

# Measures from April 15

Apr 14, 2020

Oita Prefectural COVID-19 Countermeasures Headquarters

Tokyo, Osaka and other regions subject to the state of emergency continue to face the spread of infection. The soaring number of patients in our neighbour, the Fukuoka prefecture, is of particular concern, as critical circumstances continue to escalate in Oita itself. In light of current events, the Oita Prefecture will perform the following measures:

## 1 Preventing the Further Spread of Infection

### (1) Advice to residents regarding infection prevention

From now to May 6:

- ① Refrain from non-essential, non-urgent travels outside of Japan or to designated domestic regions subject to the state of emergency.
- ② If you have been abroad or travelled to designated red zones, 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.
- ③ Avoid locations where the '3Cs' (closed spaces, crowded places, close contact settings) overlap. Places such as eating and drinking establishments in busy commercial districts offering hospitality services, where the intensity of the 3Cs are heightened, should be avoided – the same applies to all non-essential outings and events that involve crowds.

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.

### (2) Procedures for large scale events

Large-scale events across Japan or the events that overlap the 3Cs 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.

## 2 Procedures for Schools

### (1) Prefectural senior high schools and junior high schools will resume educational activities while adhering to precautionary measures based on national guidelines.

Concerning staggered school commute hours in areas such as Oita city, Beppu and Nakatsu, a dispersed

train timetable and coach buses to and from school have been arranged for students to ease congestion during commute hours.

To avoid the 3Cs during the commencement of educational activities, students are asked to thoroughly carry out precautionary measures such as wearing masks at all times including when travelling to and from school, using hand sanitisers, conducting daily body temperature checks, ventilating spaces regularly and taking turns in using change rooms.

- (2) Prefectural schools for special needs will reopen within this month after seeing to the individual needs of students. An exception applies to the Beppu School for Special Needs Education, Ishigakibaru Branch, which will adjust its reopening date after thorough consultations with cooperating medical institutions.
- (3) Like all other times, helping students stay informed outside of school is just as important as in-school mentorship. Aside from school hours, students are reminded to wear masks while outside of school including during commute, with schools monitoring how closely the instructions are being followed.
- (4) If a member of student or staff is found to be infected, said member will be requested to stay away from the school following national guidelines. Partial or complete temporary closure will be enforced if necessary.
- (5) 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) Public social education facilities will operate while taking thorough precautionary measures until further notice. These include placing restrictions on events with unlimited attendance capacity held in enclosed spaces.
- (2) 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 overlap the 3Cs (closed spaces, crowded places, close contact settings).

### 4 The Economy (Supplementary Budgeting etc.)

- (1) The FY2020 March supplementary budget scheme passed on Mar 27 will be executed promptly.
- (2) Based on the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration of the National COVID-19 Emergency Measures, a range of support including matters concerning fiscal policies for businesses and individuals, employment adjustment subsidies and prefectural-run institutional funds are available in the forms of publicly-released information as well as over-the-counter consultations.
- (3) A newly established consultations telephone hotline has been made available to business owners affected by the prefecture's recommendations to residents.
- (4) The prefecture will accelerate the compilation of the FY2020 supplementary budget based on the 3<sup>rd</sup> iteration of the National COVID-19 Emergency Measures. Aside from employment adjustment subsidies and benefit packages for struggling businesses, private financial institutions are also swiftly composing

new frameworks that incorporate zero-interest loan plans to better support businesses.

On another note, the prefecture is making detailed plans to encourage business and residents to work together in strengthening infection prevention measures, including the planning for collaborations between residents and the ryokan, hotel and dining industries.

Giving support in a timely manner is of utmost importance. Continuous forms of support are available with cooperation from the chambers of commerce and other relevant institutions.

(5) 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.

※ 'Eating and drinking establishments... offering hospitality services' mentioned in 1 (1) ③ refer to entertainment facilities such as bars, nightclubs, karaoke boxes and live houses.