

COVID-19 Infection Prevention Measures in the New Year Period

Joint Message from Governors of Aichi, Gifu & Mie Prefectures

Large numbers of new cases of infection are continuing to spread both nationwide and in the Three Prefectures that comprise the Tokai region. We ask for thorough implementation of infection prevention measures conducted with the utmost caution as we get through the 3rd wave and enter the New Year Period.

【Infection Status in the Three Prefectures】

After passing through the 2nd wave in each Prefecture, the situation requires continued caution as the record number of daily infections continues to be surpassed.

“Medical and welfare institutions”, “dining gatherings with large numbers of people”, “schools”, “communities of foreign residents”, “businesses” and “downtown drinking and eating establishments offering hospitality service” continue to see increasing infections and the formation of clusters.

To all Prefectural Residents

○ Exercise care with regards to travel across Prefectural borders

- There will be a concentrated movement of people in the New Year Period. Take measures to help **disperse the movement of people over a longer period, such as by taking holidays before or after the New Year Period.**
- **Avoid unnecessary and non-urgent travel for the period until January 11th to the areas for which the Goto Travel project was first suspended where the spread of infection is particularly bad. Also, restrain yourself from travel across Prefectural borders to other regions for the period from December 28th to January 11th, taking into account the fact that the Goto Travel campaign was suspended nationwide to suppress the concentrated spread of infection.**
- If you must unavoidably travel across Prefectural borders, check the guidelines and demands of local authorities in the area where you reside and to where you are travelling and thoroughly implement infection prevention measures.
- **At your destination, be wary of the “five situations” in which the risk of infection is high.**
 - ※ “Parties involving alcohol etc”, “eating & drinking with large numbers of people or over long times”, “conversation without wearing masks”, “shared small living spaces” and “changes of place which may take you off your guard”.
- In the Three Prefectures we will provide necessary information as rapidly as possible and we ask that you stay updated about current information.

○ Thoroughly implement infection prevention measures if returning home for the New Years Period

- First **consider if you can't return home at a different time instead.**
- Check local authority demands in the area where you live, **avoid high infection risk situations such as large dining gatherings etc in the 2 weeks before you return home and take care of your physical condition thoroughly.**
- If there are elderly or vulnerable (those with prior conditions) persons in the home you are returning to, wear a mask even within the home.
- Avoid returning home if you are in bad physical condition.
- **Explain these measures to family outside of the Prefecture.**

○ Be wary of dining gatherings such as end-of-year and new-year parties

- In the New Years Period, there are many opportunities for parties and dining gatherings. **Exercise plenty of caution toward such gatherings with large numbers of people and/or for long times involving alcohol, including gatherings with relatives.**
- **If travelling to an area where businesses are shortening their opening hours** in light of the continuing formation of clusters within eating and drinking businesses, **thoroughly check the guidelines for the region and apply an extra level of caution.**
- For end-of-year parties etc, take measures such as "not participating if you feel even slightly unwell", "gathering in small numbers for short times", "drinking only reasonable amounts of alcohol" and "sitting diagonally and avoid sitting next to or across from each other".

○ Thorough implementation of infection prevention measures at seasonal events.

- The season has many events where large groups of people gather together, such as Christmas, New Years Eve, the first sunrise of the new year, and hatsu-mode (the first visit to a shrine in the new year). **Thoroughly implement infection prevention measures such as maintaining social distance, wearing masks, not conversing with loud voices and avoiding alcohol, and restrain yourself from participation** if it is not possible to take appropriate infection prevention measures.

○ Check now and make a point to thoroughly implement basic infection prevention measures

- In order to prevent the spread of infection, it is important for each and every person to carry out infection prevention measures without fail. **Thoroughly implement basic measures such as the wearing of masks, hand-washing and sterilization and the maintenance of social distance.**

For Businesses/Facility Managers

○ Spread holidays over the New Years Period

- Many people will move over the New Years Period, where a number of holidays are concentrated. **As far as possible, spread your holidays over a longer period. Promotion of usage of paid leave for employees is also an effective way** of dispersing holidays.

○ Reconfirm thorough implementation of infection prevention measures

- **Pay attention to and respect the "Guidelines for Infection Prevention Measures in Each Type of Business"**, thoroughly implement effective infection prevention measures taking into account the individual measures requested by the governors of the Three Prefectures suited for the particular characteristics of each region.
- In particular, **continue to thoroughly implement measures in social welfare facilities and medical institutions where there is a high risk of users developing severe symptoms.**
- Risks can also become high outside of working hours, at **events such as parties etc. Re-remind all of your workers.**

Consideration of Human Rights in Relation to COVID-19

- **Aim to create a society which does not take part in unjustified discrimination or prejudice against infected persons, persons belonging to groups where infections have occurred or persons returning home from outside the Prefecture etc. based on false information such as social media or rumors.**

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