

Request from the Governor

I would like to thank the people of Ehime for their cooperation in helping to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

Towards the end of March a large cluster infection occurred in downtown Matsuyama. The UK variant of the coronavirus spread throughout the entire prefecture, causing a 4th wave of infection that has been ongoing for 2 months.

During this time Ehime entered into an "Infection Countermeasure Period" for the first time, with controlling the infection as the top priority of the prefecture. Ehime implemented strong guidelines that followed the "Stricter COVID-19 Measures" designated by the national government in order to control the spread as much as possible.

Thanks to the high level of alertness and cooperation from the people of Ehime during this call for assistance, the spread of the virus has finally again reached a point where it can be evaluated as under control. I would once again like to give my thanks towards the great efforts and cooperation of everyone.

The large increase in cases and hospitalizations during the 4th wave made the fear of a medical collapse within Ehime seem possible. However, we have finally managed to go under the level designated as Stage III by the national government.

Looking at the current situation on the number of infections and the burden being placed upon the medical facilities of Ehime, **it has been determined that as of 6/1, the prefecture will be transitioning from the "Infection Countermeasure Period" to the "Infection alert Period."** However,

- The variant of the coronavirus is still spreading in Japan, and the risk of bringing it in to the prefecture is still high.
- Strong precaution should be taken towards the Indian variant** of the virus, which is believed to be more easily spread than the UK variant.

As such, we request that everyone show levels of precaution similar to that during the "Special Alert Period."

Following this, **requests for strong restrictions on socio-economic**

activity such as the following will be ended and/or changed in order to slowly build back up on socio-economic activity within the prefecture.

- Residents should try to “lower their amount of outings by 50%”
- Restaurants should shorten their hours of operation

However, requests to maintain alertness will remain in place.

In order to prevent the virus from being brought in to Ehime, the request for residents to **“refrain from unnecessarily traveling out of the prefecture for business or leisure”** will continue.

Extra precaution should be exercised when traveling to Tokyo. In Tokyo there is the possibility that medical facilities are not sufficiently screening all of the high contact individuals of those with the virus. The Indian variant of the virus has also been found in Tokyo. It is of utmost importance that everyone be careful so as not to bring in the virus.

It should also be kept in mind that **the lessening on restrictions of hours of operation at restaurants is tied to the care given towards infection prevention measures by the people of Ehime.**

While we would like to ease the limits on group size while eating out gradually as the virus comes under control, **we would like to request the following for two weeks until 6/14:**

- **Limit your group activities to those that you see every day and individuals who do not take part in high infection risk activities.**
- **Do not gather in groups larger than 4 people, and avoid gathering for long periods of time (limit of 2 hours).**

We strongly request everyone refrain from participating in “parties/gatherings/events with an unspecified large number of participants at locations such as restaurants”, which were the major cause of the 4th wave within Ehime.

Everyone should retain high levels of precaution and should not suddenly go back to previous levels of outings or interacting with people. Steps to return to previous levels should be taken gradually.

«Requests to the people of Ehime»

“Infection Alert Period” ~ Special Alert Period ~

6/1 (Tuesday) ~ Onwards

- Continue to thoroughly abide to infection prevention measures
- Take the day off and get examined if you are feeling unwell
- Refrain from traveling to areas designated as being in a state of emergency
- Abide by the rules set towards eating out