

May 5th Message from the Governor (Extract)

To all citizens of Shimane Prefecture,

Yesterday (May 4th), the Government of Japan decided to extend the state of emergency until the end of May, and to relax travel restrictions in regions that do not have a severe state of infection, such as Shimane Prefecture.

In response to these policies by the national government, the Shimane Prefectural Government is implementing policies as follows:

1. A Request to All Prefectural Citizens

Firstly, “Thorough practice of basic prevention measures against infectious disease.”

- ① Please strictly avoid the “Three Cs” (confined spaces, crowded places, and close contact with people).
- ② Please thoroughly practice “hand washing” and “cough etiquette.”
- ③ Please leave adequate space with people around you.

Next, “Restraint from Outdoor Travel.”

- ① We request that you strictly avoid traveling to other prefectures, such as for unnecessary, non-urgent trips home or for vacation.
- ② Regardless of age, etc., please refrain from visiting places where many infection clusters have occurred, such as downtown food and drink establishments that receive and entertain customers, karaoke rooms, live music establishments, and indoor exercise facilities.
- ③ Along with avoiding the “Three Cs,” please also refrain from outdoor travel.
- ④ For outdoor travel not included in self-restraint requests, please continue to practice basic infection prevention measures, such as strictly avoiding the “Three Cs,” washing your hands, and leaving space between people.

2. Response by Prefectural Schools

Because it can be said that cases of infection in the prefecture have not fully settled, prefectural schools (high schools and special needs schools) will remain closed until May 31st, in order to protect children from infection.

In response to the extended closure, “Distributed School Attendance Days” will be implemented as follows, in order to provide students with health observation, non-curricular guidance, confirmation and instruction of lesson material, etc.

- Schools except for those in Matsue or Izumo: 7-8 May
- Schools in Izumo: 12-13 May

In addition, according to the state of infections in the prefecture, and while paying the utmost attention to infection prevention, the Shimane Prefectural Board of Education is planning for all prefectural schools—except those in Matsue—to have “Distributed School Attendance” for regular teaching from May 18th.

During this period, students that have concerns about the health of themselves or family members, or concerns about infection, are not required to attend; such students will not be marked as absent.

Regarding the new case of COVID-19 in Matsue City (Case #24), because investigation to prevent the spread of infection has just begun, prefectural schools in Matsue City will not begin “Distributed School Attendance” at this time.

Also, the Shimane Prefectural Board of Education is requesting all national, public, and private kindergartens, elementary, junior high, and senior high schools to implement the same measures.

At the same time, we are doing everything in our power to respond to the current infection cluster in the prefecture, guarantee medical care, and protect the lives and health of all citizens of Shimane.

5 May 2020

Maruyama Tatsuya, Governor of Shimane Prefecture