

January 4, 2021

Message from the Governor
(Preventative Measures for COVID-19 for the Beginning of the Year)

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has helped to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Towards the end of last year, we had a total of 5 cluster infections that arose at dining facilities. There is a trend in increasing cases, and it is of utmost importance that we work to suppress the number of infections as we enter the new year.

Even within Ehime, after entering winter the speed at which individuals show symptoms after coming into contact with those infected appears to have shortened to 2~3 days. The cycle of infection seems to be shortening.

1. Cautionary Notes for the New Year

While socio-economic activities will be starting back up, it is important that the spread of the virus to businesses and schools be prevented.

Those who have:

- ◇ Participated in an end of year party
- ◇ Interacted with individuals they do not regularly see
- ◇ Visited regions that have a large increasing number of cases

have an increased risk of having come into contact with an infected individual and thus pose the risk of spreading the virus.

We ask that you take the two points into mind if you fall into one of the categories listed above.

- Please rest at home if you feel under the weather.
- Except for with those that you have come into regular contact with over the past two weeks, avoid any new year's parties.

2. Cautionary Notes when Dining with Others

Even if you regularly wear a mask, talking to others without a mask while eating has been specified as a risk factor by experts.

In order to prevent further spread of the virus, please be careful of the following four points when eating with others

- Do not eat out in large groups for prolonged periods of time.
- Those feeling ill should refrain/be prevented from participating.
- Those who have traveled to high risk areas or have participated in any other activities that have a high risk of infection within a two week time period should avoid dining with others; even with family members.
- Even if it is a customary gathering, participation should be withdrawn and invites should be rejected.

Furthermore, while special care should be given towards dining at facilities with alcohol due to the increased chance of shouting during conversations, it should be noted that there is an increased risk of infection at home parties, karaoke, and other similar group gatherings. Individuals should proceed with extra care towards these situations along with eating out.