

March 19, 2021

Request from the Governor

(Regarding the End of the Nation's State of Emergency for the Novel Coronavirus and the Continuation of the Infection Alert Period in Ehime)

I would like to thank everyone for the efforts they have put in towards helping control the spread of COVID-19 through their preventative measures in both the business sector and in their personal lives.

There have been 14 positive cases since the end of the "Special Alert Period" on 3/1. Of those, only 6 are brand new cases, and the route of infection for half of those cases have been deemed to have been from out of prefecture. Roughly 150 antigen tests and PCR tests are being administered daily, and positive cases appear to only be sporadic. It appears as though the prefecture has managed to maintain a level of reduced spread.

As a result, the burden on our medical facilities has also greatly decreased.

Seeing this, it is clear that the people of Ehime have seen the virus as not just someone else's problem, and have taken to personally doing what they can in their daily and professional lives to prevent the spread. Everyone has my deepest gratitude.

With the end of the fiscal year, we will be entering a season with a large number of people moving in and out of the prefecture.

The state of emergency placed by the national government on 4 regions of Japan was ended on 3/21. However, while the number of new cases in the regions has dropped and awareness of the virus is prevalent, I believe that for the near future extra care should be placed on ensuring the virus is not brought in or out of the prefecture.

As such, I would like the "Infection Alert Period" that started back on 11/20 to extend past 3/22 for the time being.

Depending on the spread of the virus during the transitional period into the new fiscal year, the option of moving into an "Infection Reduction Period" could be considered. As such, I would like to request that everyone keep their precautionary levels high so that this transition can be possible.

With the declaration of a state of emergency on the 4 areas designated by the national government ending, the special measure law placed encouraging

“restraint from unnecessarily traveling to highly infected areas” will be changed to a personal request from me to “exercise strong judgement when considering traveling to one of the regions that was designated as high risk” .

After careful consideration, if you do have to make a trip to a one of the regions deemed high risk:

- Abide by the precautions set by the local municipality and be thorough in your preventative measures taken.
- Carefully monitor your health and avoid group gatherings for two weeks upon returning to Ehime, especially if you have participated in any activities with a high risk of infection.

Furthermore, pay special attention to the following as we enter the new fiscal year:

- The increased risk of infection when eating in groups for parties celebrating transferring employees or for graduation/acceptance into school.
- Bringing in the virus as a result of a change in location from a transfer
- Risk of bringing in the virus from a business trip or visit.

Continuing on from last fiscal year, the Ehime Prefecture government will continue to work with the cities, towns and transport industries to strengthen boarder safety measure through assisting with systems to prevent infection at potentially crowded consultation windows for residents, airport lobbies and other areas with heavy traffic during travel. Flyers and other information on how to protect oneself or what medical consultation center to contact when feeling ill will also be provided to individuals entering the prefecture.

Furthermore the following policies will be put in place for prefectural employees returning to Ehime in April from regions that are high risk, or regions with an increasing number of cases, due to the annual change of personnel:

- A warning will be given to individuals to pay extra care towards preventative measures before they come to Ehime.
- Individuals who have taken proper precautionary measures and have monitored their health appropriately and have not found any issues may begin working on 4/1 without locking up at home for two weeks upon returning to Ehime.
- If the individual had to participate in any risky activities prior to coming to Ehime, then they will work from home through telework or other

options.

These policies also apply to newly employed individuals who have come from out of prefecture.

We request that all organizations and businesses use these policies as a basis for their own employees that may be coming into Ehime through a transfer.

Thanks to the steadfast efforts of everyone in Ehime, the number of cases in the prefecture is currently calming down. In order to enter the next stage of an “Infection Reduction Period” , I hope that we can all work together to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

«Details of Request to Help Prevent the Spread»

Be aware of the risks of infection as a result of traffic to and from highly infected areas.

○Careful consideration should be exercised concerning business trips or other travel to regions that were deemed high risk (Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa)

●When traveling or on a business trip, abide by the precautionary measures set in place by the local municipality and practice general preventative measures.

●Carefully monitor your health for two weeks after returning to Ehime and refrain from participating in any group gatherings if you partook in any activities with a risk of infection.

○Care should be taken when traveling to areas that have been showing an increasing number of cases, etc.

«Precautions for the “Changing Fiscal Year” »

① Risk of infection when eating in groups for annual activities

➤ Abide by the precautions suggested for eating in groups for activities such as welcome and farewell parties, as well as graduation and acceptance parties.

• Avoid meeting with others for long periods of time or in large groups, especially for those you do not see regularly

• Individuals feeling sick should not participate or be forbidden from participating

• Individuals that had traveled to high risk areas or had partaken in any high risk activities should refrain from participating

② Risk of bringing in infection due to a transfer

➤ Pay close attention to your health for the two weeks prior to making the transfer

➤ Abide by general precautionary measures

- If you have a fever or other signs of illness, avoid going outside and contact a consultation center

【Medical Consultation Center (Call Center)】

TEL : 089-909-3483 ※24 hour service

③ Risk of bringing in the disease from a business trip or other travel

- Pay close attention to your health for two weeks and practice general precautionary measures if you have taken a business trip to one of the regions deemed high risk or other area with an increasing number of cases

« 「Precautions during Hanami (cherry blossom viewing)」 »

- Only participate in hanami with family, friends or coworkers that you regularly meet with, and avoid doing so in large groups or for extended periods of time
- Avoid parties and karaoke
(Avoid activities that often include shouting or other activities that increase the risk of infection)
- Individuals who are feeling sick should not participate
- Masks should be worn when speaking and a safe distance should be kept in groups
- Avoid eating off shared plates and don't share eating utensils
- Practice general precautionary measures (washing and disinfecting hands, etc.)