

Mayors Message VII

Extension of the State of Emergency ~ Let us overcome this, as we adopt a new lifestyle that is resistant to infectious disease

Firstly, to all those in the health and medical field with a strong sense of duty who are devotedly engaged on the front lines of medical treatment, to those who are supporting our lives while shouldering the risk of infection, and to all citizens etc. who have cooperated in refraining from a variety of activities, to every person who is struggling against the novel coronavirus, I express my heartfelt respect and deep gratitude.

In order to prevent the secondary spread of infection and the collapse of the medical system, the central government has extended the state of emergency for all prefectures, due to expire today, until the last day of May.

Since the national expansion of the state of emergency on April 16th, while we have had to place further difficulties on all citizens and businesses, in this city we have advanced even stricter measures to prevent the spread of infection. Though the number of infected persons has recently increased, currently reaching 19 confirmed cases, and the situation continues to remain unpredictable, it has not reached the point of an accelerated spread of infection, and is holding out at a critical turning point.

On the other hand, the regional economy is facing unprecedented tough conditions, with no outlook for the road ahead.

Based on the contents of the extension of the state of emergency and the requests from the Fukushima Prefectural Governor as well as the current situation in the city, Fukushima City will not lose focus in continuing to implement measures that prioritize preventing the spread of infection. At the same time, as we outline the adoption of and consistency in a 'new way of life' that is resistant to infectious disease, we will continue to carefully search for a road towards the recovery of social economic activities, starting from those activities that have a low risk of infection.

We will continue to advance the following responses to the extension of the state of emergency, and to rally the combined strength of the region to overcome this crisis.

(Avoidance of Outings)

In line with the prefecture's directives, please avoid outings to establishments in the business district that provide food and drink alongside entertainment, as well as any non-essential, non-urgent movement across prefectures.

Please also avoid any outings to places where clusters may occur, or that have the '3 C's'.

Even in outings besides those above, along with consistently avoiding places where the '3 C's' could easily occur, please also strive to adopt and be consistent in 'a new way of life' that implements basic infection countermeasures such as hand-washing, coughing

etiquette, and the maintenance of distance between people etc.

(Restriction of Use of Facilities)

To all businesses, we request your ongoing response in line with the request from the prefecture.

《Management of Municipal Schools & Childcare Facilities》

Within those facilities managed by the City, the temporary closure of municipal elementary, junior high, and special needs schools, as well as municipal kindergartens will be extended until May 31st. If the central government's state of emergency and closure request of the prefecture are lifted, however, we will consider lifting the temporary closure ahead-of-schedule.

For the purpose of the re-opening of schools, while putting in place sufficient countermeasures for the prevention of infection such as staggered attendance etc., and alongside arranging stratified attendance days during the closure period, we will continue to work towards education that is conscious of the learning cycle between education on days attending school and that when homeschooling.

For those children with unavoidable circumstances, while we will prepare a system where self-study etc. is carried out at schools and care facilities, from the perspective of reducing the risk of infection for children, we request that you avoid using schools or childcare facilities as much as possible.

Municipal nurseries and preschools will remain open.

Furthermore, in regards to the use of the out-of-hours care at municipal kindergartens, and of municipal nurseries and preschools, while taking into account the long-term burden on all careers, we request that those households who are able to provide care at home avoid using of the facilities.

《Management of Municipal Facilities》

The closure of those municipal facilities, excluding outdoor sports facilities, currently under closure to public use, will be extended until May 31st. If the central government's state of emergency and the closure request of the prefecture are lifted, however, these closures will be lifted in stages, beginning with those uses that have a low risk of infection.

The closure to public use of outdoor sports facilities, which were closed under the policies of this city, will remain until May 10th, and those facilities will re-open for public use from May 11th. Indoor facilities, such as change-rooms and resting areas etc. (excluding bathrooms), however, will be closed to public use until May 31st. In addition, sports such as those with contact or close interaction etc., that have a comparatively high risk of infection, are to be avoided. Furthermore, as it has been requested that movement crossing prefectural boundaries is to be nationally avoided, use by those from outside the prefecture is to be avoided.

Libraries and Learning Center Reading Rooms will remain closed for use within the

facility, however, from May 8th rental services via online and over-the-phone bookings will be available.

Furthermore, when making use of municipal facilities, please be consistent in countermeasures for the prevention of infection such as hand washing, hand disinfection, and wearing a mask etc.

(Refrain from Holding Events)

In line with the requests from the prefecture, we also request that people refrain from holding events for which it is feared a cluster may occur or gatherings that have the '3 C's'.

While it does depend on the event venue, when holding events etc. with a relatively small number of people (at the most 50 people) we request that you take appropriate countermeasures in preventing the spread of infection, in order to avoid the '3 C's'.

While small annual events at regional meeting halls will be held, please be similarly careful to take sufficient countermeasures in the prevention of infection.

At this time, we once again make requests to all citizens and businesses

To all citizens,

- ① Please be consistent in basic infection prevention countermeasures such as hand-washing, hand disinfection, and the wearing of masks etc. In addition, please strive to adopt and be consistent in a 'new way of living' that implements infection prevention such as avoiding the '3 C's' (closed, crowded, and close-contact settings) and maintains distance between people.
- ② When you feel unwell, please take leave from work or school. Please pay attention to infection prevention even within the home, reducing contact with family members who are unwell to the lowest level possible.
- ③ Please avoid outings to establishments in the business district that provide entertainment alongside food and drink. We also request that when shopping, you avoid crowds and avoid creating crowds as much as possible.
- ④ Please avoid travel outside of the prefecture. For those outside of the prefecture, please hold back from visiting the prefecture at this time. We are now uploading 'homecoming videos', so we would appreciate it if you could please instead watch these, to feel as if you have returned home to Fukushima City.
- ⑤ To those persons who, due to unavoidable circumstances, have come from metropolitan areas etc. Designated Warning Prefectures, from the perspective of preventing infection, please avoid non-essential and non-urgent outings for 2 weeks, be consistent in the management of your health, and, if you feel anything is wrong, please contact the Returned Persons & Contact Persons Consultation Center early on.
- ⑥ In order to maintain your physical and mental health during the prolonged lifestyle under restrictions, as well as to avoid any reduction in your immunity, please carry out

an appropriate amount of outdoor physical activity, walking, and cultural activities etc. and avoid the build-up of stress. The city is also uploading videos and information for these purposes.

- ⑦ Fukushima City will expediently implement the Emergency Support Policy No. 3 and will continue to support the regional economy. We ask that all citizens in the region please support one another by making use of takeout initiatives, such as the Fukushima Yell Gohan initiative, where possible, take on products that no longer have a destination, and cooperate to overcome this dire situation.
- ⑧ Finally, we strongly request that there under no circumstance be any discrimination, prejudice, or slander towards infected patients and their families, or those in the medical field. Even in the city, cases of the families of medical workers being required to avoid using services have been occurring. Please put yourself in their position, and let us all support them together.

To all businesses,

- ① In order to protect your employees and their families, as well as your customers, alongside being consistent in basic countermeasures to prevent infection within the workplace, please also be consistent in health management, such as exempting those with symptoms including a fever etc. from attending work.
- ② We request that, in addition to introducing work-from-home, tele-work, and online meetings, you reduce contact between people by opening space between employees etc. and transition to a 'new way of life' in the workplace.
- ③ Please refrain from events where it is feared that a cluster may form and gatherings where the '3 C's' are likely to occur. In addition, even in the daily sales planning of those businesses not requested to close, we request that you adapt your planning and implementation methods to ensure that conditions similar to the '3 C's' do not occur.

While this will place ongoing difficulties on all citizens and business, we must resolve for a long battle in the fight against novel coronavirus. Each individual changing their daily lifestyle, and adopting a 'new way of life' in which behaviors that function for the prevention of infection naturally occur, will lead to the creation of a society that is resilient to infectious disease.

Let us not forget to be conscious of 'each individual protecting themselves and those important to them', be determined and consistent in actions for that purpose, and rally the combined strength of the region to overcome this crisis.

May 6th 2020

Fukushima City Mayor Kohata Hiroshi