

Oita Prefectural COVID-19 Countermeasures Headquarters

Based on the Japanese government's 'Basic Policies for Countering COVID-19' and current local events, the Oita Prefecture has comprised the following countermeasures which will be in effect from April 1.

1 Preventing the further spread of infection

(1) Request to residents regarding infection prevention

1. With the arrival of the new fiscal year, the population tends to be more mobile as they engage in events such as school attendance, job hunting and job transfers. Starting from this weekend, we would like to request all residents to avoid outings and events that involve crowds unless it is essential. Younger individuals, who often do not exhibit symptoms, should exercise extra caution.

For the present time:

2. Avoid travelling to regions such as Tokyo and Osaka unless it is essential, as these areas have reported an increase of patients who have entered Japan from abroad as well as patients whose infection history cannot be traced.
3. If you have been abroad or travelled to regions such as Tokyo and Osaka from any period starting from March, refrain from going outdoors unless essential and keep a record of your health for 2 weeks. In the case of suspected infection, immediately consult the closest health centre.

We would like to remind all residents to:

4. Refrain from going to work or school and avoid going outdoors if you have a fever or symptoms of a cold.
5. Thoroughly carry out effective precautionary measures such as handwashing and good cough etiquette.
6. Avoid locations that fulfil the following three requirements: a) Enclosed spaces with poor ventilation b) Crowded c) Requires you to speak with others in close quarters

(2) Procedures for large scale events

The national headquarters have requested the suspension of large-scale events across Japan that fulfil the aforementioned three requirements until further notice.

If the organiser deems the event essential, precautionary measures must be exercised thoroughly and with care.

(3) PCR testing framework

The Oita Prefecture and the Oita City now have a total testing capacity of up to 132 persons per day. If you have questions concerning medical institutions or a case of suspected COVID-19 infection, consult a health centre at your earliest convenience.

(4) Provision of medical services (securing bed spaces)

The prefecture takes the issue of preventing the medical system from collapsing in the possible event of further outbreak very seriously. The number of beds designated for infectious diseases and general purposes has been increased to 118 – plans for adding more bed spaces are also in place.

2 Procedures for schools

- (1) With the infection spreading further within the prefecture and the discovery of younger patients, public schools across Oita are making appropriate preparations for the new school term in accordance to current events. Final decisions will be made based on the procedures released in the upcoming meeting between experts across the nation.
- (2) Concerning the reopening of public elementary schools, junior high schools and other compulsory education institutions as well as local private schools across local municipalities: precautionary measures must be exercised thoroughly during opening and enrolment ceremonies.

3 Public Social Education Facilities

- (1) All public social education facilities across Oita shall remain closed as a general rule. The Oita Prefectural Library will continue to provide door-to-door loaning services.
- (2) Concerning space rental in public social education facilities, the prefecture would like to remind all event organisers to refrain from running the following:
 1. Nationwide large scale events
 2. Events that fulfil the following three requirements: a) Enclosed spaces with poor ventilation b) Crowded c) Requires you to speak with others in close quarters

To keep physical interactions to a bare minimum and prevent the further spread of infection, the Liechtenstein exhibition currently convening at the Oita Prefectural Art Museum (OPAM) will remain open only to TOMONOKAI Bivi members in the form of private viewing starting from Apr 3 (applies only to KOTOBUKI, TAKASAGO and UME memberships). Further adjustments will be made based on the event's outcomes.

OPAM, the Oita Prefectural Museum of History and the Oita Prefectural Centre for Archaeological Research will reopen from Mon, Apr 6. Precautionary measures against the infection will be carried out thoroughly in the facilities with appropriate adjustments made in accordance to up-to-date observations.

4 The economy (supplementary budgeting)

- (1) The supplementary budget scheme passed on Mar 27 will be executed promptly.
- (2) Based on the 2nd iteration of the National COVID-19 Emergency Measures, a range of support geared at business owners, fiscal policies on personal finance and prefectural-run institutional funds will remain

available in the forms of publicly-released information as well as over-the-counter consultations.

(3) The prefecture will conduct a series of urgent responses including compiling for supplementary budgets as soon as the 3rd iteration of the National COVID-19 Emergency Measures is released and summarized.

(4) To prevent the further spread of infection, workplaces that remain open for essential social and economic services should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Thoroughly carry out precautionary measures (e.g. handwashing, good cough etiquette) in and out of the office and during commute.
2. Proactively incorporate telecommuting, staggered working hours and commute on bicycle.
3. Regularly ventilate the workspace.
4. Staff showing a fever or symptoms of cold should refrain from working (or make alternative work arrangements such as telecommuting) and remain at home.
5. Employ alternative work arrangements such as video conferences to cut back travel on business trips.