

Concerning the Overall Lifting of Travel Restrictions and Relevant Measures

With the number of new patients decreasing across Japan and the strain on healthcare systems softening, we are entering a new phase with the Government of Japan's decision to lift travel restrictions prohibiting movement across prefectural borders starting from June 19. Locally, the Oita prefecture has been free of new infections for 57 days since April 22.

I would like to express my gratitude again to residents for their understanding and cooperation towards our disease control efforts, not to mention our medical staff who have worked devotedly despite the risks of infection.

However, the virus remains an ongoing issue to which we must stay alert.

I would like to request residents to practice and adopt the "New Lifestyle" guidelines mentioned below and remain vigilant towards trends occurring across Japan.

- Wash hands thoroughly, practise good cough etiquette, wear a mask and maintain safe distances from each other
- Avoid the overlapping of the 3Cs (closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded places, conversations with close contact)

Concerning business entities, I urge workplaces to take proper measures based on industry-specific infection-prevention guidelines.

From now on, we must shift our emphasis from disease-prevention to the revitalization of social and economic activities.

To maintain our residents' living standards, support is provided through measures such as the Special Cash Payment and the Social Welfare Fund. We strive to swiftly deliver various forms of support such as the Employment Adjustment Subsidy and the Sustainability Benefit to maintain employment and keep businesses afloat. Additionally, we are working on distributing funding to businesses struggling from the effects of COVID-19 through the timely and seamless delivery of the Special Prefectural Loan and other lending schemes such as the three-year interest-free and non-collateral loan.

To support the severely impacted tourism industry, the Oita Prefecture will issue 5,000-yen-per-person "Oita Travel Coupons" to local residents starting from June 22. Joint tourism promotion efforts with neighboring prefectures are also in the works.

Besides the thorough prevention and control of the disease, I would like to ask for your further understanding and cooperation in contributing to the revitalization of social and economic activities.

June 18, 2020
Katusada Hirose, Governor of the Oita Prefecture