

Requests to the residents (January 8, 2021)

On January 7, the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters (Head: Prime Minister Suga) declared a state of emergency 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 state of emergency is in effect from January 8 (Fri) to February 7 (Sun), and covers Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa Prefectures.

In Wakayama Prefecture too, new cases of infection are showing an increasing trend since the New Year holidays. In many of cases, infections were brought from other prefectures or transmitted mainly among young people on group-meal occasions, and then spread to their families and friends.

Reflecting such situations, please kindly make sure to behave more carefully following the "requests to the residents" specified below.

- **Refraining from visiting the four prefectures in the Greater Tokyo area (Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo and Kanagawa) covered by the state of emergency**
- **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**
- **Refraining from dining in a group before and after events such as coming-of-age ceremonies**

Please also pay continued attention to the following points requested earlier.

- Self-restraint by the elderly in participating in large-scale events such as karaoke or dance parties
- Self-restraint by medical and welfare facilities' staff in having meals with non-family members
- ◇ ◇
- Consulting with a clinic as soon as symptoms are found
- Checking temperature at businesses
- Particular attention to be paid by hospitals and welfare facility services
- ◇ ◇
- Guidelines to prevent the spread of infections for each business
- ◇ ◇
- Further attention to be paid by close contacts even when they tested negative
- Early suspicion of COVID-19 by medical institutions

Also, as the Osaka Prefectural Government extended the period of their request to their residents for self-restraint in non-essential and non-urgent outings until January 31, 2021, please continue to refrain from non-essential and non-urgent visit to Osaka.

In addition, those who return to their hometown in Wakayama Prefecture from the areas where infections are widespread are requested to behave carefully in order to avoid infecting the elderly, etc. who are at higher risk of developing serious illness.

- **Please refrain from non-essential and non-urgent visit to Osaka as much as possible.**
- * Period: Same as the period of the corresponding request of the Osaka Prefectural Government (December 4, 2020 to **January 31, 2021**)
- * When you go to Osaka for work or school, please implement basic preventive measures thoroughly.
- **Those who return to their hometown in Wakayama Prefecture from the areas where infections are widespread are requested to behave carefully in order to avoid infecting the elderly, etc.**

<Requests to the residents>

Refraining from visiting the four prefectures in the Greater Tokyo area (Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo and Kanagawa) covered by the state of emergency

- Please refrain from visiting the four prefectures in the Greater Tokyo area until the state of emergency is lifted.

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 other than the Greater Tokyo area 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.

Refraining from dining in a group before and after events such as coming-of-age ceremonies

- Since the New Year holidays, there have been cases of infection transmitted mainly among young people on group-meal occasions, and then spread to their families and friends. In particular, please avoid dining in a group with your friends and acquaintances before and after coming-of-age ceremonies.

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 have been following the guidelines, all operators should thoroughly comply with their guidelines and put a poster to prevent the spread of infections.

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.