

Mayor's Message VI

Nationwide State of Emergency Announced Further Strengthen the Prevention of the Spread of Infection!

To all citizens, thank you for your cooperation in refraining from a variety of activities in order to prevent the further spread of the Novel Coronavirus. I especially express my deep gratitude to all those medical and health staff, dedicated to carrying out their duties on the front line of treatment.

With 11 positive cases now confirmed in Fukushima City, the Novel Coronavirus is spreading rapidly across the nation, and on April 16th, the regions subject to the state of emergency were expanded from 7 prefectures to all 47 prefectures. Until the end of the period after May 6th, peoples movements must be minimized, contact between people reduced by 70% or at best 80%, and the spread of infection must somehow be stopped in its tracks.

Based on the points of the state of emergency, alongside those requests made by the Fukushima Prefecture Governor, Fukushima City will put into place the measures listed in additional documents.

To all citizens and businesses, while this will place on you some hardships, we request that strengthen measures to prevent the spread of infection all the more.

Contents Based on the State of Emergency:

- ① To all citizens, please refrain from all non-necessary, non-urgent outings, or movement to outside of the prefecture.
- ② In addition, please also avoid relocation from outside of the prefecture, especially from Designated Warning Prefectures. Those who have relocated due to unavoidable reasons, should, alongside avoiding outings for 2 weeks, please be aware of the possibility of infecting those with whom you reside, as you remain consistent in the maintenance of your health.
- ③ The temporary closure of Fukushima City municipal Elementary, Junior High, and Special Needs Schools will be extended until May 6th. I empathize that this is an upsetting thought for students and children who were looking forward to the new term, however, learning support from the schools will be comprehensive. For the present while, please make efficient use of these materials, and do your best in your studies as well as your physical and mental health.

For those children for whom a place cannot be secured, they can be cared for at school and after-school care. We do request, however, that those who, due to working from home etc., are able to care for their child at home, refrain as much as possible from

using these services.

- ④ Fukushima City Municipal Kindergartens & Preschools will also be temporarily closed from April 21st until May 6th. Extended-hours care at municipal kindergartens & preschools, and childcare at municipally certified childcare facilities will be available, however, we do request those who, due to working from home etc., are able to care for their child at home, please refrain from attending.
- ⑤ Excluding outdoor facilities such as parks or those where you can enjoy walking, Fukushima City municipal facilities will, as a general rule, be closed for use between April 19th and May 6th.
- ⑥ With regards to events held by Fukushima City, those that are able to be postponed or cancelled will be so. Even for familiar events at meetings halls etc., please take due care in considering, ‘does this have to held now?’ or ‘Are the ‘3 C’s’ really not occurring?’.
- ⑦ In addition to the above countermeasures, we are urgently putting together and plan to implement, the 3rd Emergency Support Policy, built on the 3 pillars of countermeasures to prevent the spread of infection, support for the daily lives of citizens, and countermeasures for the region’s economy.

To all citizens, alongside the strict enforcement of basic infection prevention measures and being consistent in the avoidance of the ‘3 C’s’ (closed spaces, crowded places and close contact) based on the previous Mayor’s Messages, we also request that you behave in a manner that is conscious of preventing the possibility of infection in the workplace and in the home.

Furthermore, we strongly request that there is to be no slander or defamation of those related to persons who have tested positive, or of those in the medical field who are giving their all in engaging in medical treatment.

Now that a state of emergency has been announced across the nation, I would ask for each individual to raise their sense of danger and be consistent in behavior to ‘protect yourself, and protect those important to you’, in order to pave the way to returning to normal as soon as possible.

Let us all come together as citizens, to overcome this crisis even one day sooner.

April 18th 2020

Fukushima City Mayor Kohata Hiroshi