

To all Residents of Gifu Prefecture: The Start of a “Stay At Home Holiday”

1. 2 months have passed since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Gifu Prefecture.

(149 persons have been infected to date, of which 6 are deceased.)

(1) COVID-19 can infect anybody, anywhere, at any time.

① It is extremely contagious

In one case, a single person’s infection was passed onto 47 others.

② Many cases of infection spreading within families, regardless of age

42 people (around 30% of confirmed cases) contracted the disease from a family member they were living with. 3 generations within the same family have also been infected!

③ Outbreaks began with nightlife, then spread to families and workplaces

68 cases are believed to have originated with nightlife outbreaks.

④ Infection has spread from other prefectures and overseas

In particular, 21 cases have been linked to Aichi Prefecture and 5 cases to overseas.

⑤ Patients can quickly become severely ill

There have been cases where patients have died a week after onset of symptoms.

(2) What happens once you are infected?

① You will be isolated and hospitalized

At present, there is no medical treatment or vaccine available.

No visitors are allowed. Hospitalization can last between 2 weeks and a month, and longer if you become severely ill.

② Everyone you have had contact with such as your family, coworkers and clients will be tested and undergo follow-up observation

For the cluster outbreak in Kani City, this was around 2900 people.

③ Business closures, stopping of production lines

④ Increased burden on healthcare services

Every case adds to the burden borne by healthcare workers making sacrificial efforts night and day to respond to this crisis.

2. Aiming for a “Stay At Home Holiday”

During the 3-day holiday weekend in late March, relaxed vigilance led to a sudden explosion in infections both nationally and within Gifu Prefecture.

At present, despite the State of Emergency Declaration, traffic within Gifu City has only been reduced by 40 to 50%, which falls far short of the goal of reducing person-to-person contact by 80%.

The upcoming holiday period is at maximum a 12-day break. Please do not let down your guard, but work with us to prevent the spread of infection as outlined below.

(1) Reduce your contact with other people, without exception

Refrain from non-essential, non-urgent outings, particularly trips to your hometown or other travel between prefectures. Urge family members living outside Gifu Prefecture to do likewise.

(2) Reduce infection risks

Even essential activities such as shopping at the supermarket can be situations with a high risk of infection (closed spaces, crowded places, close-contact settings).

Activities such as playing in outdoor parks or barbecuing by the river can also be high-risk settings if many people are present.

Take measures to avoid an increased risk of infection by shopping alone when you are free, wearing a mask, washing hands, and maintaining distance from others when going outside.

(3) Enjoy being at home

Enjoy this “Stay At Home Holiday” as a family with videos of artworks such as the Gifu Museum of Fine Arts’ collections, and Minamo TV.

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Furuta Hajime
Gifu Prefectural Governor

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