

November 18, 2020

Governor's Message to Hyogo citizens and Hyogo-based business operators:  
Take every measure to prevent COVID-19 infections!

Due to reasons such as clusters of infections, the confirmed cases of COVID-19 per day in Hyogo Prefecture reached a record high number of 106 on November 17, and the total number for the past week went up to 557. Hospitals may reach capacity if this trend continues, and to prevent this, we must stop the spread of infections immediately with all necessary means. To protect the lives and health of your loved ones and yourself, I urge you to **be careful of the** following **“five situations.”**

1. **Attending drinking parties**
2. **Dining and drinking in groups or for long hours**
3. **Having conversations without face masks**
4. **Co-living in small spaces and sharing communal spaces**
5. **Socializing in common areas such as rest area, smoking area, and changing rooms**

If you have to be in the abovementioned “five situations” that have a higher risk of infection, please **be conscious of your physical conditions and behavior afterward.**

Clusters of infections have been observed in places such as medical institutions, social welfare facilities, and universities. I request these facilities as well as all the other Hyogo-based business operators and citizens to take extra caution on the following:

**[To medical institutions and social welfare facilities]**

- To avoid bringing the virus to your institution or facility, be sure to **monitor the health and behavior of the employees thoroughly and urge visitors and contractors to take caution as well.**
- In cases where infection is suspected at your institution or facility, **promptly contact the public health center or the Prefectural Health & Welfare Office of your region and follow their instructions.**

**[To universities and other academic institutions]**

- The main sources of clusters of infections are drinking parties, dormitories, and club activities, rather than the classes. Therefore, please **promote awareness among your faculty, staff, and students** on these high risk situations.
- To avoid bringing the virus to your institution, be sure to **monitor the health and behavior of the employees thoroughly and urge visitors and contractors to take caution as well.**
- In cases where infection is suspected at your institution, **promptly contact the public health center or the Prefectural Health & Welfare Office of your region and follow their instructions.**

**[To eating and drinking establishments]**

- If you are part of the “Go To Eat” campaign, we request you to **divide a group of guests into smaller groups of four or less per table (excluding family members and caregivers)** by using partitions, acrylic boards, tables, etc.

- If you are not part of the “Go To Eat” campaign, please also make efforts to **divide a group of guests into smaller groups of four or less (excluding family members and caregivers).**

**[To Hyogo-based business operators]**

- Please encourage your employees to **take thorough infection prevention measures at workplaces and dormitories**, as well as **during after-work drinking events.**
- Please **thoroughly practice infection prevention measures based on each industry’s guidelines and put up the “infection control poster”** indicating that your facility is taking proper measures.
- Please **register for the “Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system,”** and then download and **post the QR code in visible places, such as on the tables and counters,** of your facility.

**[To Hyogo citizens]**

- **Avoid visiting facilities with higher risks of infections inside or outside of Hyogo Prefecture that do not implement infection prevention measures** based on each industry’s guidelines (in particular, eating and drinking establishments serving alcohol and/or providing individual customer services and karaoke parlors).
- When visiting eating and drinking establishments, please do so **in groups of four or less (excluding family members or caregivers).**
- Be sure to follow the **“Hyogo Style” that includes wearing face masks, washing your hands, practicing physical distancing, and avoiding the Three Cs (confined spaces, crowded places, and close contact).** In particular, **you must wear face masks** when talking with someone in close proximity or riding cars or buses.
- When using heaters in winter, **ventilate the rooms properly by opening windows** while maintaining room temperature.
- Please utilize the COVID-19 Contact Confirmation Application **“COCOA”** and the **“Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system.”**
- When visiting medical institutions and social welfare facilities, **take caution to prevent infections and follow instructions of the facilities.**
- Try to obtain the correct information and deepen your understanding of infectious diseases to not be swayed by speculation or false rumors. At the same time, **eliminate any type of harmful reputational damage and discrimination behavior against healthcare workers, patients, and related persons** so that patients and their close contacts can **cooperate with investigation by public health centers** without worries.
- **Support and give thoughtful consideration to essential workers who are protecting our health and everyday life, such as medical and social welfare workers, and their families.**

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.”** Hence, I would like to ask all of you for your understanding and cooperation in order to prevent any further spread of infections.