

Chinese travelers angry at Japan's Covid restrictions

Vocabulary Match

- to ease • patriotic • discriminatory • to retaliate • unilateral •
 • nationalistic • strike back • to relax • prejudiced • independent

Article

In response to China easing travel restrictions on Jan. 8th, Japan ramped up its COVID-19 border controls for those arriving from mainland China, requiring visitors to submit certificates of negative test results for the coronavirus within 72 hours of departure.

South African Mansoor Mohamed, who lives in China, said "It is relatively easy and cheap to do a Covid test in China, so it will not affect my travel planning," he said.

"However, I know that many patriotic Chinese colleagues and friends will avoid those countries for now because the practice of only testing passengers arriving from China is discriminatory," he said.

China retaliated on Jan. 11th, suspending visas for visitors from Japan.

Japan's Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida, expressed disappointment at the decision. "It is extremely regrettable that China has unilaterally implemented restrictions that seem to have nothing to do with countermeasures against the novel coronavirus," Kishida told reporters while visiting Britain.

Quiz

1. Do Chinese visitors to Japan need to submit a negative PCR test result?
2. What does Mansoor Mohamed think patriotic Chinese tourists will do?

Conversation

Husband: Brrrr.... I'm freezing! Why's it so cold all of a sudden?... a... a... A-choo!!!

Wife: Wait... are you sick? Oh my god, don't move! ... Here, take your temperature.

Husband: 38.3 degrees. Oh no, do you think it's Covid? I was so careful, too. Honey? Where are you?
 ... *phone rings* ...

Wife: I'm upstairs. Open all the windows, go get a PCR test and book into a hotel. I'll see you next week. Take care!

Discussion

1. What do you think about the possibility of Chinese tourists returning to Japan?
2. How can relations between China and Japan be improved?
3. How has public opinion of Covid changed in the last three years?