

August 28th Message from the Governor (Extract)

To all citizens of Shimane Prefecture,

On August 7th, I made a number of cautionary requests to all citizens and those returning home to Shimane Prefecture during Obon.

Although it was painful to make such requests, we humbly received the enormous cooperation of citizens and those returning home to Shimane, as well as those who decided not to return to Shimane after careful consideration.

Thanks to everyone's cooperation, currently there are no confirmed cases of infection thought to be caused by return travel during Obon. I am extremely grateful for everyone's efforts.

(A request from Shimane Prefecture)

Although the number of new infections has been slightly decreasing nationwide, there is a constant risk of infection. Therefore, I once again ask that all citizens observe the following points.

(Thorough practice of basic infection prevention measures)

In order to prevent infections in the workplace or at home, I ask for the continued cooperation of all citizens in practicing basic infection prevention measures such as:

- ① Avoiding the “Three Cs”
- ② Social distancing
- ③ Wearing a mask
- ④ Washing your hands

Currently it is the hot summer season, and so I ask that citizens take a balanced approach between wearing a mask and heatstroke prevention.

(Use of food and drink establishments)

On the premise that food and drink establishments thoroughly implement infection prevention measures, and that citizens choose to visit these establishments, I request the following two points:

- ① When visiting other prefectures, please refrain from visiting food and drink establishments that entertain customers, and refrain from using establishments for the purpose of alcohol consumption together with people from outside Shimane Prefecture.
- ② When in Shimane Prefecture, please refrain from visiting food and drink establishments that entertain customers and using establishments for the purpose of alcohol consumption together with visitors from outside Shimane Prefecture.

However, among neighboring prefectures, regions which are connected to the daily lives of citizens (for work, shopping, etc.) shall be treated the same as regions within Shimane Prefecture.

(Request to stop prejudice and discrimination against affected individuals)

With the spread of COVID-19, including the infection cluster in Matsue City, there has been abuse and gossip on the internet and social media regarding infected patients and people close to them.

Because it is not clear whether such abuse is coming from inside Shimane or from other prefectures, I request the following to all citizens in Japan.

Please strictly refrain from such abuse and gossip.

When we act in a calm manner while showing consideration for the human rights of those infected and people related to them, we are not only showing consideration to those people affected—rather, such consideration is linked to the swift discovery of infections, as well as preventing widespread infection throughout the prefecture.

I humbly ask for your understanding and cooperation.

We will continue to do everything in our power to prevent infections, strengthen medical services, and revive the local economy, while aiming for a return to normality. I once again ask for your understanding and cooperation.

28 August 2020

Maruyama Tatsuya
Governor of Shimane Prefecture