of protection measures in workplaces.

We share your concern and have raised this issue with relevant bodies. While we are unable to directly intervene in individual employment arrangements, we can provide information from the Australian Government on how to protect yourselves and ensure your welfare during this difficult time.

Most importantly, if you are considering returning to Australia, it is imperative that you act immediately. The number of flights between Japan and Australia has drastically reduced in the past weeks, and currently ANA operates the only flight to Australia. This service to Sydney will soon be reduced to three times per week and with the strict travel restrictions implemented by both the Australian and Japanese Government, this flight could be suspended at any time at short notice. At this stage it is uncertain if there will be any further flights to Australia after 24 April 2020, and flights could end sooner than this.

If you decide to remain in Japan, you will need to prepare to stay for an extended period of time. In addition to following the instructions of the Japanese Government and local government authorities, it will be important that you:

- Ensure you have ongoing accommodation and available funds for an extended period;
- Confirm your health insurance is sufficient to cover all eventualities;
- Stay in touch with your friends and family in Australia; and
- Follow the Australian Embassy's social media accounts and subscribe to Smartraveller.

If you do not have secure arrangements in place, all Australians are advised to return to Australia now while commercial options are still available.



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The Australian Government has issued useful guidance on its website on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. The Japanese National Tourism Organization also has regularly-updated information in English about where to get assistance in Japan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Court', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Court AC  
Australian Ambassador to Japan

Relevant links:

DFAT's Consular Services Charter:

<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/consular-services/consular-services-charter>

DFAT's Travel Advice for Japan:

<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/asia/japan>

The Australian Department of Health's website:

<https://www.health.gov.au/>

The Japanese National Tourism Organization's COVID-19 website:

<https://www.japan.travel/en/coronavirus/>