

Press release: April 23, 2020

Requests for the residents in response to a state of emergency (Ver. 4)

<Closure of facilities>

Wakayama Prefectural Government has asked the residents and business operators in the prefecture for their cooperation in refraining from “going out for non-essential and non-urgent reasons”, “visiting restaurants with waiting staff, etc.” and “accepting visitors from other prefectures”. However, there have been many cases of infections brought from outside the prefecture. With the understanding that it is necessary to stop exchanges with other prefectures for the prevention of the spread of infections, the prefectural government decided to enforce legal requests for closure of facilities.

Therefore, in addition to the requests already issued, you are requested for further cooperation as follows.

**1. Request for continuing self-restraint in going out for non-essential and non-urgent reasons**

(1) Please avoid visiting any places where the "3Cs" (closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings) overlap.

In particular, it is requested that you strictly refrain from visiting restaurants with waiting staff, etc. in night entertainment districts.

(2) If you show any symptoms such as coughing or fever, never manage to go out even to commute to work.

(3) When you go out due to reasons necessary for maintaining daily life such as shopping for daily necessities, please try to reduce people-to-people contact as much as possible by limiting the number of accompanying persons, etc.

(4) In general, before going out, please carefully consider its necessity. Unless the outing is inevitable on that day, please postpone it for now.

(5) Please refrain from non-essential and non-urgent travels to/from other prefectures during the state of emergency.

(6) If you are commuting to other prefectures, please reduce the frequency of commuting as much as possible by utilizing a teleworking system, etc.

If you have any problems such as difficulties in gaining understanding of the use of teleworking or staggered work hours at your workplace, please consult with the following division.

<<Commerce, Industry, Tourism and Labour General Affairs Division of Wakayama Prefectural Government>>

TEL: 073-441-2725, 9:00 - 17:45 on weekdays

(7) Even if you are visiting hospitals, please try to avoid visiting other prefectures as much as possible by consulting with the hospitals to reduce the frequency of direct doctor visits.

## **2. Legal requests for a self-restraint in business operation, etc.**

(1) Facilities in the categories below are requested to close under Article 24, paragraph 9 of the Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response (hereinafter called “the Act”) from April 25 (Sat), 2020 during the state of emergency.

Categories of facilities requested to close:

Entertainment facilities, theaters, meeting/exhibition facilities, sports/amusement facilities, education facilities, universities/colleges, tutoring schools, etc., museums, etc., hotels and inns (meeting spaces only), commercial facilities

For specific information on applicable facilities, please refer to the website of Wakayama Prefectural Government.

(2) Facilities which do not fall into the categories listed in (1) but are expected to be visited by many tourists from other prefectures are designated as “Facilities strongly requested to refrain from accepting visitors from other prefectures”.

These facilities are not requested to close under the Act, but strongly requested to refrain from accepting visitors from other prefectures. When these visitors try to make reservations, the facilities should take firm action such as asking them to refrain from travelling.

(3) If the above requests are not fulfilled, immediate implementation of stronger legal measures will be considered.

## **3. Thorough self-restraint in accepting visitors from other prefectures**

(1) Tourism and leisure facilities not defined in 2 (2) should also make efforts such as asking visitors from other prefectures to refrain from travelling when they try to make reservations.

(2) In any other cases, all residents should refrain from accepting visitors from other prefectures in their workplace by adjusting their work to make sure that there is no visitor from other prefectures.

## **4. Self-restraint in general traveling to/from other prefectures**

(1) Please refrain from non-essential and non-urgent travels to/from other prefectures during the state of emergency.

(2) If you are commuting to other prefectures, please utilize a teleworking system as much as possible.

If you have any problems such as difficulties in gaining understanding of the use of teleworking or staggered work hours at your workplace, please consult with the following division.

<<Commerce, Industry, Tourism and Labour General Affairs Division of Wakayama Prefectural Government>>

TEL: 073-441-2725, 9:00 - 17:45 on weekdays

(3) Even if you are visiting hospitals, please try to avoid visiting other prefectures as much as possible by consulting with the hospitals to reduce the frequency of direct doctor visits.

(4) Those who returned to their hometown in Wakayama Prefecture or moved into the prefecture due to job transfer from other prefectures are requested to stay at home in self-isolation for two weeks and contact “COVID-19 Call Center”.

→ COVID-19 Call Center (24 hours)

TEL: 073-441-2170 FAX: 073-431-1800

(5) If you know anyone who returned or transferred from other prefectures, please let them know about our requests and recommend them to contact the call center. If it is difficult for you to do so, you can contact the call center directly to share information about them.

#### **5. Self-restraint in visiting hometown during the Golden Week holiday period**

(1) Please strictly refrain from coming to visit your hometown in Wakayama Prefecture during the Golden Week holiday period.

(2) Please strictly refrain from going to visit your hometown in other prefectures during the Golden Week holiday period.

(3) Those who returned to Wakayama Prefecture either to visit their hometown or to be back at their current residence after visiting their hometown in other prefectures due to inevitable reasons are requested to stay at home in self-isolation for two weeks and contact “COVID-19 Call Center”.

(4) If you know anyone who returned from other prefectures, please let them know about our requests and recommend them to contact the call center. If it is difficult for you to do so, you can contact the call center directly to share information about them.

#### **6. Requests for group living facilities**

(1) All staff (including cooking staff) should wear a mask, wash and disinfect hands and fingers thoroughly. They should check their own temperature and self-monitor the health condition. If there is any abnormality, they should stop working.

(2) Please serve meals in individual plates, not in a buffet-style.

(3) Please consult with a contract doctor, etc. if one of residents or users of the facility

has a fever or respiratory symptoms. If there are two or more with such symptoms within a week, report it to the health center immediately.

(4) Please do not allow visitors to enter the facility.

#### **7. School closures**

(1) Prefectural schools will be closed until May 6.

(2) Municipal schools (kindergartens excluding day-care facilities, elementary schools, junior/senior high schools, and special support schools) have been requested to be closed for the same period.

#### **8. Thorough implementation of measures to rescue businesses, etc.**

To those suffering from damages brought by countermeasures against COVID-19, the prefectural government offers support and relief measures with its utmost efforts.