

June 22, 2021

Change in the Infection Alert Period for the Coronavirus

I would like to thank the people of Ehime for the efforts they have put towards helping prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

On June 1, Ehime Prefecture moved to an “Infection Alert Period (Special Alert Period)” . Economic activity has been gradually been opening back up while the prefecture is showing awareness and care towards not bringing in the virus from outside the prefecture and being especially careful of protecting against the delta variant of the virus that is said to be stronger than the alpha variant.

Thanks to the careful efforts of everyone, the spread within the prefecture settled down in June, and the burden on medical facilities has been on a downward trend.

Looking at the current environment surrounding the burden on medical facilities and the spread of the virus, as well as the end of the declaration of a state of emergency in nearby prefectures (Hiroshima and Okayama), **today we have decided to shift from the “Infection Alert Period (Special Alert Period)” to the “Infection Alert Period”.**

As such most requests made according to the special measures law will be lowered to requests made from the governor. However, the risk of bringing in the virus from outside the prefecture remains high.

○All prefectures are still under a state of emergency or require semi-emergency coronavirus measures. **Furthermore, some areas have seen a plateau in the downward trend of cases, such as Tokyo and Osaka,** which have a large amount of tourism and other private travel.

○**The number of “L452R” variants found in delta variant screening has also been increasing** in various prefectures.

As such, the request for individuals to not travel to areas that have been designated as requiring semi-emergency coronavirus measures will continue to be in place at the level of a special measures law.

The following should be kept in mind when eating in groups **from now until the end of June:**

○**Groups should be less than 20 people with individuals who have not partaken in high risk activities.**

High risk activities include:

- Frequenting downtown areas or other crowded facilities in regions that have been deemed in a state of emergency or requiring semi-emergency coronavirus measures.
- Frequently visiting places that do not meet the guidelines of the 3 Cs.
Staying out for long periods of time should be avoided, and dining facilities that do not follow coronavirus guidelines should not be used.
While limitations on numbers of participants has been alleviated, residents should still avoid group outings or events where there is no proper host, the travel history and health of participants is not confirmed, infection countermeasures cannot be observed, and/or the number of participants is not tracked.

With these changes to entering the “Infection Alert Period,” we will once again **begin support towards in-prefecture travel.**

We hope that the people of Ehime will be proactively use the deals offered while paying mind towards preventative measures so they may enjoy safe vacations within the prefecture.

While the “Special Alert Period” may be ending, we will re-strengthen limitations if it appears as though the spread of the coronavirus is in an upwards trend.

Currently the prefecture is making steps towards an economic recovery.

I would like to request that everyone, both organizations and individuals, continue to practice infection countermeasures as we move forward.

4 Points of the Infection Alert Period

- ① Continue to practice infection safety measures
- ② Rest and seek consultation if you feel unwell
- ③ Refrain from visiting areas that have semi-emergency coronavirus measures in place
- ④ Abide by general rules set towards eating in groups