

Governor's Message: Emergency Request to Curb the Rapid Spread of the 4th Wave

COVID-19 infections are rapidly increasing in Hyogo Prefecture. The daily new case counts have exceeded 300 for several consecutive days and reached a record high of 507 on April 14. The medical system is in a critical situation with over 1,000 patients on the waiting list for hospitalization, and surgeries and emergency transportation are not available in some cases.

Therefore, we decided to expand the areas to be included under the pre-emergency measures and strengthen COVID-19 countermeasures.

We must curb the spread of infections by all means.

Business operators are requested to practice the following even under the current harsh business environment.

Request to business operators

1. Shorten business hours

- From April 22, pre-emergency measures will be applied to the Hanshin-kita area (Itami, Takarazuka, Kawanishi, Sanda, and Inagawa) and Akashi in addition to the current areas (Kobe, Amagasaki, Nishinomiya, and Ashiya). Eating and drinking establishments in those areas are requested to shorten business hours to 20:00 until May 5.
- Eating and drinking establishments in the Higashi-Harima area (excluding Akashi) and the Naka-Harima area are requested to close by 21:00 until May 5 (note that the period is extended).

2. Thoroughly implement infection prevention measures

- Eating and drinking establishments are requested to practice the following:
Using acrylic partitions or keeping a proper distance between guests, providing hand sanitizers, ventilating the rooms, requesting guests to wear face masks, not admitting those who show symptoms such as fever, encouraging employees to get tested, and stopping offering karaoke services

- Request employees to refrain from organizing/attending parties, including farewell/welcome parties and office parties.
- Make efforts to reduce 70% of commuters and utilize telecommuting and video conferences.