

March 1, 2021

## **Request from the Governor**

(Regarding the end of the “Special Alert Period” for the Novel Coronavirus)

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for their efforts in helping to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus in their daily lives.

In order to prevent the large growth in cases that came during New Years, Ehime Prefecture entered a “Special Alert Period” after 1/8, which requested the people of Ehime practice heavy restraint in their daily lives in line with special coronavirus measures.

Thanks to the wise actions of everyone, the spread of the virus has decreased, and while there were cluster infections, the widespread infection of the virus was prevented. The number of brand-new cases arising during the approximately 200 tests administered daily has drastically decreased, and **it can be said with confidence that the infection rate in the prefecture has calmed down.**

Regarding the previously announce “high likelihood of a coronavirus variant case” in Imabari, a firm confirmation has still not been received from the national testing facilities. There have been no other similar new cases discovered, and the inspections from the health care center have determined that **there is no convincing evidence that the variant has spread throughout the prefecture.**

Taking into account the opinions of experts and the current situation in Ehime, **it was determined that the “Special Alert Period” will end on March 1<sup>st</sup> (Monday).**

However,

- Everyone should continue to be wary of the risk of bringing in the virus from cities/prefectures that have been deemed to be in a state of emergency.
- While the burden on medical facilities has decreased, special care must still be exercised in managing the number of hospitalized individuals.

As such, **Ehime will continue to be in an “Infection Alert Period” for now.**

Regarding the legal requests made during the “Special Alert Period”, these **requests will be lowered to the level of my personal request for cooperation as governor,** and **the requirement of eating out in groups of less than 4 people will be removed.**

However, I would like everyone to continue to be mindful of primary general preventative measures, and pay heed to the following.

- A legal request to **refrain from making business trips or unnecessary travel to heavily infected areas (specified prefectures)** will continue to be in place.
- Special precaution should be given towards the risk of infection from **customary annual activities for the new fiscal year** (welcome and farewell parties,

graduation trips, moving, etc.).

- **Make sure to remain vigilant in general precautionary practices to prevent the spread such as wearing a mask.**

Furthermore, looking at the large increase in cases that came during the New Year's holiday period, it is apparent that our ability to maintain our current status on the virus will largely **depend upon our actions concerning the annual activities during the change of the fiscal year.**

I would like to request that everyone be mindful of the following 2 points.

- Beware of the "**risks of eating or drinking in groups**" when considering having a **welcome, farewell or graduation party.**
- Beware of the "**risk of bringing in the virus**" associated with **travel such as for graduation vacations or moving.**

It is important to keep these preventative measures in mind when moving to recover socio-economic activity.

In order help promote the safe recovery of socio-economic activity, we are beginning a campaign that will **award individuals with locally made products through a lottery** along with the additional **local hotel coupons to prefectural residents** and more sales of **Go To Eat coupons.**

**We will be continuing our campaign to push support for consumption to help the restaurant, hotel and transportation industry, as well as the local production industries.** I hope that everyone will support us in our efforts by using the deals offered by the campaigns to revitalize consumption in the prefecture.

Thanks to the persistent efforts of everyone, the spread of the virus has calmed down in Ehime. I hope that we can all continue to work together towards entering our next step, the "Infection Reduction Period."

### **Request to Prevent the Spread (legal request until 3/7)**

- **Refrain from taking business trips or traveling unnecessarily to areas heavily affected by the virus.**
  - High precaution should be exercised in cases where a visit or business trip is necessary (tests, medical reasons, family ceremonies, etc.)
  - In these cases, individuals should take 2 weeks to monitor their health while practicing general precautionary measures and avoiding any group activities.

### **Details of Request to Help Prevent the Spread**

- Be aware of the following in regards to annual activities for the new fiscal year
  1. **Annual activities such as welcome and farewell parties, as well as graduation and acceptance parties.**

- Precautionary guidelines for eating out should be followed during welcome and farewell celebrations
  - Avoid dining with individuals you do not see often, and do not meet for extended periods of time in large groups
  - Individuals feeling unwell should not participate
  - Individuals who have traveled to high risk areas or partake in a high risk activity should refrain from participating
  - Individuals should still wear masks during graduation or acceptance ceremonies, keep a reasonable distance from others and should avoid too much chatter

2. Graduation vacation or other movement for a change in workplace or moving out

- Graduation vacations should avoid high risk areas and should take place during uncrowded periods with acquaintances that are regularly seen
- Individuals moving to Ehime from a high risk area should take two weeks upon arriving to heavily avoid interacting with other while taking extra care towards other precautionary measures

➤ Be Aware of the 5 Situations with an Increased Risk

1. Parties that involve eating in groups
2. Eating in large groups for extended periods of time
3. Conversing while not wearing a mask
4. Communal living in a small space
5. Moving locations

**Encouraging Economic Recovery while Preventing the Spread**

- Discounts for hotel accommodations for local vacations (additional)  
Additional (5,000) 5,000 yen coupon (per person per night) for local hotel vacations
- Graduating Class Support Campaign (New)  
A gift of local goods will be awarded to graduates from high school and up who will be having their graduation vacation within the prefecture (limit of 100 gifts)
- Go To Eat (continued)  
On sale (for use until end-of-June)