

Concerning the Lifting of the State of Emergency and Relevant Measures from May 26

May 26, 2020

Revised May 29, 2020

Oita Prefectural COVID-19 Countermeasures Headquarters

※Due to the increasing spread of COVID-19 infection within Fukuoka Prefecture (Kita-Kyushu City), underlined sections have been added.

With the number of new patients decreasing across Japan and the strain on healthcare systems softening, from yesterday (May 25), the state of emergency that was declared on April 7 has been lifted off of all prefectures.

Thanks to the diligence and patience of local residents, the Oita prefecture has reported no new cases for more than a month and hospital-bed occupancy is currently below 1%. However, due to the sudden bouts of cluster infections in other prefectures, we remain at a volatile state that calls for prudence.

Based on the lifting of the state of emergency, the Oita Prefecture aims to adopt a new 'best of both worlds' approach that tends to both infection control and the revitalisation of social and economic activities.

As part of the continued effort to contain the spread of infection, the prefecture has established a 'fixed transitional phase' wherein travel and facility usage restrictions will be eased, and vitalisation is gradually restored to social and economic activities.

1 Further Efforts in Preventing the Further Spread of Infection.

(1) Requests to residents of Oita.

① Concerning travel across prefectures

- We remind residents to not travel across prefectures for non-essential, non-urgent matters until May 31.
- Residents may travel to and from all prefectures across the nation from June 1 – exercise extra caution when travelling to the Greater Tokyo Area (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba and Saitama) Hokkaido and Kita-Kyushu City until June 18.

② Concerning tourism

- With the guidelines above in mind, we will conduct efforts for the promotion of local tourism until June 18 – cross-prefectural tourism promotional efforts will also be in place from June 19 and onwards.

(2) Requests concerning daily life (practice and adoption of the 'New Lifestyle')

- Concerning daily life, practice regular hand-washing and good cough etiquette, wear a mask when going outside; maintain a distance of 2m from others, avoid facing each other during conversations – all these efforts contribute to the practice and integration of the 'New Lifestyle'.
- Aside from taking daily walks and going shopping, residents are also free to visit dining establishments including restaurants and

izakaya. Nonetheless, we urge residents to be cautious of their surroundings and avoid settings where the '3Cs' (closed spaces, crowded places, close contact settings) overlap.

- Concerning places that provide food and drinks with entertainment in busy commercial districts where the intensity of the 3Cs are heightened (e.g. cabaret, nightclubs, karaoke, live houses and similar entertainment facilities), avoid establishments that do not take thorough infection-prevention measures.

(3) Infection-prevention measures at workplaces.

① Further efforts in preventing the further spread of infection

- Conduct appropriate measures based on industry-specific infection-prevention guidelines.
- The above is also applicable to recreational facilities (mahjong parlours, pachinko parlours, game arcades etc.). Facilities should take effort in preventing the 3Cs and take part in measures appropriate to specific conditions.

Furthermore, we request entertainment facilities to continue placing restrictions on visitors from outside of the prefecture until May 31.

- Concerning places that provide food and drinks with entertainment in busy commercial districts where the intensity of the 3Cs are heightened, we request that operators implement thorough measures appropriate to the facility, such as conducting body temperature checks on visitors and ventilating indoor spaces intensively.

② Practicing and adopting the 'New Lifestyle'

- Employ alternative work arrangements such as telecommuting, staggered working hours, commute on bicycle and video conferences to reduce physical contact opportunities.

(4) Procedures for events.

Given that organisers take appropriate infection-prevention measures such as avoiding the 3Cs, restrictions for events, gatherings and similar activities will relax gradually in accordance to the overall status of COVID-19 and any risks for infection that are posed.

Aside from taking thorough infection-prevention measures, we request that organiser acquire the contact details of participants by creating an attendance list.

① Until June 18:

- For indoor activities, limit participation to 100 people or less AND half or less than that of the recommended facility capacity.
- For outdoor activities, limit participation to 200 people or less, and ensure that participants keep a safe distance from each other (2m whenever possible).

② From June 19 ~ July 9:

- For both indoor and outdoor activities, limit participation to 1,000 people or less AND half or less than that of the recommended facility capacity for indoor activities; ensure that participants keep a safe distance from each other for outdoor activities (2m whenever possible).

③ From July 10 ~ July 31:

- For both indoor and outdoor activities, limit participation to 5,000 people or less AND half or less than that of the recommended facility capacity for indoor activities; ensure that participants keep a safe distance from each other for outdoor activities (2m whenever possible).
- ④ From August 1:
- For indoor activities, limit participation numbers to half or less than that of the recommended facility capacity; for outdoor activities, ensure that participants keep a safe distance from each other for outdoor activities (2m whenever possible). No upper limit will be placed for participation numbers for both indoor and outdoor activities.

2 Procedures for Schools

- (1) Concerning prefectural senior high and junior high schools, should there be no recent major turn of events within the prefecture, normal operations are expected to resume from June 1 while taking all possible infection control measures based on the national 'COVID-19 Related Hygiene Management Manual for Schools' (hereinafter referred to as the 'national manual'). To reduce risks of infection, thorough preventive measures such as spaced seating will be carried out, and shuttle bus services will continue into June until further notice.
- (2) In prefectural schools for special needs, normal operations will gradually resume from June 1 with thorough care in the prevention of the 3Cs and considerations given to each student's condition of disability. To reduce risks of infection, seating inside school buses will be spaced; schools will increase the number of buses and request parents/guardians to pick up students as is needed.
- (3) Club activities will gradually resume to normal procedures from June 1 while taking all possible precautionary measures based on the national manual.
- (4) Concerning school excursions with overnight stays, if organisers find it difficult to terminate a specific event, excursions can still be run from June and onwards as long as utmost care is taken in avoiding the overlap of the 3Cs.
- (5) If a member of student or staff is found to be infected, said member will be requested to stay away from the school grounds in compliance to the national manual. Partial or complete temporary closure will be enforced if necessary.
- (6) 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. Prefectural Social Educational Facilities

- (1) The prefecture urges social educational facilities such as the Oita Prefectural Library, the Oita Prefectural Art Museum, sports facilities and driver's license centres to follow through with infection-prevention procedures. Depending on facility-specific circumstances, restrictions will be gradually lifted as operations

return to normal.

- (2) Concerning events that involve the loaning of local social educational facility spaces, restrictions will be gradually lifted in compliance to 1(4).

4 Support for Everyday Life, Businesses and Employment.

- (1) To support residents' welfare, the prefecture is providing the (no-guarantor and interest-free) Special Loan for Emergency Small Amount Funds, and the Housing Securement Payments is available to those who face the possibility of losing housing.

Support will be provided to local municipalities to ensure that special benefit payments are delivered in a swift and efficient manner.

- (2) The prefecture will continue to work alongside bodies in the financial and industrial sectors to support businesses and employment. Support will be delivered in the form of support packages for struggling businesses, zero-interest loans and employment adjustment subsidies.
- Small-to-medium-scale enterprises may receive up to 2 million JPY in support while sole proprietors may receive up to 1 million JPY. The prefecture is working with relevant bodies in the financial and industrial sectors to deliver support packages to struggling businesses swiftly.
 - As part of the financial measures geared at small-to-medium-scale business enterprises, the prefecture plans on utilising funds to provide frameworks wherein private financial institutions can provide non-secure, interest-free loans, as well as offering ongoing support to start-up businesses.
 - Regarding the Employment Adjustment Subsidy, small-scale enterprises can seek support from the Employment Center, located at the Oita Labor and Social Security Attorney Association.

- (3) In conjunction to reinforcing infection-prevention measures in the accommodation industry with a focus on the Oita Ryokan and Hotel Environmental Health Association, the prefecture is also making detailed measures to support the dining industry in adopting the 'new lifestyle' guidelines.

- (4) To realise assistance in a swift manner, continuous forms of support will be made available with cooperation from relevant institutions.

Inquiries for businesses affected by the spread of COVID-19
(Call centre: 0120-936-692)