

Measures in Response to COVID-19 (as of April 27, 2020)

Based on the 'Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response', the following 13 regions have been designated as 'Prefectures Falling under the Extraordinary Precautions Alert':

- Tokyo, Osaka, Hokkaido, Ibaraki, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Ishikawa, Gifu, Aichi, Kyoto, Hyogo, Fukuoka.

Following the same guidelines, all other prefectural-level regions not mentioned above now fall under 'Regions Covered by the Declaration of the State of Emergency'.

1 Preventing the Further Spread of Infection

(1) Advice to residents

From now to Wed, May 6:

- ① Refrain from non-essential, non-urgent travels outside of Japan or to designated domestic regions subject to the state of emergency. During the long vacation period, do not travelling outside of the prefecture for leisure, family visits or other matters unless essential and urgent.
- 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) Facilities and attractions including tourism attractions

For foreseeable crowds, the prefecture requests that facilities and attractions thoroughly carry out precautionary measures, in particular concerning placing admission restriction during the long vacation period.

(3) Reducing Contact in Workplaces

To reduce contact opportunities at the workplace, the prefecture urges workplaces to 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.

(4) Suspension of Services from Recreational Facilities

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.

(5) Procedures for large scale events

Large-scale events across Japan 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 close for a duration of two weeks from Fri, Apr 17 to Fri, May 1. Including weekends and public holidays, no educational activities will be conducted on school grounds until Wed, May 6. Since most schools have progress into the new term with the completion of opening ceremonies, support will be made available to students studying at home during the closures.
- (2) While prefectural schools for special needs will follow the same procedures, special considerations will be given to students in accordance to individual circumstances. To ensure that students have somewhere to stay during the closures, the schools will take thorough precautionary measures while keeping doors open.
- (3) 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) Since the Oita Prefectural Library and other public social education facilities overlap the 3Cs and pose high risks for infection, in line with the measures mentioned in 1, the facilities will close from Fri, Apr 17 to Wed, May 6.
- (2) Organisers should refrain from using the prefecture's public social education facilities for events with unlimited attendance capacity between Fri, Apr 17 to Wed, May 6.

4 Active Support towards Businesses

- (1) The FY2020 March supplementary budget scheme passed on Mar 27 will be executed promptly.
- (2) Continuous forms of support will be made available with cooperation from the Oita Labor and Social Security Attorney Association, the chambers of commerce and other relevant institutions.

Private financial institutions are also working swiftly to compose new frameworks that incorporate non-collateral, zero-interest loans.

Concerning benefit packages for struggling businesses, up to 1,000,000 JPY will be granted to each applicable sole proprietor. The prefecture plans on opening applications in around one week from the establishment of the national supplementary budget scheme. For digital applications, the deposit is expected to arrive the applicant's bank account in approximately two weeks from the application date.

- (3) A newly established consultations telephone hotline has been made available to business owners affected by the prefecture's recommendations to residents.
- (4) To aid collaborative infection-control efforts between the prefecture and residents, detailed measure that incorporate both governmental bodies and the public are being performed to support ryokan, hotels, eating and drinking establishments and other relevant industries.
- (5) To realise assistance in a timely manner, continuous forms of support will be made available with cooperation from the chambers of commerce and other relevant institutions.