

January 22, 2021

**Request from the Governor
(Extension of the Special Alert Period)**

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for taking precautions to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Due to the increased amount of infections caused from the travel and group dining that comes with the New Year's holidays, Ehime entered a "Special Alert Period" on 1/8. 2 weeks have passed since we have asked everyone to take special precautions to prevent the further spread during this time. Thanks to the understanding and efforts of everyone, the spread has not reached further intense levels.

However, the number of daily infections continues to be roughly 20 individuals a day, and there does not appear to be any clear signs of a decrease in brand new cases. Furthermore, while the number of cases resulting from dining out at restaurants appears to have decreased, the number of household infections has increased. Some cases of infections from group meals at restaurants have been brought into homes. The number of infections outside of Matsuyama have also been increasing, and cluster infections have been found in Toyo and Nanyo.

Evaluating the general trends in cases, most cases after mid-January have been able to be pin-pointed towards individuals in their 20s and 30s that have eaten out (for end-of-year/new-year parties). **While the coronavirus still has only lightly spread across regions and cannot be said to have deeply penetrated throughout the prefecture, the dry air of winter will further increase the risk of infection.**

After reviewing and evaluating how the virus has spread, taking into account the limitations of our current medical response system and the opinions of experts, we have determined that we cannot end the "Special Alert Period." We will be extending the "Special Alert Period" from 1/27 for 12 days till 2/7, to match the designated time of the national state of emergency that was declared.

During this period special attention should be given towards:

- ✓ **Avoiding crowded places and getting in contact with others. In general you should take a "stay home" approach.**
- ✓ **Regardless of eating in groups or outside, avoid close contact or speaking loudly without a mask.**
- ✓ **Avoid traveling to any areas that have been heavily infected and do not meet or dine with individuals from those areas no matter how close you are to them.**

Details of the Request on Stopping the Spread (Avoiding Infection)

- Refrain from traveling to areas deemed high risk (Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Tochigi Prefecture, Saitama Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture, Kanagawa Prefecture, Gifu Prefecture, Aichi Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Fukuoka Prefecture).

*If travel must be done (exams, medical reasons, familial ceremonies, etc.), take extra precautionary measure.

*When returning from outside the prefecture, take two weeks to carefully monitor your health and avoid participating in any gatherings.

- Take note of the following concerning group outings (such as drinking parties)
 - Do not gather in large groups (5 or more people) for extended periods of time.
*When gathering with people you see daily, do so in groups of less than four and only for short periods.
 - Individuals not feeling well should refrain/be prevented from participating.
 - Individuals who have traveled outside of the prefecture or participated in any activities with a high risk of infection within a 2 week time period should avoid group outings.
*Individuals who come into contact with others frequently due to actions such as drinking and bar hopping need to take extra precautions
 - Even while eating out, masks should not be taken off outside of eating, and individuals should not speak loudly.
- Be wary of the following “5 situations” that have an increased risk of infection
 1. Group outings involving alcohol
 2. Dining in large groups and/or dining out for extended periods of time
 3. Conversing without wearing a mask
 4. Living with others in a closely confined space
 5. Changing locations

Precautions to avoid household infections

1. Wash and disinfect your hands and belongings (such as your phone) when returning home.
2. Periodically disinfect shared items/appliances (doorknobs, handrails, switches, remotes, etc.)
3. Periodically ventilate rooms and keep rooms humidified.
4. Avoid sharing plates and use serving utensils if a large serving plate is used.
5. Make a habit of taking your temperature and make sure wear a mask even inside if you are feeling unwell.

Do not interact heavily with family members in this case.