

Governor's Request to Residents of Kagawa Regarding the Extension of the Semi-emergency Coronavirus Measures

As the highly contagious Omicron variant continues to spread across Japan, the number of infections is also rapidly increasing in Kagawa Prefecture. Due to concerns about the impact this may have on the healthcare delivery system, semi-emergency coronavirus measures were put into place from January 21st to February 13th, and we continue to tighten measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout Kagawa.

Despite these measures, COVID-19 continues to spread in Kagawa, as well as the rest of the country. On February 2nd, we saw a record number of 416 infections, far exceeding the previous single-day record, and the disease is spreading not only in homes but also in workplaces and schools throughout Kagawa, especially in Takamatsu City and the Sanuki Central region.

In light of the fact that infection clusters are cropping up in nursing care facilities and daycare centers, and that the rate of occupied hospital beds is over 40%, we are not at this time in a position to relax our measures to prevent the spread of the disease. For this reason, we believe that it is necessary to extend the prevention period and continue to reduce the flow of people by requesting restaurants and bars to shorten their opening hours, as well as strongly calling for efforts to curb as much as possible the spread of the disease to the elderly through family members and relatives. In addition, on February 8th, we requested the national government to extend the semi-emergency coronavirus measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

In order to avoid infecting your family members, friends and colleagues, we recommend that you take basic infection prevention measures such as avoiding the "three Cs", maintaining social distancing, wearing non-woven masks, washing your hands and taking other hand hygiene measures, and ensuring proper ventilation. In particular, as a measure to prevent infection based on the specific attributes of the Omicron strain, we ask that people eat and drink in silence and keep their groups as small as possible. Make sure to have your mask on when talking with others and, even when at home, ventilate regularly and wash your hands thoroughly.

In addition to implementing thorough infection prevention measures for children, we ask that elderly people and people with pre-existing conditions take measures to reduce the risk of infection, such as limiting their social interactions to small groups of people they meet on a regular basis.

In addition, the Takeda/Moderna vaccine is in high supply and has been shown to be effective in preventing the onset and severity of the disease, as has the Pfizer vaccine. If you would like to be vaccinated, please make an appointment as soon as possible.

The extension of the semi-emergency coronavirus measures will be decided by the government task force to be convened today. We will do our utmost to bring the critical situation in this prefecture under control as soon as possible, minimize the spread of the infection, and protect the health and livelihood of the citizens of this prefecture by securing the healthcare delivery system.

February 10th, 2022

HAMADA Keizo, Governor of Kagawa Prefecture