

August 17, 2020

**Governor's Message to Hyogo citizens and Hyogo-based business operators:  
Continue to stay cautious of your actions against COVID-19**

The number of confirmed cases in Hyogo Prefecture went below 40 for the seven-day moving average for four consecutive days from August 14, indicating that we have now returned to the lower half of the “infection expanding” phase.

However, we have observed clusters of infections formed at social welfare facilities and eating and drinking establishments that serve alcohol. The virus is also continuing to spread regardless of age group due to infections within family members. We must not let our guard down just yet.

In Hyogo, we are making every effort to prevent the spread of the virus by expeditiously identifying close contacts, flexibly conducting PCR testing, and securing sufficient medical and testing systems corresponding to the respective alert phase.

We are now returning back from the “bon” summer holidays, and I would like to ask Hyogo citizens and business operators to thoroughly observe the following:

**[To Hyogo citizens]**

- **Refrain from unnecessary and non-urgent visits to Tokyo, Osaka and other areas outside the prefecture.** In particular, **refrain from visiting facilities with high risk of infections** at such areas, including eating and drinking establishments that provide individual customer services.
- **Avoid using eating and drinking establishments that serve alcohol and/or provide individual customer services, karaoke parlors, and other facilities** that do not implement infection prevention measures. No dining or drinking in groups. No speaking loudly.
- **If you have symptoms such as persistent fever, trouble breathing, lethargy, and decrease or loss of sense of smell/taste, please contact the consultation center in the public health center.** If you have underlying conditions, please consult with them as soon as possible even though your symptoms are relatively light (fever, cough, etc.).
- Be sure to follow the “**Hyogo Style**” that includes avoiding the Three Cs (confined spaces, crowded places, and close contact) and wearing face masks.
- Please utilize the COVID-19 Contact Confirmation Application “**COCOA**” and the “**Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system.**”

**[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.**
- Please **register for the “Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system,”** and then download and **post the QR code** in your facility.
- Please **reduce the number of commuters** through telecommuting, TV conferencing, and rotating work schedules.

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.