

October 14, 2020

Governor's Message to Hyogo citizens and Hyogo-based business operators:
Hyogo Stands against COVID-19

Hyogo Prefecture has been in the COVID-19 “infection alert” phase for one and a half months since September 1, with the daily number of confirmed cases remaining at around 15. During this period, we have observed clusters of infections and the expansion of household infections, and as such, we must not let our guard down yet. “Twindemic” of COVID-19 and seasonal flu is also a concern for the upcoming season.

Hyogo Prefecture is striving to “Stand against COVID-19” with a focus on the following efforts, and I would like to ask Hyogo citizens and business operators to cooperate with us.

1. Preventing secondary infections

When a new case is confirmed, we will identify the extent of suspected infections and provide **PCR Tests** promptly and **extensively** to close contacts and those around them. After **immediately identifying** the infected persons, we will **contain secondary infections by preventing the spread of infection** from them.

2. Securing sufficient hospital admission and medical system

We currently have **663 beds** (including 110 beds for severe cases) **secured at hospitals and 700 rooms at accommodation facilities**. Since we have been in the “infection alert” phase for a substantial period of time, we will have **approx. 300 hospital beds ready for immediate response**. **Our medical system stands ready with sufficient capacity**.

3. Maintaining the “no recuperation-at-home” principle

We will **maintain the “no recuperation-at-home” principle** to ensure appropriate response to sudden changes in patients’ conditions and the prevention of household infections.

4. Reorganizing the medical system prior to the flu season

To prepare for the “twindemic” of COVID-19 and seasonal flu, we will secure **approx. 250 medical institutions providing diagnosis and testing for patients with fever**, so that citizens can receive those services at a larger number of medical institutions in accordance with the situation of each region. If you have fever, **contact your family doctor or a medical institution in your community by phone** and follow their advice. **If it is difficult for you to reach your family doctor or find a medical institution nearby, contact the consultation center for patients with fever in the public health center or Hyogo Prefecture’s COVID-19 call center for health consultation.**

[To Hyogo citizens]

- **Avoid visiting facilities with higher risks of infections** (including eating and drinking establishments serving alcohol and/or providing individual customer services and karaoke parlors that do not implement infection prevention measures based on each industry’s guidelines). Young people should pay extra attention.
- Please utilize the COVID-19 Contact Confirmation Application “**COCOA**” and the “**Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system**.”
- Be sure to follow the “**Hyogo Style**” that includes avoiding the Three Cs (confined spaces, crowded places, and close contact). In particular, **you must wear face masks**.

[To Hyogo-based business operators]

- Please **thoroughly practice infection prevention measures based on each industry's guidelines and put up the "infection control poster"** indicating that your facility is taking proper measures.
- Establishments with higher risks of infections such as **eating and drinking establishments that serve alcohol and/or provide karaoke service must take more stringent prevention measures.**
- **Avoid the Three Cs in workplaces, and be sure to wear face masks** when attending meetings, riding a car with someone, and taking a business trip.
- Please **register for the "Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system,"** and then download and **post the QR code on the tables and/or counters** in your facility.

The infection mitigation depends on the efforts of each and every citizen and business operator of Hyogo, working together with the strong will of **"Together We Prevent, Together We Fight against COVID-19."** Hence, I would like to ask all of you for your understanding and cooperation in order to prevent any further spread of infections.