

August 26th Message from the Governor

To all citizens of Shimane Prefecture,

On August 25th, the areas under a state of emergency and areas under “priority measures to prevent the spread of infections” were updated. In addition, the basic government policies for dealing with COVID-19 were updated. Therefore, I ask all citizens to please follow the requests outlined in the document “Shimane Prefectural Government Response.”

These requests shall be applicable until September 12th 2021.
In particular, I would like to emphasize the following requests.

(Regarding Travel Between Prefectures)

1. Hokkaido, Miyagi Prefecture, Gifu Prefecture, Aichi Prefecture, Mie Prefecture, Shiga Prefecture, Okayama Prefecture, and Hiroshima Prefecture have been added as areas under a state of emergency.

In addition, Kochi Prefecture, Saga Prefecture, Nagasaki Prefecture, and Miyazaki Prefecture have been added as areas under “priority measures to prevent the spread of infections.”

Please refrain from travel between Shimane Prefecture and areas under a state of emergency or “priority measures to prevent the spread of infections,” as well as any other prefecture not listed above.

If you do not have symptoms such as a fever, you may travel to other prefectures for absolutely essential travel, such as for work, commuting to school, work relocation, job hunting, funerals or memorial services, caretaking or nursing, etc.

However, such movement across prefectures is a high-risk activity. Therefore, even if under exceptional circumstances you must travel across prefectural borders, I strongly request that you thoroughly follow basic infection prevention measures such as avoiding the “three Cs,” social distancing, washing your hands, etc. I also strongly request that such measures are followed by all household members if you will stay at a relative or another person’s house outside of Shimane.

I urge workplaces to seriously consider postponing business trips for employees, or to consider remote meetings instead of physical trips, unless it is absolutely necessary to physically meet.

(Health Management at Home and the Workplace)

2. Even after being vaccinated twice against COVID-19, please do not become complacent, but continue to thoroughly practice infection prevention measures such as wearing a

mask, washing 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 Shimane COVID-19 “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.

(Preventing Prejudice and Discrimination)

3. I request that citizens strictly refrain from spreading rumors or defamation and slander on the internet or SNS 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.

(To All Citizens Who Have Been Vaccinated)

4. Currently, the alpha variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is being replaced by the delta variant as the dominant strain. The delta variant is able to spread much more easily, and is greatly contributing to the current increase in infections. At present, we are strongly progressing with vaccinations, through the cooperation of each municipal government and enterprise. Vaccines are sufficiently effective at preventing serious illness. However, vaccines cannot completely prevent infections from occurring; there have been confirmed cases throughout Japan of individuals becoming infected despite having received two vaccine doses.

Because there is still a risk that vaccinated citizens may become infected, develop symptoms, and infect those around them, it is necessary for vaccinated citizens to continue thoroughly implementing infection prevention measures until widespread vaccination is achieved among all age groups. Please be careful not to relax current infection prevention measures.

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

26 August 2021

Maruyama Tatsuya
Governor of Shimane Prefecture