

2021年3月26日

## Request from the Governor

(Returning to the “Special Alert Period” in response to the Coronavirus)

I would like to offer my thanks to all the residents and businesses of Ehime that have helped to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

After overcoming the cases at the beginning of the new year and ending the Special Alert Period on 3/1, the spread of the virus had initially calmed down, but towards the latter half of the month the number of new cases without a clear infection route increased, especially among individuals in the age group of individuals in their 20s and 30s. As such, the prefecture has decided to once again increase its alert level.

During this time the number of individuals testing positive who work at service restaurants or late-night dining facilities has seen a drastic increase. A cluster infection of 129 individuals, the largest Ehime has ever seen, was confirmed. It has also been confirmed that the variant coronavirus is in this cluster.

The prefecture has effectively entered a “fourth wave”, and “the variant coronavirus could bring in a new wave of unforeseen proportions.”

Currently most individuals who have tested positive from this cluster have been in their 20s to 30s and have been involved with the downtown district of Matsuyama. However, due to the virus spreading throughout a household or through the daily activities of individuals, it has unfortunately partially spread to the general population. As the change in fiscal year brings on a large movement of people, we are coming upon a very important period where we will have to ensure that the virus is not spread throughout the prefecture and to other generations. Notably, it will be of utmost importance to keep it from penetrating medical facilities and elderly facilities.

Taking all these factors into account, the prefecture decided to once again raise its alert level to a “Special Alert Period” on 3/25.

In order to prevent the increasing risk of the variant virus to spread from downtown Matsuyama to other areas we have done the following in limiting school and economic activities in key areas to help contain the spread:

- A Special Measures Law request to shorten hours of service at dining facilities in Matsuyama serving alcohol
- A request for cooperation in the use of restaurants or when eating in

groups

- Restrictions on cherry blossom viewing
- Restrictions on school activities
- Suspension on issuance of new coupons for in-prefecture vacation accommodations

While it was a distressing decision to have to make, the most important matter right now is preventing the virus from spreading throughout the city and properly containing it. While I am aware that these requests will be hard on our businesses and the residents of Ehime, I request everyone's understanding and cooperation.

I would also like to further request the following of our businesses and residents:

- Refrain from dining at facilities with entertainment or that have late night activities
- Abiding by the following 3 conditions when eating in groups
  - ①Confirm whether there have been any positive cases from the restaurant
  - ②Confirm the travel history of participants for the past two weeks
  - ③Make sure everyone is feeling well on the day of the event

In order to quickly understand how the virus has spread throughout downtown Matsuyama, a temporary PCR testing center will be opened from 3/30 (Tuesday) onwards to test employees working in downtown Matsuyama.

Furthermore, in order to prevent the variant virus, which is particularly dangerous towards the elderly, from easily being brought in and catching it if it enters an elderly care facility, we will be assisting with improving our inspection system through expanding the inspection process undertaken at elderly care facilities.

We hope that Matsuyama city officials and those involved with elderly care facilities will proactively use these resources.

In the past few days, the state of the prefecture has reached dangerous levels.

I hope that both businesses and residents alike will be able to share this sense of crisis and tension, and work together to overcome this obstacle. The alert level of the prefecture will be raised to maximum awareness, and I implore that everyone adheres strongly to infection prevention measures.

**《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 for When You Eat at a Restaurant»

- Refrain from using restaurants with entertainment or that have late night activities
- If you have used any of these kinds of restaurants and feel unwell, avoid going outside and seek consultation at a medical facility
- Abide by precautionary guidelines for eating in groups

## 《Precautionary Guidelines for Eating in Groups》

### 【Conditions You Should Always Adhere to】

- ① Confirm if the restaurant has taken proper precautionary measures.
- ② Confirm the travel whereabouts of all participants for the past two weeks.
- ③ Confirm whether any individuals are feeling unwell on the day of the event.

Eating out should generally be done in groups of 4 or less. In regards annual events like welcome and farewell parties:

- Only do so with individuals you see regularly.
- Make sure there is ample space between seats/
- Do not raise your voice or let yourself get out of hand.
- Avoid eating and drinking for extended periods of time (2 hours or more)

## 《Precautions during Hanami (cherry blossom viewing)》

[Matsuyama Only] Do not sit down and eat while doing hanami.

- 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.)