

April 26th Message from the Governor (Excerpt)

To all citizens of Shimane Prefecture,

On April 23rd, the Government of Japan announced a state of emergency for the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Kyoto Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, and Hyogo Prefecture. In addition, the Government of Japan announced new “priority measures to prevent the spread of infections” for Ehime Prefecture. Because the basic policy for dealing with COVID-19 has changed, I request the following to all citizens.

These requests shall be applicable until May 11th 2021.

(Regarding Travel Between Prefectures)

1. Please refrain from travel between Shimane Prefecture and areas under a state of emergency—namely, Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Kyoto Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, and Hyogo Prefecture.

Please refrain from travel between Shimane Prefecture and “areas under priority measures to prevent the spread of infections”—namely, Miyagi Prefecture, Saitama Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture, Kanagawa Prefecture, Aichi Prefecture, Ehime Prefecture, and Okinawa Prefecture.

In addition, there are areas where the prefectural governments are requesting that citizens refrain from non-essential, non-urgent outdoor travel—namely, Sapporo City (Hokkaido), Yamagata City (Yamagata), Wakayama Prefecture, Kagawa Prefecture, Fukuoka Prefecture, etc. Please carefully reconsider travel plans to these areas. In particular, please refrain from travel if you have symptoms such as a fever.

Except for when you have symptoms such as a fever, you do not need to refrain from travel if the purpose includes work, job relocation, job hunting, funerals, nursing care, etc.

(Thorough Practice of Basic Infection Prevention Measures)

2. To prevent infections at your workplace or household, please be careful of the “5 situations” where there is a high risk of infection: 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 continue to thoroughly practice basic infection prevention measures such as:
 - (1) Avoiding the “Three Cs”
 - (2) Social distancing

- (3) Wearing a mask
- (4) Disinfecting your hands, etc.

If you develop a fever or cold symptoms, please do not hesitate to stay at home instead of going to work or school. Please avoid traveling outdoors. First, call your family doctor or the “Health Consultation Call Center” to receive a medical examination as soon as possible. At each workplace, please make every effort to manage the health of employees, by promptly encouraging them to visit a medical institution if they are not feeling well. I ask that all citizens as well as workplaces follow these requests.

(Regarding the Use of Food and Drink Establishments)

3. Assuming that citizens will only visit food and drink establishments that thoroughly practice infection prevention measures:
 - (1) Please continue to refrain from eating or drinking with non-residents of Shimane Prefecture (including non-alcohol consumption), whether you are in Shimane Prefecture or visiting another prefecture.
 - (2) Please dine in groups of 9 people or fewer—however, if you have dined with a non-resident of Shimane Prefecture, or you have recently stayed at the home of someone outside Shimane Prefecture, then please refrain from dining in groups for two weeks.
 - (3) Please limit group dining to a period of 90 minutes.
 - (4) For workplace welcome parties, if any new members who have recently relocated to Shimane Prefecture will be joining, then please hold such parties a minimum of two weeks after these new members arrive in Shimane Prefecture.
 - (5) Regarding the use of “food and drink establishments where staff may entertain customers,”
 - ① Please refrain from visiting such establishments outside of Shimane Prefecture.
 - ② In Shimane Prefecture, please refrain from visiting such establishments with visitors from outside Shimane Prefecture.

However, Tottori Prefecture, as well as areas of Hiroshima and Yamaguchi Prefectures where citizens of Shimane Prefecture usually visit for daily necessities (e.g. work, shopping, etc.) shall be treated the same as within Shimane Prefecture.

(Adequate Ventilation)

4. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, please maintain an appropriate indoor environment (temperature, humidity, etc.) and adequately ventilate rooms.

(Regarding Use of the Contact-Confirming Application)

5. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, please proactively install and use the Contact-Confirming Application (COCOA), provided by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

(Actions to Reduce Contact in Offices)

6. At workplaces, please implement policies to reduce physical contact between people, such as remote working (“telework”), flexible working hours (“flextime”), commuting by bicycle, etc.

(Preventing Prejudice and Discrimination)

7. I request that citizens strictly refrain from spreading rumors or defamation and slander towards infected patients and those close to them. Please act in a calm manner with respect for human rights, based on information from public institutions such as prefectural and municipal governments.

In Shimane Prefecture, we have received the cooperation of businesses to publicly release store information when an infected individual used a store that an undetermined number of people also visited. We believe that such action has led to the prevention of infections.

The managers of these stores have cooperated with the Shimane Prefectural Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19, despite knowing that the store’s name being publicly released might lead to reputational damage or a decrease in sales.

Therefore, I request all citizens to strictly refrain from defamation, slander, or inconsiderate words and actions towards such stores.

The Shimane Prefectural Government will do everything in its power to prevent the spread of infections, strengthen medical systems, and revive the local economy, while closely coordinating with the Government of Japan, local governments, and medical institutions. We kindly ask all citizens for your continued understanding and cooperation.

26 April 2021

Maruyama Tatsuya
Governor of Shimane Prefecture