

7/29/2021

To the people of Ehime

Ehime Prefecture Governor  
Tokihiko Nakamura

## **Upgrading to an “Infection Alert Period (Special Alert Period)”**

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

Ehime prefecture adjusted its “Infection Alert Period (Special Alert Period)” back to a base “Infection Alert Period” on 6/22. The change came with a continued awareness towards travel/visits from areas under a state of emergency while lessening restrictions gradually on eating out and offering coupons towards local travel/accommodations. Special care was also given towards preventing bringing in the Delta variant of the virus that is said to spread more aggressively than even the alpha variant.

However, while the spread of the virus had calmed down during the first half of July, mid-July onwards there appeared to be an upwards trend, and three cluster infections were found in the course of a week. A fifth wave may be closing in on Ehime prefecture if the spread is not controlled. Matsuyama City specifically, is considered to be at the “entrance of a fifth wave” given its consecutive days reporting positive cases.

Among the cases in July, the route of infection was “out of prefecture” for roughly 40% of cases (20 out of 54 cases). With cases of the delta variant rising nationally, bringing in the virus from outside of the prefecture is the biggest threat that could lead to the virus once again spreading throughout the prefecture.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> over 3,000 positive cases were found in Tokyo, marking a new daily record even while the city is under the restrictions of a state of emergency. The spread in Tokyo shows

no signs of stopping, and the peak before the spread stops cannot be predicted. This large number of cases has affected the entire nation. Over 9,000 cases were found nationally on the 28th, marking a new national record along with Tokyo's record number of cases.

The sudden increase in cases in Tokyo is not a "fire on the opposite bank of the river" situation. The possibility of a fifth wave is right before us.

Looking at the dire cases that have arisen in other areas, it has been determined that immediate action is necessary to prevent the spread in Ehime. Starting on the July 29<sup>th</sup>, the "Infection Alert Period" in Ehime will be upgraded to an "Infection Alert Period (Special Alert Period)".

Residents of Ehime are requested to adhere to the following 4 points.

○Avoid unnecessary travel to areas in a state of emergency or areas with an increasing number of cases

Residents should consider cancelling or postponing any meal plans/meetings if they have traveled to these areas, or if they were planning on meeting with individuals who have done so. Residents should pass on this message to friends and family as well.

○Continue to stay wary and practice proper preventative measures towards infection.

Residents should demonstrate extra attention towards properly wearing masks, periodically disinfecting their hands, disinfecting shared objects, etc.

Areas that are often highly congested should also be avoided.

○Rest and consult with a doctor when feeling unwell

Residents should continue to be mindful of their health, and should postpone going to work/school and consult with a doctor if they show symptoms of the virus.

Special care should be given towards cases in homes, schools, workplaces, etc. where there are multiple individuals that are feeling unwell. Extra precaution should be observed and neighbors should be notified.

○Eating out/in groups according to the rules set out by the local municipality

Extra attention should be given towards properly following rules on eating out/in groups.

While it is unfortunate that this news has come as summer break and Obon come closer, in order to protect against a large re-emergence of the virus I would like to once again request a high level of alertness from the people of Ehime.