

Press release: May 29, 2020

Requests to the residents in response to the declaration of the lifting of the state of emergency (Ver. 9)

On May 25, the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters of the national government declared to lift the state of emergency across the entire country. It also announced the policy of raising the level of socioeconomic activities in a phased manner by easing the requests for self-restraint in going out and suspension of the use of facilities, etc. during a certain transition period.

Building upon the three viewpoints (safe daily life and safe outing, consideration to the situations in other prefectures, phased lifting of requests) which have been our guiding principles, “Requests to the residents in response to the lifting of the state of emergency (Ver. 8)” was reviewed as below.

In Wakayama Prefecture, thanks to the all-out efforts which have been made including those made by administrative and medical sectors as well as self-restraint in daily activities and business operations, etc. by the residents, the new case of infection has not been confirmed even after the lifting of the state of emergency in the prefecture.

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 during the transition period.

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.
- The request to refrain from travelling to other prefectures for leisure is to be lifted on June 1. However, please keep a cautious attitude to travelling to the five prefectures of Hokkaido, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo and Kanagawa (hereinafter referred to as the five prefectures) for leisure until June 18.
- 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) Promotion of new working style

- Please adopt new working style by utilizing teleworking, staggered work hours, etc.

2. To business operators

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

- The requests for self-restraint in business operation as in the “List of facilities requested to close, etc.” and “List of facilities strongly requested to refrain from accepting visitors from other prefectures” are to be completely lifted on June 1. *

* Please refer to the separately provided “List of facilities subject to the lifting of requests for closure, 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 take the appropriate responses such as encouraging them to go to a clinic, etc.

(4) Promotion of new working style

- Please adopt new working style by utilizing teleworking, staggered work hours, etc.

(5) Holding of events

- When you hold an event, please thoroughly implement measures to prevent infections and follow the guideline provided by the national government. The event should be held on a scale appropriate to the event’s aspect and category.

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

3. Group living facilities such as hospitals and welfare 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) Cautious attitude to travelling to the five prefectures

- Please keep a cautious attitude to travelling to the five prefectures for leisure from June 1 to 18.

(2) To those who returned to their hometown in Wakayama Prefecture or moved into the prefecture from the five prefectures

- Those who returned to their hometown in Wakayama Prefecture or moved into the prefecture from the five prefectures from June 1 to 18 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

(3) Refraining from accepting visitors from the five prefectures

- From June 1 to 18, both the residents and business operators should refrain from accepting visitors from the five prefectures as the residents of these prefectures are requested for self-restraint in travelling to other prefectures.

5. Restart of educational activities in schools

(1) Reopening of prefectural schools

- Prefectural schools will reopen from June 1.

(2) Operations after reopening

- From June 1, prefectural junior/senior high schools will start classes with staggered attendance or other forms which can avoid many students from gathering in one classroom, aiming to resume normal class operations on June 15.

- Club activities will be conducted from June 1 in accordance with the guidelines of the Prefectural Board of Education.

- Prefectural schools for Special Needs Education will start classes with staggered attendance, etc. according to the types of disabilities from June 1.

(3) Considerations for reopening of schools

- Schools will provide guidance on correct knowledge about infections, avoid close-contact settings as much as possible, and thoroughly implement countermeasures such as disinfection and ventilation.

(4) Criteria for suspension of attendance and temporary closure after reopening of schools

- Criteria for suspension of attendance when a student or teacher is tested positive, etc. as well as criteria for phased temporary closure depending on the infection situations (when to close the class or grade, all schools in the area, etc.) are set so that prompt response can be taken.

* Please refer to the separately provided “Criteria for suspension of attendance and temporary closure after reopening of schools”

6. Healthcare administration in Wakayama Prefecture

- Various efforts such as early detection, early isolation and thorough tracing will be continued to prevent the spread of infections.

- To prepare for the future increase of cases or the second wave of infections, PCR testing

capacity has been expanded and the structure of medical care delivery has been well built by increasing the number of hospital beds and facilities to accommodate patients.

- If the situations of the spread of infections within the prefecture or in neighboring prefectures exceed the levels specified in 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”.