

Governor's Message: Take Every Measure to Stop COVID-19 Resurgence

The State of Emergency for Hyogo Prefecture was lifted on February 28, 2021. I would like to thank all of you for your cooperation thus far.

However, this does not mean we can stop our efforts to fight against COVID-19. If we fail to take proper measures at this point, the cases may surge again. Therefore, from March 8 onwards, we will continue our request to Hyogo citizens and business operators, including shortening business hours at eating and drinking establishments, indicated as follows.

Request to Hyogo-based business operators

- Thoroughly practice infection prevention measures based on the guidelines. Please also utilize CO₂ sensors or other items to ensure proper ventilation.
- At eating and drinking establishments, please divide a group of guests into smaller **groups of four or less (excluding family members living together)**. Please encourage them to avoid dining for long hours, and to **use fans, face masks, or other items to cover the mouth to prevent the spread of droplets** during conversations.

Period	March 1–7, 2021	March 8–21, 2021
Area	Throughout Hyogo	Kobe, Amagasaki, Nishinomiya, Ashiya
Contents	Eating and drinking establishments should stop serving alcohol by 8:00 p.m. and close by 9:00 p.m.	Eating and drinking establishments should stop serving alcohol by 8:30 p.m. and close by 9:00 p.m.

Request to Hyogo citizens (Do not bring the virus into homes, facilities, etc.)

At the end and beginning of a fiscal year, we usually have many opportunities for traveling and dining with others, such as graduation trips and farewell/welcome parties. To stop COVID-19 resurgence, Hyogo citizens, **young people in particular, are requested to be conscious of your physical conditions and behavior** and continue to take caution on the following to **avoid bringing the virus** into homes, facilities, etc.

- All citizens are requested to **avoid unnecessary and non-urgent outings**, even during the daytime.
- **Avoid unnecessary and non-urgent visits to areas outside the prefecture, areas under the State of Emergency, and places with higher risks of infections.**
- Please **refrain from participating in graduation trips, teacher appreciation parties, farewell/welcome parties, and cherry-blossom viewing parties.**
- When dining out, please do so **in groups of four or less (excluding family members living together)** and avoid dining for long hours. Please **use fans, face masks, or other items to cover the mouth to prevent the spread of droplets** during

conversations.

- **Manage your health properly** by **checking your temperature** daily, washing your hands, and wearing face masks. **If you have symptoms, refrain from going out** and immediately **call and seek advice** from your family doctor.
- Please utilize **telecommuting** and **video conferences**.

The infection mitigation depends on the efforts of each and every one of you, working together with the strong will of “Together We Prevent, Together We Fight against COVID-19.” I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to essential workers, such as medical and social welfare workers who are protecting our everyday life and health. Let us overcome this crisis together.