

Considerations for human rights in relation to Covid-19

To all residents of Oita Prefecture

Amid the increase of Covid-19 infection cases and anxiety of being infected, there has been reports of discriminatory or defamatory cases toward infected individuals in Oita Prefecture as well as across Japan.

(Reported cases)

- *Excessive entrance restrictions for fear of infection.
- *Avoidance or exclusion of vehicles simply because they hold non-local license plates
- *Defamation toward infected individuals and their families as well as facilities and local areas in which they dwell or frequent.
- *Refusal to attend a childcare facility although all relevant PCR testing results returned negative.
- *Discrimination of medical staff or younger people deemed Covid-19 patients without any evidence.

While no one wishes for it, infection could happen to anybody. Residents should be wary of false or inaccurate information surrounding Covid-19, and reject acts of human rights violation such as discrimination and bullying.

We sincerely request you all to act appropriately for the protection of human rights, and to always refer to public institutions as accurate sources to eliminate any possibility of human rights abuse arising from misleading information.