

Lifting of the State of Emergency

Let us remain on our guard in preventing infection, and gradually recover a new way of life!

As of May 14th, the State of Emergency, declared for 39 prefectures including Fukushima Prefecture, has been lifted, as has the Emergency Response Measures announced by Fukushima Prefecture. Measures towards the gradual recovery of socio-economic activities will now begin.

Beginning with all those citizens, who, while enduring difficulties, have cooperated in avoiding activities, all business, and all medical and health professionals dedicatedly carrying out their duties on the frontline of treatment, I would like to express my wholehearted respect and deep gratitude to all those who have supported the lives of the citizens of Fukushima City.

In saying this however, the lifting of the state of emergency is by no means a 'declaration of liberation' from the Novel Coronavirus. If we were to let down our guard, the infection would spread once again. We are resolved to the fact that the fight against Novel Coronavirus is going to be a long-term battle, and will, without letting down our guard, implement measures that prioritize first and foremost the prevention of the spread of infection.

On the other hand, while we have already inquired into the path towards the recovery of socio-economic activities, such as online book-lending services through the libraries' and the re-opening of outdoor sports facilities, hereafter we also hope to gradually advance the expansion of activities.

In doing so, it will be the introduction to lifestyles and workplaces of measures and actions that lead to the prevention of infection, and becoming accustomed to the practice of these, that will lead to the expansion of the range of activities while still preventing the spread of infection. We would appreciate your working towards establish a 'new way of life', proactive use of ICT etc., and gradually returning to a new normal.

To all citizens of Fukushima City, we request that you pay attention to the following, and cooperate in preventing the spread of infection as well as in the recovery of socio-economic activities.

«Request for Cooperation in the Establishment of a 'new way of life' etc.»

It is important to establish as the new 'normal' in our lives and in the workplace, those

special behaviors for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection implemented during the long-term battle with the Novel Coronavirus.

In addition to basic infection prevention countermeasures, such as wearing masks and washing and disinfecting hands etc., please put your heart into consistently avoiding what is referred to as the '3 C's', and into maintaining as much as possible distance between people.

In the workplace, alongside measures to reduce contact between people, such as staggered work hours, commuting by car, and rotational work, please also advance measures that make use of ICT, such as tele-work and online meetings etc.

Please avoid all non-essential and non-urgent travel between prefectures, and please especially refrain from travel between those prefectures still currently under a state of emergency, such as metropolitan areas etc.

Please also avoid outings to places with the '3 C's' and to facilities like those where clusters have previously occurred.

« Response of Schools etc. »

Municipal Elementary, Junior High and Special Needs Schools will re-open from May 25th.

Alongside requiring caution in infection prevention, considering the anxiety and long-term physical and mental strain of children and students, May will be considered a preparation period for the re-opening of normal school activities, and students will attend school 2-3 times a week, with time spent at school gradually increased. Normal attendance will begin from June 1st, however, it is planned that the period up until June 5th will be an acclimatization period, with classes in the morning and students returning home after school lunch.

Municipal Kindergartens will also re-open from May 25th. The approach will be the same as that of schools: Staggered attendance during May with the length of attendance gradually extended. Daily attendance will recommence from June 1st, however, an acclimatization period (morning care) will be set-up for each class, and regular care is planned to recommence from June 15th.

With regards to Municipal Preschools and Childcare Centers, during the state of emergency, those who were able to care for their children at home were asked to refrain from attending. We now request your cooperation in gradual attendance during the month of May.

« Management of Municipal Facilities »

Those facilities that are currently closed to public use, excluding indoor sports facilities,

will, depending on the facility, and upon the taking up of appropriate infection prevention measures to avoid conditions like those of the '3 C's', be sequentially re-opened to public use,

Those indoor sports facilities where sufficient ventilation can be carried out, and where warning messages regarding behaviors for the prevention of infection can be made by those on staff, will be sequentially re-opened for public use.

Other sports facilities will remain closed until May 31st.

Furthermore, acceptance of reservations for events that exceed 100 people indoors, and 200 people outdoors, will be withheld for the current period.

«Management of Events etc.»

For national and large scale events, we request a cautious response, postponing or cancelling those events lacking in measures against the risk of infection.

Furthermore, in order to prevent conditions like those of the '3 C's', we request that when holding any events, you do so upon taking appropriate countermeasures for the prevention of infection.

For indoor events, please limit numbers to less than 100 people and to less than half of admission capacity.

For outdoor events, please limit numbers to less than 200 people and ensure a distance between people of over 2m.

In either case, in addition to basic infection prevention countermeasures, such as the disinfection of hands, wearing of masks, and regular ventilation, we request that you also be consistent in comprehensive infection prevention countermeasures, including avoiding crowding in waiting areas etc. by limiting numbers, and directions upon entrance to the venue etc.

Furthermore, as there is a possibility of an increased risk of infection, please avoid to the best of your ability, the provision of opportunities for exchange during break times or before-and-after the event etc.

On top of this, even in cases where participant numbers do not reach those written above, we request your careful consideration for cases where loud speaking in an enclosed space, singing, or conversation at close-distances are expected.

We would appreciate it if you could create a list of participants and retain this for a period of time.

When such a restricted lifestyle continues for a long period of time, stress can build up, and emotions can become unstable. Please maintain your physical and mental health by doing moderate exercise outdoors and enjoying your hobbies etc. Also, alongside requesting that there under no circumstances be any prejudice, discrimination, slander, or defamation

of the patients of infectious diseases, their families, or medical professionals, we also request that you please be sufficiently cautious of the abuse of children or the elderly.

In the City, we will continue hereafter to strengthen countermeasures on the axis of the 3 pillars; preventing infection, supporting the activities of citizens, and countermeasures for the regional economy, and will work towards the transformation into a new regional society that is resistant to infectious disease. Let all citizens come together as one, and overcome this crisis. We request your understanding and cooperation.

2020 May 16th

Mayor of Fukushima City Kohata Hiroshi