


Requests to the residents (November 26, 2020)

Since the beginning of November, the cases of COVID-19 have been significantly increasing nationwide. In Wakayama Prefecture too, multiple clusters have occurred and new cases have been found almost every day. In particular, there have been many cases of infections among the elderly as well as those working at medical and welfare facilities who needs particular attention.

Reflecting such situations, five points (underlined) were newly determined in order to prevent transmission to those at increased risk for severe illness from the three viewpoints of “self-protection by the elderly”, “prevention of transmission among family members” and “prevention of bringing infections to medical and welfare facilities”.

Please pay careful attention to the following “requests to the residents” consisting of ten points including repeatedly requested ones.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Refraining from eating in a group or going to restaurants/bars where staff entertain customers in the areas where infections are particularly widespread- Refraining from dining and staying together in a group late into the night<li style="text-align: center;">◇ ◇- <u>Self-restraint by the elderly in participating in large-scale events such as karaoke or dance parties</u>- <u>Self-restraint by medical and welfare facilities' staff in having meals with non-family members</u><li style="text-align: center;">◇ ◇- <u>Consulting with a clinic as soon as symptoms are found</u>- Checking temperature at businesses- <u>Particular attention to be paid by hospitals and welfare facility services</u><li style="text-align: center;">◇ ◇- Guidelines to prevent the spread of infections for each business<li style="text-align: center;">◇ ◇- Further attention to be paid by close contacts even when they tested negative- <u>Early suspicion of COVID-19 by medical institutions</u> |  |
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< Refraining from eating in a group or going to restaurants/bars where staff entertain customers in the areas where infections are particularly widespread >

- When you visit areas where infections are particularly widespread, please implement basic preventive measures (wearing a mask, washing hands, etc.) and refrain from eating in a group or going to restaurants/bars where staff entertain customers.

< Refraining from dining and staying together in a group late into the night >

- There have been cases of infection among those who had dined together with their friends for a long time late into the night and stayed overnight at their friends' home. Please refrain from such activities.

< Self-restraint by the elderly in participating in large-scale events such as karaoke or dance parties >

There have been many cases where the elderly get infected at events such as karaoke. As the elderly tend to develop severe illness by the infection, they are requested to avoid long-lasting close-contact settings with others without wearing a mask and refrain from participating in occasions where proper preventive measures are not taken.

<Self-restraint by medical and welfare facilities' staff in having meals with non-family members>

There have been many cases of transmissions on group-meal occasions. In particular, those working at medical and welfare facilities need to pay careful attention as they have frequent contact with those with underlying diseases and the elderly who tend to develop severe illness by the infection. In order not to bring the virus into the facilities, related staff are requested to refrain from having meals with someone other than their family members as the risk of infection increases when such an occasion lasts long or involves drinking of alcohol.

<Consulting with a clinic as soon as symptoms are found>

- There have been many cases where those with symptoms such as fever or weariness went to work and spread infections to people around them. As requested repeatedly, please do not neglect any mild symptoms and consult with your family doctor or nearby medical institution by phone. If you do not have a family doctor and are not sure where to consult, please contact "COVID-19 Call Center" (TEL: 073-441-2170 / FAX: 073-431-1800).

<Checking temperature at businesses>

- Business operators should check their employees' temperature. If their employees have any symptoms, please stop them from working and take appropriate responses such as encouraging them to go to a clinic, etc.

<Particular attention to be paid by hospitals and welfare facility services>

- Staff of hospitals and welfare facilities should pay particular attention not to bring infections in their facilities. All staff, including home-visit/day care providers and care managers, should thoroughly implement preventive measures, and self-monitor the health conditions more strictly, such as checking temperature at each facility.

<Guidelines to prevent the spread of infections for each business>

- Each business operator has been requested to comply with the guidelines to prevent the spread of infections made by the prefectural government and relevant business sectors. While many of the business operators in the prefecture have been following the guidelines, all business sectors and operators should thoroughly comply with their guidelines and put a poster prepared by the prefectural government.

<Further attention to be paid by close contacts even when they tested negative>

- In Wakayama Prefecture, close contacts of those infected are promptly identified and offered PCR tests. Therefore, there have been some cases where the close contacts tested positive in later tests during the two-week quarantine period even when they had tested negative in the first test. The close contacts are requested to stay at home in self-isolation during their quarantine period and avoid contact with other people.

<Early suspicion of COVID-19 by medical institutions>

- Medical institutions, clinics in particular, are requested to continuously work on early detection of COVID-19 patients by suspecting infection at an earlier stage and performing tests promptly even for those with mild symptoms such as coughing and slight fever.

COVID-19 Contact-Confirming Application (COCOA)

To prevent the spread of infections, please install COVID-19 Contact-Confirming Application (COCOA) developed by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.



Consideration for human rights

Amid public worries over COVID-19, there are malicious behaviors infringing human rights, such as identifying reported patients, slandering them and spreading their personal information on SNS. Please understand that anyone can be infected with COVID-19, and make sure to act calmly in consideration of human rights without being misguided by uncertain information. Unfair discrimination and bullying can never be tolerated under any circumstances.