

September 10th Message from the Governor

To all citizens of Shimane Prefecture,

On September 9th, the areas and duration under a state of emergency, as well as areas and duration 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,” based on the state of infections in Japan and in Shimane Prefecture.

These requests shall be applicable until September 30th 2021.
In particular, I would like to emphasize the following requests.

(Regarding Travel Between Prefectures)

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

If you do not have symptoms such as a fever, you may travel to other prefectures for absolutely essential work (including commuting), commuting to school, work relocation, job hunting, funerals or memorial services, caretaking or nursing, etc. However, please thoroughly follow basic infection prevention measures such as avoiding the “three Cs,” social distancing, washing your hands, etc. If you will stay at a relative or another person’s house outside of Shimane, I also strongly request that such measures are followed by all household members.

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.

Although included in the requests above, I ask citizens to particularly refrain from travel between prefectures (for vacations, sightseeing, or returning to one’s hometown) during the 3-day long weekend from September 18th, and during the holiday period from September 23rd – 26th.

You do not need to refrain from travel for vacations or sightseeing within Shimane Prefecture.

I request workplaces to seriously consider postponing business trips for employees outside of Shimane Prefecture, or to consider online meetings instead, unless it is absolutely necessary to physically meet.

In addition, if you plan to invite non-residents to Shimane Prefecture for work purposes,

please do so only if absolutely necessary, and only after all other options (postponement, online meetings, etc.) have been considered.

After considering all other options, if you must conduct a business trip outside of Shimane Prefecture, please practice basic infection prevention measures. If you will stay at an individual's house, please thoroughly follow measures to prevent infections within the household.

(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.

For parents and guardians, please follow these same procedures for your child if they develop a fever or cold symptoms.

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. 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, they cannot completely stop infection or the onset of symptoms. There have been news reports from around Japan of individuals becoming infected despite having received two vaccine doses. Such cases have also been confirmed in Shimane Prefecture.

Because there is still a risk that vaccinated citizens may become infected 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.

10 September 2021

Maruyama Tatsuya
Governor of Shimane Prefecture