

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

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

### **Infection Situation and Raising the Alert Level**

In Kagawa Prefecture, the number of new COVID-19 cases has increased when compared to the same day of the week in the prior. Regarding the health care delivery system, the hospital bed occupation rate has risen above 20%, and there are concerns this may increase even further. Therefore, based on the prefectural response policy, the alert level will be raised by one level from November 9<sup>th</sup> to the "Infection Prevention Period", and further efforts will be made to prevent the spread of infection.

This time, there are two main points to remember:

First, although the alert level has been raised to the "Infection Prevention Period", as was the case with previous measures, no restrictions on activities will be imposed. However, if you go out to crowded places or places with a high risk of infection, we request your cooperation in taking more thorough measures to prevent the spread of infection.

Secondly, as we head into the year-end and New Year's holidays, we can expect an increase in opportunities for human contact, such as when going out and having dinners. As social and economic activities become more active, and as the temperature drops, there are also concerns about the spread of influenza. We therefore ask that you continue to keep in mind that individual awareness is the key to stopping the spread of infection, and recheck and thoroughly implement basic infection control measures.

In light of the above, we have decided not to set a time period for these measures, but will continue to make further efforts to prevent the spread of infection for the time being.

### **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 November.

### **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.

November 8<sup>th</sup> 2022

IKEDA Toyohito, Governor of Kagawa Prefecture