

May 21, 2020

Governor's Message to Hyogo citizens and Hyogo-based business operators related to the lifting of the State of Emergency

On May 21, the Government of Japan lifted the State of Emergency under the special alert for Hyogo Prefecture because the number of COVID-19 infections has decreased as a result of the countermeasures in place since April 7, when the State of Emergency was declared. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the cooperation and efforts of Hyogo citizens and business operators, in particular the healthcare workers.

In accordance with this lift, Hyogo Prefecture rescinds its business suspension request for most of the facilities starting May 23, in consideration of social and economic activities while also focusing on containing the spread of infection.

Although the State of Emergency is lifted, we need to be prepared for a possible second wave of infections.

I request all of you to continue your efforts to prevent infections.

1. To Hyogo citizens

- Please avoid unnecessary and non-urgent outings.
- Please avoid unnecessary and non-urgent travels, including visiting hometowns, across prefectures, in particular to prefectures under the special alert.
- Please avoid visits to eating and drinking establishments at entertainment quarters that provide individual customer services during nighttime, karaoke parlors, or similar establishments.
- Please avoid participating in assemblies and events where the Three Cs¹ are anticipated.

2. To Hyogo-based business operators

- Please continue business suspension of facilities where localized outbreaks have been observed nationwide, such as night clubs, karaoke parlors, live music clubs, and fitness clubs.
- For facilities that are resuming operations, I request that they practice thorough infection prevention measures based on each industry's guidelines made for this purpose.
- I request suspension or postponement of nationwide, large-scale events.
- Please take necessary measures to reduce social interactions, such as telecommuting, video conferences, rotating work schedules, and staggering work hours.

3. Preparation for a possible second wave of infections

- We need your cooperation to adapt to the "new lifestyle" of avoiding the Three Cs and refraining from the three actions (going out, operating businesses, and commuting).

I would like to ask all of you for your understanding and cooperation working towards fully resuming social and economic activities while focusing on the containment of the spread of COVID-19.

¹ Confined spaces with poor ventilation; Crowded places where many people can be nearby; and Close contact with people