

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

It has been over a week since the State of Emergency was declared for Hyogo Prefecture, but **the situation surrounding medical services remains critical**. The seven-day moving average of newly confirmed cases continues to exceed 200, and the hospital bed occupancy rate for severe cases exceeds 50%.

State of Emergency measures

Hyogo Prefecture requests its citizens to practice the four emergency measures below. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

1. Shorten business hours

(Eating and drinking establishments should stop serving alcohol by 7:00 p.m. and close by 8:00 p.m.)

2. Avoid outings

(Unnecessary and non-urgent outings should be avoided, especially after 8:00 p.m.)

3. Reduce commuters

(Reduce 70% of commuters through telecommuting and other measures)

4. Comply with the 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)

Do not bring the virus back home

Household transmission accounts for approximately 50% of the infection routes in Hyogo Prefecture. Hyogo citizens, **young people in particular**, are requested to strongly recognize that **our region is under the State of Emergency** and take caution on the following to **avoid bringing in the virus from outside**.

- All citizens are strongly requested to **avoid unnecessary and non-urgent outings, especially after 8:00 p.m.**
- **Avoid visits to areas under the State of Emergency and places with higher risks of infections.**
- **Refrain from dining and drinking in groups or for long hours even at home (e.g. house parties).**
- **Manage your health properly by checking your temperature daily, washing your hands, and wearing face masks.**
- Please make efforts to reduce the number of commuters by proactively using **telecommuting**.

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.