

## A Request from Shimane Prefecture

(The State of Shimane Prefecture from April to June)

From the end of March, a “fourth wave” of COVID-19 spread across the country, which also affected Shimane Prefecture. Cases increased from April throughout May, with 65 cases announced in April, and 189 cases announced in May. Almost all of these cases were due to the Alpha variant (first detected in the UK).

From April until the “Golden Week” holiday period in May, many new infections were due to sources outside Shimane Prefecture, as well as people in close contact with such sources (e.g. visitors to Shimane Prefecture, local residents who travelled outside of Shimane Prefecture, etc.).

After the “Golden Week” holiday period in May, many new cases were reportedly linked to infection clusters at karaoke cafés and karaoke establishments where staff entertain customers.

However, since the start of June, new infections have become sporadic, and until yesterday, only 11 new cases have been announced. Therefore, we believe that the “fourth wave” of COVID-19 has almost finished in Shimane Prefecture.

(Visiting Food and Drink Establishments)

Given the current circumstances, we have determined that visiting food and drink establishments will not lead to widespread infections as long as citizens follow the infection prevention measures below.

Assuming that citizens will only visit food and drink establishments in Shimane Prefecture that thoroughly implement infection prevention measures, Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, Shimane Prefecture is relaxing restrictions on the number of people dining together as well as the duration spent dining together.

- ① Please limit group dining to 12 people or fewer.
- ② Please limit the duration of group dining (including multiple food and drink establishments) to a total of 2 hours.

Following these updated restrictions, now more than ever before I request that citizens strictly observe the following:

- (1) Please 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) If you have dined with a non-resident of Shimane Prefecture, you have recently stayed

at the home of someone outside Shimane Prefecture, or visitors from outside Shimane Prefecture have recently stayed at your house, then please refrain from dining in groups for two weeks.

- (3) 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.
- (4) At establishments that offer karaoke, please thoroughly observe infection prevention measures such as wearing a mask, disinfecting equipment (microphones, remote controls, etc.), and social distancing while singing.

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

These requests may be updated depending on the state of infections in Shimane Prefecture.

(Infection Prevention Measures at Food and Drink Establishments)

At the same time, I strongly request food and drink establishments to please review the “Infection Prevention Guidelines,” and now more than ever, to please thoroughly implement infection prevention measures so that citizens may visit your establishment with peace of mind.

30 June 2021

Maruyama Tatsuya  
Governor of Shimane Prefecture