Press release: May 22, 2020

Requests to the residents in response to the lifting of the state of emergency in neighboring prefectures (Ver. 8)

On May 21, the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters of the national government decided to delist Kyoto, Osaka and Hyogo prefectures 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. Thanks to various efforts, the number of new infection cases in the prefecture has been zero since May 13.

Reflecting such situations, "Requests to the residents in response to the lifting of the state of emergency (Ver. 7)" issued in consideration to three viewpoints (safe daily life and safe outing, consideration to the situations in other prefectures, phased lifting of requests) on May 15 was reviewed as below.

In addition to the much-appreciated efforts you have already made, you are continuously requested to offer understanding and cooperation to the measures to prevent the spread of infections.

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 such as restaurants/bars where staff entertain customers 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, please go to a clinic and 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) Further partial lifting of the requests for self-restraint in business operation

- The requests for self-restraint in business operation are to be partially lifted further on May 23. Those facilities which are subject to the lifting* should resume their business operation by paying attention to the prevention of the spread of infections through strictly following the guidelines.
- In consideration to the requests for closure issued in neighboring prefectures as well as to the inflow of visitors from other prefectures, the facilities below are requested to cooperate in continued self-restraint in business operation until May 31.

[cabarets, night clubs, dance halls, hostess bars, bars, pubs, sex-related businesses, call-girl businesses, and music clubs*]

* 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 organizations 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 utilize teleworking or staggered work hours if these systems are available. If not, please consider implementing these systems.

(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 a fever or respiratory symptoms, please consult with your contract doctor, etc. If there are two or more with such symptoms within a week, please report it to the health center.

(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 teleworking or staggered work hours if these systems are available.
- 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 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

- Since May 18, each school has been temporarily opened on designated days to monitor students' health conditions and give guidance on homework, etc.

(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".