

Governor's Message: We are still in a State of Emergency!

On February 2, the COVID-19 State of Emergency for Hyogo Prefecture was extended to March 7. The number of new cases is decreasing in Hyogo Prefecture. However, the medical service situation is still dire, with the hospital bed occupancy for severe cases exceeding 50%.

Now is a critical moment. I would like to ask for your continued understanding and cooperation in following the four measures below so we can protect the health and lives of everyone in Hyogo Prefecture.

1. Shorten business hours

(Eating and drinking establishments should stop serving alcohol by 7:00 p.m. and close by 8:00 p.m.)

2. Avoid outings

(Unnecessary and non-urgent outings should be avoided)

3. Reduce commuters

(Reduce 70% of commuters through telecommuting and other measures)

4. Comply with the requirements for holding events

((1) The number of participants must not exceed 5,000 **and** (2) must not exceed 50% of the venue's capacity for indoor events, and enough distance must be secured among participants for outdoor events)

Do not bring the virus into homes, facilities, etc.

Household transmission accounts for approximately 50% of the infection routes in Hyogo Prefecture. Hyogo citizens, **young people in particular**, are requested to strongly recognize that **our region is under the State of Emergency** and take caution on the following to **avoid bringing in the virus from outside**.

- All citizens are **strongly requested to avoid unnecessary and non-urgent outings**, even during the daytime.
- **Avoid unnecessary and non-urgent visits to areas outside the prefecture, areas under the State of Emergency, and places with higher risks of infections.**
- **Refrain from dining and drinking in groups or for long hours, even if it is at home, and keep conversations to a minimum.**
- **Manage your health properly by checking your temperature daily, washing your hands, and wearing face masks.**
- **If you have a fever, difficulty breathing, decrease/loss of sense of taste, or other symptoms, refrain from going out (including commuting to work or school), and immediately call and seek advice from your family doctor.**

The infection mitigation depends on the efforts of each and every one of you, working together with the strong will of "Together We Prevent, Together We Fight against COVID-19." I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to essential workers, such as medical and social welfare workers who are protecting our everyday life and health. Let us overcome this crisis together.