

August 28, 2020

Governor's Message to Hyogo citizens and Hyogo-based business operators:  
Let's not let our guard down yet.

The number of confirmed cases in Hyogo Prefecture went below 30 for the seven-day moving average on August 26, indicating that we have now returned to the “infection rising” phase after 28 days since July 29. However, we have observed clusters of infections formed at social welfare facilities and eating and drinking establishments that serve alcohol.

**We are making more efforts to contain the spread of the virus by promptly having close contacts and those around them take PCR tests, and prevent secondary infections based on the results.**

**Our medical system also stands ready with sufficient capacity.**

I would like to ask Hyogo citizens and business operators to continue thorough practice of the following measures:

**[To Hyogo citizens]**

- **Refrain from unnecessary and non-urgent visits to Tokyo, Osaka and other areas outside the prefecture.** In particular, **refrain from visiting facilities with a high risk of infections** in such areas, including eating and drinking establishments that provide individual customer services.
- **Avoid visiting eating and drinking establishments serving alcohol and/or providing karaoke services** that do not implement infection prevention measures.
- If you have **symptoms such as persistent fever, lethargy, and a decrease or loss of sense of smell/taste**, please contact the consultation center in the public health center. Elderly people and those with underlying conditions should consult with them as soon as possible even if the symptoms are relatively light (fever, cough, etc.).
- Please utilize the COVID-19 Contact Confirmation Application “COCOA” and the “**Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system.**” If you received an alert from the system, indicating that somebody who was in the same establishment has been infected with the coronavirus, you will be automatically eligible to take a PCR test with or without any symptoms.
- Be sure to follow the “**Hyogo Style**” that includes avoiding the Three Cs (confined spaces, crowded places, and close contact) and wearing face masks.
- Please stop any act of COVID-19 stigmatization or discrimination to patients, medical and welfare workers, and establishments, etc.

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

- 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.
- Establishments with higher risks of infections such as **eating and drinking establishments that serve alcohol and/or provide karaoke service** must take more stringent prevention measures.
- Check the body temperatures of employees daily, and if they have any symptoms, prevent them from coming to work and encourage them to see a doctor.
- Avoid meetings and conferences that tend to have the Three Cs. Efforts should be made for adapting to the new working style such as telecommuting, staggering work hours, and using satellite offices (branch offices closer to your home).
- Please **register for the “Hyogo new coronavirus tracing system,”** and then download and **post the QR code** in your facility.

**[To those working at Hyogo-based medical and social welfare facilities]**

- In consideration of the elderly who are likely to become severely ill, we ask social welfare facilities to **provide meticulous care to prevent the infection of staff and facility users.**
- If any staff has even the slightest health concern, please encourage them to immediately see a doctor and get tested.
- Reduce in-person visits of facility users as much as possible, and consider a video visit.

**[Show your appreciation to those fighting against the virus.]**

- **Support and show your appreciation to anyone and everyone that are working hard to fight against the virus, especially the medical workers.**

The infection mitigation depends on the efforts of each and every citizen and business operator of Hyogo, 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.