

Governor's request to the residents of Kagawa in connection with the extension of the "Declaration of Enhanced Measures against the BA.5 Subvariant" measures
~ Everyone remain aware and strive for infection prevention~

In Kagawa, since the ending of the Obon holiday period, there have been days in which the number of daily new COVID-19 cases has reached over 2,000. On August 18th, daily new cases reached the highest number so far at 2,762, and we continue to confirm the higher numbers of infection than before.

From August 8th onwards, the hospital bed occupation rate exceeded 50%, and with increased concerns about delays in hospitalization, the strain on medical and other institutions is growing. In light of this, the prefecture has decided to extend both the "Enhanced Measures against the BA.5 Subvariant" and the "Infection Prevention Period" until Sunday September 11th. By thoroughly implementing basic infection prevention measures, such as wearing masks, which are known to diminish infection, we aim to both continue to restore normal economic activities and avoid medical shortages. While we are all trying to return to normal everyday life, I would still request that residents put in even more effort by doing the following.

The key to stopping the spread of COVID-19 is for each and every one of you to remember to:

- Be thorough with measures such as avoiding the "Three Cs", social distancing, ventilating even when using air conditioning, and wearing non-woven masks (to avoid heat stroke, please remove masks when mask-wearing is not necessary)
- Thoroughly wash and disinfect your hands and disinfect communal spaces
- Please refrain from going to crowded or high risk areas
- When travelling to hometowns or on vacation, or moving between prefectures, please continue to follow infection prevention measures, including avoiding the "Three Cs" and avoid any high risk activities during your travels
- Refrain from going out and to school/work if you experience any symptoms, such as an uncomfortable sensation in the throat or a fever
- Visit restaurants with the "Kagawa Safe Restaurant Certification", where infection prevention measures are thoroughly implemented and wear masks during conversation when out for dinner and drinks

If you are concerned that you may have been infected, please make use of the free PCR testing program for residents of Kagawa, which has been extended until the end of September.

I ask that elderly people and people with pre-existing conditions limit their social interactions to small groups of people they meet on a regular basis.

I would also ask that those meeting with such persons take thorough measures to reduce the risk of infection, such as getting vaccinated (third dose) or taking a free test before meeting to ensure that they are not infected.

We ask for your cooperation in following the rules of medical institutions and avoid consulting doctors outside of office hours, especially on holidays and at night. People with mild symptoms can wait to consult a doctor on the following morning. If you are unsure whether you require nighttime urgent care, please call the emergency consultation service.

We also ask that those who are isolating in a quarantine facility or at home and require proof of treatment, to use the documents for proof of treatment available through “My HER-SYS”.

The government has reported that booster vaccines (a third dose) effectively restore protection against COVID-19, including against the Omicron strain, and a reduction in the risk of long COVID. If you wish to receive the vaccination, please make an appointment as soon as possible.

In addition, people over 60 years of age, those that work in healthcare or with the elderly, and those at higher risk of infection- such as those with pre-existing medical conditions- are eligible for a fourth dose of vaccine. With many cities and towns already offering this booster shot, I ask you to please consider a fourth vaccination.

Any actions that show prejudice or discrimination against COVID-19 patients, their families, the medical personnel who are treating them, or their families, will not be tolerated.

Vaccination is not mandatory. It is a personal decision that everyone must make of their own accord. One should not force coworkers or others around oneself to get the vaccine, nor discriminate against those who have not been vaccinated.

I ask that you continue to make decisions and take actions while keeping the rights of others in mind.

In order to restore daily life and normal economic activities as soon as possible, we will do our utmost to protect the health and livelihood of all residents of the prefecture by cooperating with the national government, cities, and towns to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to secure the healthcare delivery system.

August 26th 2022

HAMADA Keizo, Governor of Kagawa Prefecture