

September 29, 2021

To the People of Ehime Prefecture

Switching to the "Infection Alert Period" for the new coronavirus

We would like to express our gratitude to the citizens of Ehime Prefecture for their cooperation in preventing the spread of the new coronavirus infection.

In response to the rapid spread of the highly infectious delta strain since August, the prefecture has been taking strong measures to control the infection as an "infection control phase" since August 11.

During this period, thanks to the utmost vigilance and cooperation of the citizens of the prefecture, the infection situation has started to decrease since September, and the medical burden has also gradually decreased, and all the indicators used as a guide to judge the stage of the disease are now below Stage 3. **At this point, our prefecture can be evaluated as being in Stage 2.**

In addition, as the nationwide infection situation is on a downward trend, **yesterday the national government decided to cancel all emergency declarations and priority measures to prevent the spread of the disease, which had been issued to 27 prefectures, on September 30.**

In light of the current infection situation, the medical burden, **we have decided to change the alert level of the prefecture from "infection control phase" to "infection alert phase" as of October 1.**

However, as several to a dozen people are still confirmed to be positive in the prefecture, and the infection is not under control, **it is necessary to monitor the situation closely for at least two weeks before gradually easing the alert level** in order to be alert for a rebound due to the impact of the end of the short-time request and the lifting of the emergency declaration. I think it is necessary to ease the situation in stages.

As a specific measure, we will not ask for a uniform refrain from traveling to and from outside of the prefecture, but we will ask for the following when visiting

- **Please make sure to check what the governor of the area to be visited requests and the infection status of the area (municipality) to be visited, and follow the local precautions.**
- **Avoid activities that carry a high risk of infection and take thorough measures to avoid infection.**

Please take special care when visiting areas where infection has not yet been sufficiently reduced.

In addition, the "Request for Refraining from Unnecessary and Unexpected Outings with Matsuyama City" and the "Warning for Traffic with Matsuyama City" have been terminated, but in light of the recent infection situation, **we would like to ask everyone in Matsuyama and Niihama cities to continue to exercise caution when going out.**

For the time being, **for the next two weeks,** please keep the following in mind.

- **Have a dinner with no more than 10 people who are not at high risk of infection.**
- **Avoid long hours and go to restaurants that have thorough infection control measures.**
- **Do not shout or do not make too much noise.**
- **If you have any health problems, please do not attend or allow others to attend. This policy will be relaxed in stages based on the future infection situation.**
- **We will continue to request that all residents of the prefecture refrain from participating in events that attract an unspecified number of people and are expected to be crowded.**

In the fifth wave, a number of cases are confirmed under the following situations.

- **Sports and hobby gatherings where masks are removed**
- **Long-hour group parties, home drinking, leisure activities, barbecues and so on.**

It has been pointed out that there is a risk of spreading the highly contagious delta strains even in a single close encounter. **Even among friends who see each other on a regular basis, we ask you to be cautious by avoiding close contact and taking all possible measures to prevent infection.** In particular, **please make sure that those who have even the slightest symptoms do not participate or allow others to participate.**

At present, the government is discussing the implementation of the "Vaccine and Testing Package" and preparing for demonstration tests with the aim of restoring daily life as vaccination progresses.

The supply of the vaccine, which is the key to balancing infection prevention measures and socioeconomic activities, is on track, and more than half of the cities and towns are expected to complete vaccination of all those who wish to be vaccinated by the end of October, and the remaining cities and towns by early November.

If you are able to receive the vaccine, please do so.

Governor of Ehime Prefecture, Tokihiro Nakamura