

May 15<sup>th</sup> Message from the Governor (Extract)

To all citizens of Shimane Prefecture,

Yesterday, the Government of Japan decided to end the state of emergency in 39 prefectures, including Shimane Prefecture.

Although Shimane is not under a state of emergency, it does not mean that the risk of infection has disappeared; it is still necessary to thoroughly practice basic infection prevention measures.

In addition, if there is a confirmed trend of increasing infections, it is possible that the Government of Japan will again apply a state of emergency to Shimane Prefecture.

To prevent another state of emergency, the Shimane Prefectural Government is implementing policies as follows:

We kindly ask all citizens for your cooperation.

(1) A Request to All Prefectural Citizens

As before, please continue to practice basic infection prevention measures such as:

- ① Thoroughly avoiding the “Three Cs” (confined spaces, crowded places, and close contact with people)
- ② Leaving space with people around you
- ③ Wearing a mask
- ④ Hand hygiene (washing your hands, etc.)

In addition, regarding **outdoor travel**,

- ① From a standpoint to prevent infection spread, please strictly avoid traveling to other prefectures, such as for unnecessary, non-urgent trips home, for vacation, etc.
- ② Regarding places where infection clusters have occurred (such as food and drink establishments that entertain customers, karaoke rooms, live music venues, sports facilities, etc.), please strictly reduce visits to such places, EXCEPT when an establishment sufficiently practices safety measures such as proper ventilation, sanitization, restricted admission, ensuring space between customers, etc.

When visiting these places, please do not rely on the establishment’s safety measures only, but also thoroughly practice personal prevention measures such as **leaving space with people around you, wearing a mask, washing your hands, and self-isolating if you have a fever or other symptoms.**

- ③ In addition, please strictly reduce outdoor travel to any other places that have the “Three Cs.”

(2) Next, regarding the response by prefectural facilities:

Among prefectural facilities that have been temporarily closed, 10 of these facilities have reopened, some which still have partial restrictions in place.

After May 16<sup>th</sup>, 16 other facilities will reopen as soon as protocols to avoid the “Three Cs” have been fully implemented.

In addition, among the 10 facilities already open, 6 of these facilities will have their area of usability increased.

Facilities that are especially predicted to be used by visitors from outside Shimane will remain fully closed.

(3) Lastly, regarding the response by prefectural schools:

To create an environment where students can continue to learn, it is important to gradually restart educational activities. Therefore, the Shimane Prefectural Board of Education (BOE) will reopen all prefectural schools from May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Currently, all prefectural schools are closed until May 31<sup>st</sup>, but the BOE is changing this policy, so that schools will reopen 1 week sooner, while taking care to avoid confusion at the schools. Altogether, the BOE plans to gradually restart school activities.

Except for Matsue City, prefectural schools in all areas are planned to resume “distributed school attendance” for educational guidance from May 18<sup>th</sup>; as planned, this week the schools will implement educational guidance (material review, establishment of basic academic skills, etc.) for students, with full classes being postponed, in order to avoid further confusion at the schools.

From next week starting on May 25<sup>th</sup>, schools will be reopened. At that time, schools will trial simultaneous school attendance, and they will also implement policies such as new school rules for students to avoid the “Three Cs.”

For prefectural schools in Matsue City, upon reopening on May 25<sup>th</sup>, there are new plans for distributed school attendance for educational guidance to be implemented at that time.

Regarding policy for prefectural schools in Matsue City after June 1<sup>st</sup>, it is the objective of the Shimane Prefectural Board of Education that a decision will be made by May 27<sup>th</sup>, looking at the trial results of simultaneous school attendance in other municipalities, etc.

At the same time, to slowly allow the return of pre-pandemic economic activity and lifestyles of all citizens—even if only a little—we are doing everything in our power to respond to the current infection cluster in the prefecture, guarantee medical care, and ensure the continued operations of businesses throughout Shimane Prefecture.

15 May 2020

Maruyama Tatsuya, Governor of Shimane Prefecture