

Suspension of Services from Recreational Facilities to Prevent the Further Spread of
COVID-19

Apr 22, 2020

Oita Prefectural COVID-19 Countermeasures Headquarters

All prefectures across Japan have fallen under the 'Regions Covered by the Declaration of the State of Emergency' from Apr 16. Following the 'Measures from April 18 Concerning Preventing the Further Spread of Infection Following the Extension of the State of Emergency' published on Apr 17, the Oita Prefecture makes the following requests to all residents:

- ① Avoid locations that overlap the 3Cs (closed spaces, crowded places, close contact settings).
- ② During the long vacation period, refrain from travelling outside of the prefecture for leisure, family visits or other matters unless essential and urgent.
- ③ Attractions and facilities, including tourism attractions, should make thorough preparations to avoid overlapping the 3Cs.
- ④ To reduce opportunities of physical contact at the workplace, besides further implementing working-from-home (telework), arrangements such as staggered working hours and commute on bicycle should also be thoroughly employed.

The Oita Prefecture is grateful towards the efforts in infection control displayed by residents and various business owners. However, we have still observed movement between prefectures among patrons of recreational facilities such as pachinko parlours, and suspect that such movements will only increase with the approach of the long vacation period. With authorities in neighbouring prefectures requesting for the temporary closure of recreational facilities, we are concerned that the patrons will congregate here at Oita prefecture.

Following these lines, based on Article 24, paragraph (9) of the 'Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response', the Oita Prefecture requests that recreational facilities (mahjong parlours, pachinko parlours, game arcades etc.) across the prefecture cooperate through the suspension of services (i.e. temporary closure) between Fri, Apr 24 ~ Wed, May 6, 2020.