

## Governor's Request to Residents of Kagawa in the Infection Prevention Period

～ Individual awareness is the key to stopping the spread of infection ～

### **Current Situation and Extension of the “Infection Prevention Period”**

The number of COVID-19 cases in the prefecture has decreased significantly compared to the peak in mid-August, and we have seen a major drop in the number of new cases. Concerning the state of the medical care delivery system, although we have seen the hospital bed occupation rate fall below 20% (20% being the threshold for lowering the alert level) for many days, it has not been consistently stayed at that level for the last 2 weeks. Therefore, the “Infection Prevention Period” will be extended until October 30<sup>th</sup>.

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, the National Travel Assistance Program and Event Discount were launched. However, in order to ensure a steady recovery of socioeconomic activities, we ask all residents of the prefecture to keep in mind that “individual awareness is the key to stopping the spread of infection”, and to thoroughly implement basic measures against infection and other appropriate measures to reduce the risk of infection.

Concerning the use of masks, as a general rule there is no need to wear them outdoors, except when talking with others at a close distance.

### **Request concerning the positive case registration center**

I ask people who are not subject to a notification of occurrence and those who tested positive with a COVID-19 self-test kit to register themselves as being positive for COVID-19 at the positive case registration center, and to keep track of their health.

### **Vaccination**

Regarding vaccination, vaccines against the Omicron strain are already being distributed, and we are gradually expanding the groups eligible for vaccination, so please consider taking the vaccine.

I also ask young people to actively consider additional doses of the vaccine.

In addition, due to concerns about the simultaneous spread of COVID-19 and the flu, we ask that you actively consider vaccination against the flu as well.

## **Free Testing**

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

## **Efforts to Reduce the Risk of Infection**

I 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.

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.

## **Say NO to COVID-19 discrimination**

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.

## **Conclusion**

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.

October 14<sup>th</sup> 2022

IKEDA Toyohito, Governor of Kagawa Prefecture