

April 7, 2020

Governor's Message

Today, Prime Minister Abe Shinzo declared State of Emergency concerning the outbreak of the coronavirus diseases (COVID-19) for seven prefectures, including Hyogo Prefecture.

There are 229 confirmed cases (20 new cases as of 21:00 on April 7, 2020) in Hyogo. This spread is not as rapid as Tokyo or Osaka, however, we are continuing to see an increase in confirmed cases, cases with untraceable infection routes, and cases among returnees from overseas and young people. We are currently in a critical situation.

In align with the State of Emergency declaration, Hyogo Prefecture held a COVID-19 task force meeting to determine "Hyogo's countermeasure policy to fight against the COVID-19 outbreak."

Based on this policy, we will further increase our efforts to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak by placing the safety of citizens as the top priority and working towards preventing new clusters of patients from developing, reducing the risk of secondary infections from those already infected, and taking countermeasures for returnees from overseas.

I would like to ask every citizen of Hyogo to heed the information from the national, prefectural, and municipal governments and to stay calm and observe the following.

1. Formal stay-at-home request

I would like to formally ask all of you, once again, to be aware of the responsibilities of your actions and request that you refrain from unnecessary and non-urgent outings from your home, such as visiting family members in your hometowns, traveling, or attending meetings.

For the time being, I would like to request that you do not make unnecessary and non-urgent travels to the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, where the spread of the virus is rapid, as well as densely populated urban areas around Kansai.

I would also request that you do not attend assemblies, meetings, and events where the "Three Cs" can overlap: Confined spaces with poor ventilation; Crowded places where many people can be nearby; and Close contact with people.

Furthermore, for the time being, please avoid visiting eating and drinking

establishments that provide individual customer services or karaoke parlors that are open during the nighttime until early morning.

2. Stay calm and rational

I would like to ask all of you to stay calm and rational as to not be swayed by speculation or groundless rumors about healthcare workers, patients, or anyone involved in healthcare to prevent any harmful reputational damage.

Please rest assured that hospitals and clinics, supermarkets, banks and financial institutions, and those that are essential to sustain your everyday life will continue their business operations; therefore, I strongly urge you to refrain from buying excessive amounts of food, medical goods, and household necessities.

If you have any questions or concerns about the COVID-19 outbreak, you can reach our 24-hour call center for further information and consultation. Telephone: 078-362-9980 (Japanese only)

Hyogo Prefecture will continue to work together with the national government and involved organizations to take prompt and accurate responses in fighting against the further outbreak of the COVID-19.

Multilingual consultation services for foreign residents in Hyogo at the Hyogo Multicultural Counseling Center will be available as well.

Opening hours	Contact	Consultation methods & Languages
Monday – Friday 9 am – 5 pm	Hyogo International Association Information and Advisory Service Telephone: 078-382-2052	<Telephone (Consultant)> Japanese, English, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish
		<Telephone (“Trio-Phone System”)>* Vietnamese, Korean, Tagalog, Indonesian, Thai, and Nepalese
Saturday – Sunday 9 am – 5 pm	NGO Network for Foreigner’s Assistance KOBE (inside the Kobe Central Catholic Church) 1-28-7 Nakayamate-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650-0004 Telephone 078-232-1290	<Telephone & In-person Consultation> Japanese, English, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese
		<Telephone (“Trio-Phone System”)>* Korean, Tagalog, Indonesian, Thai, and Nepalese

*A three-way phone call with a contracted interpreter, consultant, and the caller.