

Press release: May 15, 2020

Requests to the residents in response to the lifting of the state of emergency (Ver. 7)

On May 14, the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters of the national government decided to delist 39 prefectures including Wakayama Prefecture from areas where emergency measures should be taken.

In order to prevent the spread of infections, all-out efforts have been made in Wakayama Prefecture including those made by administrative and medical sectors as well as self-restraint in daily activities and business operations, etc. by the residents. In particular, your cooperation in refraining from conducting daily activities and business operations are very much appreciated. Thanks to various efforts, the number of new infection cases in the prefecture is getting close to zero. It is in recognition of those efforts that the state of emergency is lifted.

In response to the lifting, Wakayama Prefectural Government has reviewed our requests for self-restraint in going out and business operation from the three viewpoints; safe daily life and safe outing, consideration to the situations in other prefectures, phased lifting of requests. Not only shifting the requests for self-restraint in going out for non-essential and non-urgent purposes to the requests for securing safe daily lives and safe outings, but also phased reviewing of the requests are to be made in consideration to the situations in neighboring prefectures which are designated as special alert prefectures such as Osaka.

As it is still necessary to continue efforts to prevent the spread of infections, your kind understanding and cooperation in following the below requests would be greatly appreciated.

1. Daily lives of the residents

(1) Safe daily life and safe outing

- Please try to implement basic preventive measures such as social distancing, wearing a mask, washing hands, etc.
- When you go out, please avoid places with high risk of infections and go to safe places.
- Please refrain from travelling to other prefectures for leisure.
- Please consider practicing “New Lifestyle” suggested by the national government.

(2) No close-contact settings, no overlapping of the 3Cs

- Please avoid close-contact settings. In particular, never make the 3Cs (closed spaces, crowded places and close-contact settings) overlap.

(3) When in bad physical conditions such as fever, etc.

- If you show symptoms such as coughing or fever, never manage to go out even to commute to work or school.

(4) Utilization of teleworking, staggered work hours, online classes, etc.

- Please utilize teleworking, staggered work hours, online classes, etc. if these systems are available.

2. To business operators

(1) Partial lifting of the requests for self-restraint in business operation

- The requests for self-restraint in business operation are to be partially lifted on May 16. The list of facilities applicable to the lifting is available on the prefectural website.*

- Those facilities which are not subject to the lifting* are requested to cooperate in self-restraint in business operation until May 31.

* Please refer to the separately provided “List of facilities requested to close, etc.”.

(2) Thorough implementation of measures to prevent the spread of infections based on the guideline, etc. across all business sectors

- Please thoroughly implement measures to prevent the spread of infections in consideration to the guidelines made by the prefectural government and relevant organization across all business sectors.

(3) Response to your employee who is in bad physical conditions such as fever, etc.

- If your employees have symptoms such as coughing or fever, please let them take a leave.

(4) Utilization of teleworking, staggered work hours, etc.

- Please actively promote the use of systems for teleworking, staggered work hours, online classes, etc. if available. If not, please implement these systems promptly.

(5) Thorough implementation of preventive measures for small-scale events

- When you hold a small-scale event, please thoroughly implement measures to prevent infections.

- Please minimize opportunities of exchanges among participants before/after the event itself as there are risks infections.

3. Group living facilities

(1) Preventive measures and monitoring of health conditions for staff

- Staff should implement basic preventive measures such as wearing a mask, disinfecting hands and fingers, etc. They should check their own temperature and self-monitor the health condition. When there is any abnormality even if only slightly, they should stop working.

(2) Individual serving of meals

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

(3) Contact and consultation with your contract doctor, etc.

- If anyone in the facility has symptoms such as fever, please immediately contact your contract doctor or the health center for consultation.

(4) No entering of visitors to the facility for meeting

- In principle, please refrain from meeting with visitors. If the meeting is inevitable, please make sure that the visitors will not enter the facility.

4. How to interact with other prefectures

(1) No outing to other prefectures, etc. for leisure

- Please refrain from travelling to other prefectures for leisure. [Repeated]

- Those who returned to their hometown in Wakayama Prefecture or moved into the

prefecture 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

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

(2) Teleworking and online classes to avoid commuting to other prefectures, etc.

- If you are commuting to work in 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

- If you are commuting to school in other prefectures, please utilize online classes, etc..

(3) Self-restraint in accepting visitors from other prefectures, etc.

- Both the residents and business operators are requested to continue self-restraint in accepting visitors from other prefectures.

- Facilities which are expected to be visited by many people* should particularly follow this request.

* Please refer to the separately provided “List of facilities strongly requested to refrain from accepting visitors from other prefectures”.

(4) Review of requests for self-restraint in business operation

- Measures taken in neighboring prefectures have been taken into consideration to the lifting and continuing of the requests for self-restraint in business operation.*

* Please refer to the separately provided “List of facilities requested to close, etc.”.

5. Schools

(1) Closure of schools

- Prefectural schools will remain closed until May 31.

(2) Designation of days to temporarily open schools

-After May 18, each school will designate specific days to temporarily open for their students, monitor students’ health conditions and give guidance on homework,.

(3) Requests for municipalities, etc.

- Kindergartens excluding day-care facilities, elementary schools, junior/senior high schools, and schools for Special Needs Education will be requested to do the same.

6. Future responses in consideration to the situations of the spread of infections in neighboring prefectures and Wakayama Prefecture

- If the situations of the spread of infections within the prefecture or in neighboring prefectures exceed the criteria*, measures including re-raising of the level of requests for self-restraint will be considered in order to secure the safety of the residents.

* Please refer to the separately provided “Criteria to raise the level of requests for self-restraint in Wakayama prefecture”.