

## A Request from Shimane Prefecture Concerning the Rapid Spread of COVID-19

### **(Regarding the State of Infections in Shimane Prefecture)**

Since the beginning of August, infections have been rapidly spreading in Shimane Prefecture. As of August 30<sup>th</sup>, there have been 566 confirmed cases of COVID-19 this month, and 124 patients have been hospitalized. The current spread of infections shows no signs of slowing down.

Many of the infections are thought to have originated outside Shimane Prefecture, such as non-residents returning to their hometown in Shimane or residents with a recent history of travel outside Shimane. Such patients make up roughly 50% of all cases. When accounting for further infections caused by these patients (i.e. “secondary” and “tertiary” infections), it is estimated that roughly 40% of all infections routes originated outside Shimane Prefecture.

I have been strongly urging residents to refrain from travel between Shimane and other prefectures, yet unfortunately we are now in a very difficult situation.

### **(A Request for Workplaces, etc.)**

Therefore, I request the following to all workplaces in Shimane Prefecture:

- ① Please consider postponing business trips outside of Shimane Prefecture or conduct online meetings instead. Please limit business trips only to situations when postponement or remote work is not possible.
- ② After considering all other options, if you must conduct a business trip outside of Shimane Prefecture, please implement basic infection prevention measures such as avoiding the “three Cs,” social distancing, wearing a mask, washing your hands, etc. If you will stay at an individual’s house, please thoroughly follow measures to prevent infections within the household.

In addition, if you plan to invite non-residents to Shimane Prefecture for work purposes, please only do so if absolutely necessary, and only after all other options (postponement, remote work, etc.) have been considered.

These requests for workplaces shall remain in place until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

We will be notifying businesses and workplaces about the content of these requests.

### **(Regarding the Use of Food and Drink Establishments)**

Last weekend in Matsue City, another infection cluster was confirmed which originated from the use of food and drink establishments.

In addition to the various requests that we are asking of residents regarding workplaces, the Shimane Prefectural Government is also implementing additional restrictions on prefectural

school club activities (e.g. limiting time for club activities, etc.). These restrictions are to prevent the spread of infections in schools.

Therefore, regarding the use of food and drink establishments, we are now requesting that people only gather in groups of **4 people or fewer** (as opposed to our previous request of 12 people or fewer).

The requests above, in addition to previous requests, are essential to stopping the current spread of infections in Shimane Prefecture. Once again, I strongly ask all residents to strictly observe such requests.

30 August 2021

Maruyama Tatsuya  
Governor of Shimane Prefecture