

Requests to the residents (April 21, 2021)

Wakayama Prefectural Government recently requested the residents of the Kihoku area to refrain from non-essential and non-urgent outings until April 25. However, the number of new cases has been increasing not only in the Kihoku area but also in other areas, and the occupancy rate of hospital beds for COVID-19 patients has risen to a critical level. Therefore, all the residents of the prefecture are requested to refrain from non-essential and non-urgent outings until May 9.

Accordingly, Wakayama Prefectural Government has revised the requests to the residents as below. Please kindly pay attention to the following points to behave carefully.

- Refraining from eating in a group or going to restaurants/bars where staff entertain customers in areas where infections are particularly widespread
- Refraining from dining and staying together in a group late into the night
- ◇ ◇
- **Refraining from participating in large-scale events such as karaoke or dance parties**
- Self-restraint by medical and welfare facilities' staff in having meals with non-family members
- ◇ ◇
- Consulting with a clinic as soon as symptoms are found
- Checking temperature at businesses
- Particular attention to be paid by hospitals and welfare facility services
- ◇ ◇
- Guidelines to prevent the spread of infections for each business
- Compulsory wearing of a mask at workplaces
- **Active use of teleworking**
- ◇ ◇
- Further attention to be paid by close contacts even when they tested negative
- Early suspicion of COVID-19 by medical institutions



[Particular attention should be paid to the following points at the moment] -----

- Refraining from non-essential and non-urgent outings (until May 9, 2021)

- Refraining from karaoke with non-family members

- Refraining from non-essential and non-urgent visit to Osaka, Hyogo, Kyoto, Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Aichi, Miyagi and Okinawa Prefectures

*Period: Until the Novel Coronavirus Headquarters of the national government delist these prefectures from “areas where pre-emergency measures should be taken”

- Postponement or cancellation of events where thorough preventive measures cannot be taken

Postponement or cancellation of events or sales, etc. at large-scale commercial facilities and retail stores

- Restrictions on club activities at schools

Postponement or cancellation of competitions/tournaments in principle except for those related to qualification for the national or regional events

Restrictions on training or practice activities according to preventive measures

<Requests to the residents>

Refraining from eating in a group or going to restaurants/bars where staff entertain customers in areas where infections are particularly widespread

- When you visit other areas where infections are particularly widespread, please implement basic preventive measures (wearing of a mask, washing hands, etc.) and refrain from eating in a group or going to restaurants/bars where staff entertain customers.

Refraining from dining and staying together in a group late into the night

- There were cases of infection among those who had dined together with their friends for a long time late into the night and stayed overnight at their friends' home. Please refrain from such activities.

Refraining from participating in large-scale events such as karaoke or dance parties

- There were some cluster cases suspected to be caused by events such as karaoke. Therefore, please refrain from participating in those events that involve long-lasting close-contact settings with others without wearing a mask.

Self-restraint by medical and welfare facilities' staff in having meals with non-family members

- There have been many cases of transmissions on group-meal occasions. In particular, those working at medical and welfare facilities need to pay careful attention as they have frequent contact with those with underlying diseases and the elderly who tend to develop severe illness by the infection. In order not to bring the virus into the facilities, related staff are requested to refrain from having meals with someone other than their family members as the risk of infection increases when such an occasion lasts long or involves drinking of alcohol.

Consulting with a clinic as soon as symptoms are found

- There have been many cases where those with symptoms such as fever or weariness went to work and spread infections to people around them. As requested repeatedly, please do not neglect any mild symptoms and consult with your family doctor or nearby medical institution by phone. If you do not have a family doctor and are not sure where to consult, please contact "COVID-19 Call Center" (TEL: 073-441-2170 / FAX: 073-431-1800).

Checking temperature at businesses

- Business operators should check their employees' temperature. If their employees have any symptoms, please stop them from working and take appropriate responses such as encouraging them to go to a clinic, etc.

Particular attention to be paid by hospitals and welfare facility services

- Staff of hospitals and welfare facilities should pay particular attention not to bring infections in their facilities. All staff, including home-visit/day care providers and care managers, should thoroughly implement preventive measures, and self-monitor the health conditions more strictly, such as checking temperature at each facility.

Guidelines to prevent the spread of infections for each business

- Each business operator has been requested to comply with the guidelines to prevent the spread of infections made by the prefectural government and relevant business sectors. While many of the business operators have been following the guidelines, all operators should thoroughly comply with their guidelines and put a poster to prevent the spread of infections.

Compulsory wearing of a mask at workplaces

- A cluster of infections occurred at a workplace and the suspected cause of infections is a conversation without a mask during work. At workplaces, many people share the same space for a long time. Therefore, not only during meetings but also at all times, please thoroughly implement preventive measures such as wearing a mask, disinfecting hands and fingers, sanitizing shared surfaces including door knobs and handles, frequent ventilation, etc.

Active use of teleworking

- Those who are commuting to Osaka are requested to work from home (teleworking).
- In addition, business operators in the prefecture are requested to actively utilize teleworking.

Further attention to be paid by close contacts even when they tested negative

- In Wakayama Prefecture, close contacts of those infected are promptly identified and offered PCR tests. Therefore, there have been some cases where the close contacts tested positive in later tests during the two-week quarantine period even when they had tested negative in the first test. The close contacts are requested to stay at home in self-isolation during their quarantine period and avoid contact with other people.

Early suspicion of COVID-19 by medical institutions

- Medical institutions, clinics in particular, are requested to continuously work on early detection of COVID-19 patients by suspecting infection at an earlier stage and performing tests promptly even for those with mild symptoms such as coughing and slight fever.

Refraining from non-essential and non-urgent outings

- All the residents of Wakayama Prefecture are requested to refrain from non-essential and non-urgent outings until May 9, 2021. When you need to go out, please implement basic preventive measures thoroughly.

Refraining from karaoke with non-family members

- There have been some cases where many people were infected after they enjoyed karaoke in groups. In response to these cases, please refrain from singing karaoke with someone other than your family members, such as your friends.

Refraining from non-essential and non-urgent visit to Osaka, Hyogo, Kyoto, Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Aichi, Miyagi and Okinawa Prefectures

- Please refrain from non-essential and non-urgent visit to these prefectures while the pre-emergency measures are implemented. When you need to go to these prefectures, please implement basic preventive measures thoroughly.

Postponement or cancellation of events where thorough preventive measures cannot be taken, as well as events or sales, etc. at large-scale commercial facilities and retail stores

- Please postpone or cancel events where thorough preventive measures cannot be taken. Also, please postpone or cancel events or sales, etc. at large-scale commercial facilities and retail stores.

Restrictions on club activities at schools: Postponement or cancellation of competitions/tournaments in principle except for those related to qualification for the national or regional events / Restrictions on training or practice activities according to preventive measures

- Regarding club activities at schools, competitions/tournaments other than those related to qualification for the national or regional events should be postponed or cancelled in principle. For training or practice activities, restrictions will be placed according to preventive measures to be taken.