

Measures from April 8

Apr 6, 2020

Oita Prefectural COVID-19 Countermeasures Headquarters

※Based on the Japanese Government's state of emergency declaration on Covid-19 and a national emergency stimulus package on Apr 7, underlined parts are modified.

Based on the 'COVID-19 Countermeasures: Analysis and Proposals (Apr 1, 2020)' meeting and MEXT's 'Guidelines Concerning Temporary Closures in Response to COVID-19 (revised on Apr 1, 2020)', the Oita Prefecture has comprised the following measures which will be effective from Apr 8.

1 Preventing the Further Spread of Infection

(1) Advice to residents regarding infection prevention

For the time being:

1. Refrain from non-essential, non-urgent travels outside of Japan or to designated red zones based on the 'Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response' guidelines (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Osaka, Hyogo, Fukuoka).
2. If you have been abroad or travelled to designated red zones any time beginning from March, refrain from going outdoors for non-essential, non-urgent matters 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:

1. Refrain from going to work or school and avoid going outdoors if you have a fever or symptoms of a cold.
2. Thoroughly carry out effective precautionary measures such as handwashing and good cough etiquette.
3. 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

Younger individuals, who often do not exhibit symptoms, should exercise extra caution.

(2) Procedures for large scale events

Large-scale events across Japan that fulfil the aforementioned three location requirements should be suspended until further notice.

If the organiser deems the event essential, the prefecture requests that precautionary measures 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 with plans for adding more bed spaces in place.

In consideration of the mental health of patients, attending healthcare workers and their families and to prevent the spread of defamatory misinformation, the prefecture will continue to deliver information to the public in a transparent and informative manner.

2 Procedures for Schools

(1) Following national guidelines, prefectural junior high schools and prefectural senior high schools will reopen from Wed, Apr 8 while employing infection-reduction measures.

To reduce contact during commute times for prefectural senior high and junior high schools in Oita City, Beppu, Nakatsu, Usuki, Yufu and Hiji, reopening times shall be adjusted with flexibility, incorporating staggered commute times and other measures appropriate to the locality.

Students will be instructed to promptly return home after school to cut down times for being in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation that are crowded and require people to speak to each other in close quarters.

(2) Prefectural schools for special needs will reopen after seeing to the individual needs of students and conducting an approximately weeklong preparation that begins from Apr 8.

1. To reduce risks of infection, school buses will operate while incorporating spaced seating, in-vehicle ventilation and other precautionary measures.

2. To prevent crowding and risks of infection, vacant classrooms will be utilised along with the administration of appropriate measures such as staggered school hours.

(3) Club activities that involve physical contact will be reduced, with appropriate adjustments made to cut down times for being in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation that are crowded and require people to speak to each other in close quarters.

Training camps and inter-school activities (inter-school trainings, inter-school matches) are suspended until further notice.

- (4) The provision of school meals will resume in a safe and secure manner once milk and other ingredients can be sourced securely.
- (5) School excursions with overnight stays in April will be suspended or terminated.
- (6) To thoroughly reduce the risks of infection in school opening ceremonies, the number of attendants including new students, guardians and teaching staff shall be kept to a bare minimum. No additional guests will be invited and no opening ceremonies will be held for pre-enrolled students.
- (7) If a member of student or staff is found to be infected after the reopening, said member will be requested to stay away from the school grounds following national guidelines. Partial or complete temporary closure will be enforced if necessary.
- (8) The same applies to public elementary schools and junior high schools in local municipalities, compulsory education institutions and private schools – the prefecture requests that these institutions take appropriate actions based on up-to-date, regional-specific conditions.

3 Public Social Education Facilities

- (1) The Oita Prefectural Library and the Oita Prefectural Centre for Archaeological Research will reopen from Wed, Apr 8 with restrictions placed on the usage of utilities with uncapped attendance capacity (e.g. study rooms and training rooms). Precautionary measures for infection prevention will be thoroughly carried out.

The Oita Prefectural Library will operate on reduced business working hours with loaning services available. To reduce visit times, use the library's official website to confirm the facility's catalogue prior to your visit. When visiting the facility, thoroughly carry out precautionary measures such as using hand-sanitisers and wearing a facemask.

- (2) The outdoor facilities and gymnasiums in 'Kakaji Seishonen No Ie' and 'Kokonoe Seishonen no Ie' will reopen from Wed, Apr 8 with precautionary measures thoroughly carried out. The accommodation facilities, dining halls and planetariums will remain unavailable until further notice.
- (3) The sports facilities will reopen from Wed, Apr 8 with restrictions placed on activities involving physical contact. Precautionary measures will be thoroughly carried out and no training sessions will be conducted onsite.
- (4) The Oita Prefecture would like to remind organisers to refrain from using the prefecture's public social education facilities for 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

4 The Economy (Supplementary Budgeting etc.)

- (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 based on the 3rd iteration of the National COVID-19 Emergency Measures.
- (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.