

July 23, 2020

Governor's Message to Hyogo citizens and Hyogo-based business operators:
As we enter the "infection rising" phase

As of July 23, thirty-five new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Hyogo Prefecture, and the most recent seven-day moving average for the number of cases has reached 20 persons, indicating that we have entered the "infection rising" phase.

Recent infection cases have the following trends:

- (1) Infections taking place at eating and drinking establishments that provide individual customer services or serve alcohol and through close contact at home or workplaces with those who visited these places
- (2) Infections following dining outside the prefecture in places such as Tokyo and Osaka
- (3) Young people in their teens to thirties

In light of this, we are ramping up our efforts on the following:

1. **Containing clusters of infection cases**
2. **Preventing secondary infections by using the active epidemiological investigation for close contacts**
3. **Requesting citizens to confirm infection prevention measures taken at facilities that can be the source of clusters of infection cases, such as eating and drinking establishments, before entering**
4. **Requesting thorough practice of the infection prevention measures based on the infection prevention guidelines**

Although our hospital beds are yet to be overwhelmed, we must avoid any further spread of infection cases. I would like to strongly ask citizens of Hyogo to take heed of the following requests.

To Hyogo citizens

- Please **avoid using eating and drinking establishments that provide individual customer services or serve alcohol, and that do not follow the industry's infection prevention guidelines.**
- To students and young people, please take special caution when **dining in groups**, and avoid **speaking loudly and sharing glasses** when eating and drinking.
- Please follow the "**Hyogo Style**" that includes avoiding the Three Cs (confined spaces, crowded places, and close contact) and wearing face masks (while being careful of heat strokes).

To Hyogo-based business operators

- Please **practice thorough infection prevention measures based on each industry's guidelines and put up the "infection control poster" indicating that your facility is taking proper measures.** In particular, bars, nightclubs, and other **eating and drinking establishments that provide individual customer services or serve alcohol** should strictly adhere to the guidelines.
- Please **register for the "Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system,"** and download and post the QR code in your facility. Customers are requested to **utilize the system** by registering an email address, etc.

I would like to ask all of you for your understanding and cooperation in order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 infections.