

To the people of Ehime,

Tokihiro Nakamura  
Governor of Ehime

### **Extending the “Infection Countermeasure Period” for the Coronavirus**

I would like to thank the residents and businesses of Ehime for the efforts they have put towards helping to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

Due to the numerous clusters in downtown Matsuyama, the alert level of the prefecture was raised to a “Infection Countermeasure Period,” where the utmost care and cooperation was requested of the businesses and people of Ehime.

Unfortunately, the spread of the virus does not seem to have a clear end in sight, and is in danger of spreading throughout the entire prefecture. We are nearing a point where the burden on medical facilities will be so great that we may need to limit some general practice and emergency medical services.

Due to this unfortunate development, the “Infection Countermeasure Period” will be extended for another 4 weeks from 4/22 to 5/19.

The Prefecture, cities, towns, and other involved organizations will be putting in all their efforts to reign in the spread of the virus.

However, this fourth wave of the virus within Ehime has been primarily a result of a variant, and a large number of infections have been spread through daily activity. It will be of utmost importance that everyone make adjustments to their everyday behavior to combat the spread going forward.

I would like everyone to have a goal of “reducing outings by 50%” during this 4 week period. This goal is all encompassing and includes all work and private outings.

I request that everyone do their best to avoid going outside or interacting with other people.

Due to the current state of the spread, and the burden on medical facilities reaching their limit, Ehime prefecture will be requesting the national government to implement “stronger COVID-19 countermeasures.” However, regardless of

the choice the national government takes, we plan on implementing measures of our own to match the expected stronger measures.

The following are the general details of the request for the special measures.

- Request for residents of all areas of the prefecture to refrain from unnecessarily going outside (starting today)
- Request to cut down on hours (closing at 20:00) towards “all restaurants in Matsuyama” (from 4/22)
- Request to cut down hours (closing at 21:00) towards “All restaurants, bars, etc. outside of Matsuyama that serve alcohol” (from 4/26)
- Request for commercial facilities to postpone planned events

Furthermore, the risk of infection is currently increasing in all prefectures, and not just those of the 10 prefectures that have “stronger COVID-19 measures” already implemented. In our current state where it is unclear when the virus will come under control, it is of utmost importance that we prevent any new infections from bringing in the virus from outside.

While it is very unfortunate with the long break of national holidays coming up, I would like request that everyone refrain from leaving the prefecture or having family, friends or business partners come in to visit.

Ehime currently is in a situation that requires stronger COVID-19 measures. I would like to request everyone’s assistance not only to prevent the virus from being brought in from outside, but also to prevent Ehime from spreading the virus to other prefectures as well.

For roughly one month until 5/19, I am requesting that everyone avoid going outside and interacting with others as much as possible, and to prioritize taking preventative measures in order to protect the health of both friends and family.

«Requests to the Residents of Ehime»

- Refrain from unnecessarily traveling outside (not only during night, but also during the day)
  - When going outside, only do so with family members you live with. Try to lower the amount of time you go out as much as possible.
  - Avoid going to crowded places or going out at times of high traffic, and try to socially distance as much as possible.
  - Do not dine at restaurants that are not taking proper infection prevention measures (staff wearing mask, providing alcohol disinfectant, using

acrylic barriers, providing space between people, having proper ventilation, etc.)

- Do not carefreely go to restaurants outside of the requested shortened hours of operation
- Refrain from freely leaving and entering Matsuyama
- Refrain from freely leaving and returning to Ehime
  - If traveling outside the prefecture is necessary, follow guidelines set forth by the local municipalities and abide by general guidelines for preventative measures
  - Carefully monitor your health for 2 weeks after returning to Ehime, and if you have taken part in any activities with a high risk of infection you should avoid going outside or meeting with people
  - Request that friends and/or family outside of the prefecture not come to Ehime during this time
- Points to be aware of when eating in groups
  - Do not eat in groups of more than 4 people
  - Only meet with people you see daily and individuals who have not participated in activities with a high risk of infection
  - Make sure there is ample space between seats
  - Do not raise your voice or lose control of yourself
  - Avoid eating in a group for an extended period of time (within 2 hours)
  - Only use restaurants that have taken proper infection prevention measures