

To all citizens of Shimane Prefecture,

Considering the situation in Japan regarding COVID-19 infections, as well as the situation in Shimane Prefecture, where there have been confirmed infections on an almost daily basis since 24 November, I request the following four points to all citizens and those planning on returning to Shimane. The requests will be applicable until 11 January 2021.

1. Before traveling to Shimane from regions where the government is asking citizens to refrain from unnecessary outdoor travel, such as Sapporo City (Hokkaido), Tokyo, Nagoya City (Aichi), Osaka, Hyogo, Hiroshima City (Hiroshima), etc., please discuss with family and carefully reconsider your travel plans.
If you plan on traveling from Shimane to the regions above, please also discuss with family and carefully reconsider your travel plans.
You do not need to refrain from travel if the purpose includes work, job hunting, taking exams, funerals, nursing care, etc.
This request does not seek travelers to incur cancellation fees by cancelling tickets that they have already purchased.
2. If visiting Shimane from regions not listed above, we request that from two weeks prior to departure, please be careful of the “5 situations” where there is a high risk of infection; specifically, social gatherings involving alcohol consumption, dining out with large numbers of people or for a long period of time, having conversations without wearing a mask, living with others in a confined space, and switching locations. In addition, please thoroughly practice basic infection prevention measures such as avoiding the “Three Cs,” social distancing, wearing a mask, disinfecting your hands, etc.
3. In summary, when traveling home to stay with family or friends, please be careful of the “5 situations” where there is a high risk of infection, and thoroughly practice basic infection prevention measures even when among family members.
4. If you are not able to implement thorough infection prevention measures at home, please consider staying at a hotel or *ryokan* (inn).

It is with great regret that I have made these requests throughout the year—during Golden Week, Obon, and now the New Year’s holiday season. However, there are ever increasing infections across the country, with new infections being confirmed almost daily in Shimane Prefecture since 24 November; if there is a larger increase in infections during the New Year, it may become difficult to continue suppressing infections through large-scale PCR testing and epidemiological investigations by public health centers. Therefore, we have decided to make these requests.

I kindly ask for your understanding and cooperation.

I am sure that there will be many people returning home to Shimane who will thoroughly follow these requests. At the same time, I ask citizens to show consideration to visitors and their families.

18 December 2020

Maruyama Tatsuya
Governor of Shimane Prefecture