

November 24, 2020

Governor's Message to Hyogo citizens and Hyogo-based business operators:  
Take extreme caution during the "Infection Expansion Special Phase"!

Due to reasons such as clusters of infections, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hyogo Prefecture has exceeded 100 for the seven-day moving average since November 21. To protect the lives and health of your loved ones and yourself, we must stop the spread of infections immediately with all necessary means. Now is a very critical moment.

Many cases have been confirmed in places such as households, workplaces, medical institutions, and social welfare facilities, and the infections are now spreading rapidly across Japan. I urge you to take extreme caution on the following:

**1. Caution on the "five situations"**

- **Please be careful of the following "five situations" that have a higher risk of infection, and be conscious of your physical conditions and behavior afterward.**
  - (1) **Attending drinking parties**
  - (2) **Dining and drinking in groups or for long hours**
  - (3) **Having conversations without face masks**
  - (4) **Co-living in small spaces and sharing communal spaces**
  - (5) **Socializing in common areas such as rest area, smoking area, and changing rooms**

**2. Request for avoiding outings**

- **All Hyogo citizens are requested to take utmost caution by avoiding unnecessary and non-urgent outings** for the upcoming year-end season.
- **Elderly people and those with underlying conditions are requested to avoid unnecessary and non-urgent outings.**
- **Avoid unnecessary and non-urgent visits to areas where a surge in infections have been observed, such as Tokyo and Osaka. Young people should take extra caution.**
- **Avoid visiting facilities with higher risks of infections inside or outside of Hyogo Prefecture that do not implement infection prevention measures** based on each industry's guidelines (in particular, eating and drinking establishments serving alcohol and/or providing individual customer services and karaoke parlors).
- When visiting eating and drinking establishments, please do so **in groups of four or less (excluding family members or caregivers).**

**3. Do not bring the virus home**

- Those who go out regularly should **be conscious of their physical conditions and behavior** to avoid bringing the virus home. **Young people should take extra caution.**
- **Pay attention to your health, and check your body temperature every day. If you have a fever or other symptoms, refrain from going out** (including commuting to work or school) and **consult your doctor by phone.**
- **Be sure to follow the basic infection prevention guideline "Hyogo Style" that includes wearing face masks, washing your hands, practicing physical distancing, and avoiding the Three Cs**

**(confined spaces, crowded places, and close contact).**

- When using heaters in winter, **ventilate the rooms while maintaining proper humidity levels.**
- If you have a fever, please **call and seek advice from your family doctor, a medical institution in your community, the consultation center for patients with fever in the public health center, or Hyogo Prefecture's COVID-19 call center.**
- Please **utilize the COVID-19 Contact Confirmation Application "COCOA" and the "Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system."**

#### **4. Do not bring the virus to your workplace**

- Many cases of infections have been observed at workplaces. Employers are requested to **encourage their employees to take thorough infection prevention measures at workplaces (in particular, company cafeteria, rest area, changing rooms, etc.) and in dormitories, as well as during after-work drinking events.**
- Employees must **check their body temperature and wear face masks** at their companies or facilities.
- Please **implement measures to reduce in-person interactions, such as telecommuting and video conferences.**

#### **5. Do not bring the virus to medical institutions and social welfare facilities**

- Many clusters of infections have been observed at these facilities. To avoid bringing the virus to these facilities, be sure to **monitor employees' health and behavior thoroughly and urge visitors and contractors to take caution as well.**
- In cases where infection is suspected at your institution or facility, **immediately contact the public health center or the Prefectural Health & Welfare Office of your region and follow their instructions.**

#### **6. To eating and drinking establishments**

- If you are part of the "Go To Eat" campaign, we request you to **divide a group of guests into smaller groups of four or less per table (excluding family members and caregivers)** by using partitions, acrylic boards, tables, etc.
- If you are not part of the "Go To Eat" campaign, please also make efforts to **divide a group of guests into smaller groups of four or less (excluding family members and caregivers).**
- Please **thoroughly practice infection prevention measures based on each industry's guidelines and put up the "infection control poster"** indicating that your facility is taking proper measures.
- Please **register for the "Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system,"** and then download and **post the QR code in visible places, such as on the tables and counters,** of your facility.

The infection mitigation depends on the efforts of each and every one of you, working together with the strong will of **"Together We Prevent, Together We Fight against COVID-19."** Hence, I would like to ask all of you for your understanding and cooperation in order to prevent any further spread of infections.