

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

The national government declared State of Emergency for Hyogo Prefecture as of January 13, 2021 due to the COVID-19 infection surge. I request Hyogo citizens to take caution on the following in consideration of matters such as **the severe situation surrounding medical services**; the new case count for the seven-day moving average is continuing to exceed 200, and the hospital bed occupancy rate for severe cases is exceeding 60%. I would like to ask Hyogo citizens, **young people in particular, to strongly recognize that our region is under the State of Emergency**, and do what you need to do to protect our lives.

Shorten business hours

- **Eating and drinking establishments are requested to stop serving alcohol by 7:00 p.m. and close by 8:00 p.m. pursuant to the relevant act¹.**
- **Facilities such as theaters, assembly facilities, sports facilities, and amusement facilities are asked to stop serving alcohol by 7:00 p.m. and close by 8:00 p.m.**

Avoid outings

- **All citizens are requested to avoid visits to areas under the State of Emergency and places with higher risks of infections and are strongly requested to avoid unnecessary and non-urgent outings to any place after 8:00 p.m.**
- **Ventilate rooms, and manage your health properly** by checking your temperature daily and wearing face masks.
- **If you have a fever, difficulty breathing, decrease/loss of sense of taste, or other symptoms, refrain from going out (including commuting to work or school), and immediately call and seek advice** from your family doctor.

Promote telecommuting

- **To reduce in-person interactions, please make efforts to reduce 70% of commuters** by introducing **telecommuting, video conferences** and other measures.

Requirements for holding events

- **(1) The number of participants must not exceed 5,000 and (2) must not exceed 50% of the venue's capacity for indoor events, and enough distance must be secured among participants for outdoor events.**

¹ The Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response (Act No. 31 of 2012)

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 health and everyday life. Let us overcome this crisis together.