

Press release: April 8, 2020

Requests for the residents in response to a state of emergency declared to the seven prefectures

In view of increasing risk of serious impact on people's lives and national economy caused by rapid and nationwide spread of COVID-19, the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters (Head: Prime Minister Abe) yesterday declared a state of emergency and designated Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Osaka, Hyogo and Fukuoka Prefectures as areas where emergency measures should be taken until May 6 (Wed).

In response to the declaration, the Head of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters of Wakayama Prefecture (Governor of Wakayama Prefecture) would like to ask the residents and business operators in the prefecture as follows based on Article 24, paragraph 9 of the Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response.

To the residents of Wakayama

(Travel to/from the designated prefectures)

1. While a state of emergency is effective until May 6 (Wed), you are requested a self-restraint in traveling to/from those designated prefectures as follows.

In particular, it is strongly requested that you refrain from visiting crowded places such as metropolitan areas and nightlife districts as there are higher risks of transmission.

If you need to travel to/from those prefectures due to necessary reasons such as going to work or visiting hospitals, please be aware of the below.

(1) Please do not stop by anywhere other than your workplace or hospital. Also, when you come home, please take efforts to prevent infections to your family by carefully washing hands, etc.

(2) Please self-monitor your health condition. If you show any symptoms such as coughing or fever, do not go out but consult with your nearest health center or Health Promotions Division of Wakayama Prefectural Government.

(Prevention of infections and its spread)

2. At the moment, the explosive spread of infections has not occurred in the prefecture. While you have been voluntarily refraining from various activities, please take further efforts with the following points in mind.

(1) Please continue basic preventive measures such as practice of “Cough Etiquette”, hand washing, etc. Also, if you have symptoms such as coughing and fever, please first consult with your nearest health center or Health Promotions Division of Wakayama Prefectural Government.

(2) Before going out, please carefully consider its necessity. If it can be postponed, please refrain from going out for now.

(3) As a self-restraint in traveling from metropolitan areas to rural areas is strongly requested by the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters of the national government and we need to cooperate on the preventive efforts by the seven designated prefectures, please refrain from proactively attracting visitors from these prefectures.

(4) Please avoid any gatherings where the "3Cs" (closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings) overlap, such as karaoke and dining together.

(5) When holding an event or a conference, be sure to prepare an environment where these "3Cs" are not overlapped and take necessary measures to prevent infections. If these preparations are not possible, cancellation of the event is requested.

(6) Please actively utilize teleworking or staggered work hours if your workplace has these systems.

(7) For group living facilities

- 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 anything unusual, they should stop working.

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

- Please consult with the health center 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. Please do not allow visitors to enter the facility.

(8) Those meeting the below conditions are requested to stay at home in self-isolation for two weeks and consult with respective contact points.

- Those who had close contact with those infected

- Your nearest health center or Health Promotions Division of Wakayama Prefectural Government

- Those who returned from foreign countries, residents of the seven prefectures designated as areas where emergency measures should be taken who came to visit their hometown in Wakayama Prefecture or those who moved into Wakayama Prefecture from the seven prefectures due to job transfer

- COVID-19 Call Center TEL: 073-441-2170 FAX: 073-431-1800

(Requests for the business operators)

3. Please take all possible measures to ensure infection prevention and health management of employees with careful attention to the following points.

(1) Do not make any environment where many people gather and make close-range conversations in closed spaces. In particular, businesses engaged in tourism or service industries should thoroughly keep the "3Cs" from overlapping in their venues and take necessary measures to prevent infections, such as frequent ventilation and social distancing between customers.

(2) Customer-facing personnel should thoroughly take infection countermeasures such as practice of "Cough Etiquette", hand washing, etc., and avoid close-range conversations.

(3) Please actively promote the use of systems for teleworking or staggered work hours if available. If not, please implement these systems promptly. Creating an environment where employees can easily take a leave is also encouraged.

(4) For employees commuting from the areas covered by the emergency declaration to Wakayama Prefecture, please consider and adjust their workstyle, including the implementation of teleworking if possible.

(5) Please avoid or postpone business trips to the seven designated prefectures as much as possible.

(6) If symptoms such as coughing and fever are reported from employees, please have them take a leave and ask them to consult with their nearest health center or Health Promotions Division of Wakayama Prefectural Government.

(Consideration for patients and related people)

4. Patients of COVID-19 and their families as well as those involved in their health care should never be victims of unreasonable human rights violation such as discrimination, prejudice, bullying, and slanders on SNS caused by wrong and uncertain information.

For fact-check of the information, please contact the nearest health center or Health Promotions Division of Wakayama Prefectural Government.

Please act calmly based on the correct information related to COVID-19.

It is essential that every resident understand the intent of these requests and review their own behavior.

In particular, as young people are less likely to have severe symptoms, they may spread

the disease without noticing that they are infected. Therefore, they should be fully advised in each household and workplace not to visit places with a high risk of infection. Let's join forces to overcome this situation through "all-Wakayama" efforts.