

Governor's Message: Emergency Request to Curb **the 4th Wave** of COVID-19 Infections

The number of new COVID-19 cases has been steadily increasing in Hyogo Prefecture with a record high of 328 on April 7 and followed by 314 on April 9. It is most likely that we have entered the fourth wave of infections.

In line with this, the situation surrounding medical services has been critical, and the hospital bed occupancy rate for severe cases exceeded 70%. Doctors and nurses continue to make strenuous efforts.

Hyogo citizens, young people in particular, are requested to be responsible for their own behavior and consider infection prevention as their personal responsibility during this crisis.

1. Avoid outings

Avoid unnecessary and non-urgent outings and travels throughout the prefecture. In particular, refrain from visiting areas under pre-emergency measures, including Osaka.

2. Shorten business hours

We are requesting eating and drinking establishments in the areas below to shorten business hours.

In those areas, refrain from visiting eating and drinking establishments that do not follow our request to shorten business hours.

Area	Kobe, Amagasaki, Nishinomiya, Ashiya	Hanshin-kita area (Itami, Takarazuka, Kawanishi, Sanda, Inagawa) Higashi-Harima area (Akashi, Kakogawa, Takasago, Inami, Harima) Naka-Harima area (Himeji, Ichikawa, Fukusaki, Kamikawa)
Period	Apr. 5 to May 5, 2021	Apr. 1 to 21, 2021
Contents	Open: 5:00–20:00 (Serving alcohol: 11:00–19:00)	Open: 5:00–21:00 (Serving alcohol: 11:00–20:30)

3. Take caution of the following when dining out

(1) Avoid visiting places with risks of infections, such as eating and drinking establishments and karaoke parlors that do not implement infection prevention measures (proper seating arrangements, installing acrylic partitions, providing hand sanitizers, etc.).

(2) Be sure to observe the following when dining with others:

- Dine in groups of four or less.
- Refrain from dining in large groups or for long hours (no afterparties).
- Use fans, face masks, or other items to cover the mouth to prevent the spread of droplets during conversations.

4. Implement thorough infection prevention measures

- (1) Household transmission accounts for over 50% of all infection routes. After dining out or using facilities with risks of infections, please take extra caution when coming into contact with your family members. Wear face masks, wash your hands, do not spread the virus at home.
- (2) Be sure to thoroughly implement basic infection prevention measures at workplaces, facilities, and schools, such as wearing face masks, washing or sanitizing hands, and keeping a proper distance between people.