

Extension of the “Declaration of the State of Emergency” and correspondence from May 7th.

May 4th, 2020

Oita Prefecture’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Headquarters

Even though there has been a decline in the number of newly infected people, the nationwide “Declaration of the State of Emergency” has been extended to May 31st because the total number of infected individuals remains at a high level and not declined to a level matching our expectations. In Oita prefecture, the number of newly infected people and the total number of infected persons has improved due to the effort and hard work of the people of Oita. However, we remain in a volatile situation and we need to remain vigilant so as not to increase the number of infections.

Based on this extension, Oita prefectural office will continue to work on countermeasures against the spread of infection, taking into consideration the practicalities of each situation. Based on the premise of the dissemination and implementation of a “New lifestyle” in all walks of life, we will strive to both prevent the spread of infection and maintain social and economic activities.

☒ Relevant regions based on the ‘Act on Special Measures concerning a novel influenza’: All prefectural-level regions

※ ‘Specific alert areas’ under the ‘Act on Special Measures concerning a novel influenza’ - 13 regions: Tokyo, Osaka, Hokkaido, Ibaraki, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Ishikawa, Gifu, Aichi, Kyoto, Hyogo, Fukuoka.

1 Continuation of preventing the further spread of infection.

(1) Requests to residents of Oita.

From now until Sun, May 31:

- ① Refrain from non-essential, non-urgent travel outside of Japan or across prefectural borders.
- ② If you have been abroad or travelled to ‘Specific alert areas’, 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 center.
- ③ Practice regular hand-washing, good coughing manners, and wear a mask when you go outside. Choose outdoor locations over indoors when you do go out. Maintain 2 meters of social distance from others. When you talk with others, do not face each other. Strive to follow the guidelines of the ‘New Lifestyle’.
- ④ Avoid places where the ‘3Cs’ (closed spaces, crowded places, close contact settings) overlap. Avoid places serving food and drinks with entertainment (☒) in busy commercial areas and hospitality establishments in busy commercial districts where the intensity of the 3Cs are heightened.
 - ☒ “Places serving food and drinks with entertainment” include:
Bars, Night clubs, Karaoke boxes, Live houses and similar entertainment facilities.
- ⑤ Refrain from going to work or school when possible and avoid going out at all if you have a fever or symptoms of a cold.

(2) Infection prevention measures at workplaces.

We request the following in order to reduce human contact within workplaces.

- ① Proactively incorporate telecommuting, staggered working hours and commuting by bicycle.
- ② Staff showing a fever or symptoms of cold should refrain from working (or make alternative work arrangements such as telecommuting) and remain at home.
- ③ Employ alternative work arrangements such as video conferences to cut back on travel and business trips.
- ④ Thoroughly carry out precautionary measures (e.g. hand-washing, good coughing etiquette) in and out of the office and during commuting.
- ⑤ Be proactive in discussion and decision making regarding aspects of the “New Lifestyle” for your relevant field, which continue to be effective counter measures against infection. Further promote voluntary infection countermeasures implemented by Ryokans and hotels.

(3) Facilities including tourist attractions and entertainment spaces.

- ① In order to avoid 3Cs at tourist attractions and similar businesses, continue to restrict the number of admissions and ensure visitors maintain appropriate social distances.
- ② All entertainment facilities (Mahjong parlors, Pachinko parlors, Amusement arcades, etc) within Oita prefecture are requested to remain closed until May 31st, based on Article 24, paragraph (9) of the “Act on Special Measure concerning a novel influenza”. However, facilities who employ effective and thorough measures to restrict the number of admissions from outside the prefecture and to minimize the 3Cs will be excepted after May 11th.

(4) Procedures for large scale events.

- ① Large-scale events across Japan that create an overlap in the 3Cs should be suspended until further notice. If the organizer deems the event essential, the prefecture requests that precautionary measures be exercised thoroughly and with utmost care.
- ② Events which have a small number of participants, and are able to specify attendance, can be conducted after taking necessary precautions against the spread of infection. In order to stop the spread, consider utilization of contact identifying apps and SNS technologies which can be used to control and monitor event attendees.

2 Procedures for Schools.

(1) Prefectural senior high schools and junior high schools will extend closures until Fri May 8 and, based on national guidelines, after taking precautionary measures and considering the number of infected persons, resume educational activities from Mon May 11. Schools will set separate school days based on grades.

In order to avoid congested commuting times, education activities will be set between 9:00am-4:30pm. Resume operation of shuttle bus service in order to decrease the number of students, including private school students, using public transportation. Take measures to avoid overcrowding within JR trains and stations.

In order to avoid 3Cs, classes will be divided into two when implementing educational activities. Take all possible measures to prevent the spread of infection, such as being disciplined in wearing a mask while going to and from school, hand-washing, checking body temperature every day, ventilation of indoor spaces, avoid using dressing rooms simultaneously, etc.

(2) Prefectural schools for special needs will extend closures until Fri May 8, and within the 10 days following Mon May 11, may resume educational activities with consideration of each students’ condition of disability.

However, student numbers should be broken-up while commuting and classes should be divided into two for the implementation of educational activities for a while. In order to avoid overcrowding, use vacant classrooms as needed.

For school buses, take careful measures to reduce the risk of infection, such as staggered seating and ventilating the inside of the bus. Since the number of travelers should be limited, increase the number of buses and request parents/guardians to pick students up as appropriate to the situation of each school.

- (3) Extracurricular activities for students are allowed only on school days, and the activities and methods of implementation need to be carefully considered in order to limit physical contacts and avoid the 3Cs.
However, training camps and interaction with other schools (joint practice, joint matches) are prohibited until further notice.
- (4) For school lunches, schools should ensure a safe delivery system and service of the meals.
- (5) All school events in May which includes overnight stays are to be postponed or canceled. If a school event doesn't include overnight stays, it should be planned so as to minimize the 3Cs.
- (6) If a students or faculty member is confirmed to have been infected, based on the national guideline, take measures to suspend the attendance of applicable students/faculty members. Depending on the situation, consider the temporary closure of whole or part of the school.
- (7) 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, regionally specific conditions.

3 Prefectural Education Facilities

- (1) The Oita Prefectural Art Museum, The Oita Prefectural Library, The Oita Prefecture Ancient Sages Historical Archives, The Oita Prefectural Museum of History, and The Oita Prefectural Center for Archaeological Research are closed until Sun May 10. After taking necessary measures to prevent the spread of infection, they will reopen from Mon May 11. However, usage which creates crowded situations (use of classrooms, training rooms, etc.) are restricted until further notice.
For the Oita Prefectural Library, book lending services will resume within limited operating hours. In order to shorten visiting times, customers are encouraged to use the book retrieval system from home before visiting. Take measures against infection such as wearing a mask and hand disinfection before visitors enter the facility.
- (2) The Kagachi Youth Outdoor learning Center and the Kokonoe Youth Outdoor Learning Center will be closed until Sun May 10. After taking necessary measures to prevent the spread of infection, outdoor facilities and gymnasiums (play-halls) will re-open from Mon May 11. There will be no lodging for a while. The eatery and planetarium will remain closed.
- (3) Facilities such as gymnasiums, except for training rooms, will remain closed until Sun May 10, and may re-open from Mon May 11 after taking necessary measures to prevent the spread of infection, such as limiting activities involving physical contact.
- (4) Oita prefecture's social educational facilities will continue to request event organizers to continue to voluntarily refrain from using their facilities where either of the following applies:
 - ① Nation-wide and large scale events
 - ② Events which cause an overlap of the 3Cs

4 Support for the continuation of lifestyle, business and employment.

- (1) In order to support the livelihood of those who are financially affected by the COVID-19 spread, we will provide the Special Loan for an Emergency Small Amount Funds (interest-free, no guarantor), and provide Housing Securement Payments for those who face the possibility of losing housing.
Support municipalities to provide the Special Cash Payments efficiently.
- (2) To support businesses and employment, cooperate with commerce and industry related groups to provide the Sustaining Payment and interest-free loans.
- ① Regarding the Employment Adjustment Subsidy, support is provided at the Employment Center, located in Oita Prefecture's Labor and Social Security Attorney Association.
 - ② Cooperate with commerce and industry related groups to support provision of the Sustaining Payment efficiently, providing 2 million yen for small and medium enterprises and 1 million yen for sole proprietors.
 - ③ Financial measures for small and medium scale enterprise, promote interest-free, unsecured loan merchandise or business continuity loan for a venture corporation, which can be conducted by a private financial institution.
- (3) In order to support companies within Oita prefecture which are working together to help prevent the spread of infection with particular regard to Ryokans, Hotels and restaurants, we are putting the Oita Prefectural Hotels, Ryokans, and Traditional Japanese Cuisine Restaurant Association at the center of moves to strengthen measures against the spread of infection. Restaurants may utilize cloud funding services allowing locals to support local businesses.
- (4) These support measures need to be implemented swiftly and require that receiving and related organizations, carry out related services.

Inquiries for companies affected financially by the spread of COVID-19
(Call center: 0120-936-692)