

State of Emergency Extended!

Curb the Infection Surge This Time for Sure!

The COVID-19 State of Emergency for Hyogo Prefecture is extended to September 30. Although the new case counts are decreasing, we are still in an emergency, as the weekly average is staying at around 700 (which is much higher than the peak of the 4th wave), and the hospital bed occupancy rate for severe cases exceeds 50%. Coronavirus variants are still a great concern. Please be sure to take responsible action to curb the infection surge as soon as possible, prevent overwhelming hospitals, and protect your loved ones.

1. Reduce the flow of people

- Refrain from visiting areas outside the prefecture, except when necessary for your everyday life or business activities.
- Reduce the number of outings to crowded places by 50%, for example, by reducing shopping trips.
- Do not visit eating and drinking establishments that (1) do not follow our request to shorten business hours, (2) serve alcohol, (3) provide karaoke services, or (4) do not take thorough infection prevention measures (e.g., installing acrylic partitions).
- Do not dine in groups, hold house parties, or drink alcohol on the streets or in the parks.

2. Prevent clusters of infections

- Many clusters of infections are observed at workplaces, schools, or preschools. Household transmission is also very common. Thoroughly implement basic infection prevention measures, such as wearing face masks (non-woven masks are recommended), washing or disinfecting your hands, and ventilating rooms. Those having symptoms such as fever are strongly requested to refrain from going to work, school, or preschool.
- Take cautious actions and thorough infection prevention measures such as wearing face masks when going to common areas, including cafeterias, restrooms, changing rooms, smoking rooms, and school club rooms.
- Facilities that attract many visitors are requested to organize visitors by limiting their entry or guiding them.
- Be sure to wear face masks when having conversations at eating and drinking establishments.

3. Get vaccinated

- Many of the COVID-19 patients are young people. Vaccination reduces the risk of infection. Be careful not to be swayed by incorrect information about side effects and deaths caused by vaccination and consider vaccination based on correct information.

Saito Motohiko
Governor of Hyogo Prefecture