

Okinawa Prefectural Response Policy in Accordance with the Designation of "Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease"

【Period】 January 9 (Sunday) - January 31 (Sunday), 2022

Details of Implementation

In working towards preventing the further spread of Covid-19, and in order to reduce the opportunities for human-to-human contact, and prevent the spread of the disease throughout the prefecture and the nation, based on article 24 of the Act on Special Measures against Novel Influenza (hereinafter referred to as the "Act"), requests will be made to prefectural residents and businesses, and any necessary cooperation will be encouraged.

Areas of Action

The entirety of Okinawa island, the Miyako area, the Yaeyama area, and the outer islands around the main island of Okinawa and 41 municipalities. (Naha, Ginowan, Urasoe, Nago, Itoman, Okinawa City, Tomigusuku, Uruma, Nanjo, Kunigami, Ogimi, Higashi, Nakijin, Motobu, Onna, Ginoza, Kin, Yomitan, Kadena, Chatan, Kitanakagusuku, Nakagusuku, Nishihara, Yonabaru, Haebaru, Yaese, Miyakojima, Tarama, Ishigaki, Taketomi, Yonaguni, Ie, Tokashiki, Zamami, Aguni, Tonaki, Minami Daito, Kita Daito, Iheya, Izena, Kumejima)

Other than the areas of action

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【Measures to Prevent Explosive Spread of the Infection】

< Current Situation >

- The new variant of concern, Omicron, is continuing to progress and has spread to all prefectures. It increased 10-times from last week and 39-times from the week before due to the exchanges that took place at the end of the year and during the New Year's holidays.
- The peak of the third wave, during the same period last year, occurred due to the increased opportunities of contact caused by exchanges among relatives at the beginning of the year and parties after the coming-of-age ceremony.
- The infection is spreading among essential workers, including healthcare workers, and is beginning to affect social infrastructure, with a sharp increase in the number of staff on sick leave.
- In order to control the current explosive spread of the infection, in addition to "thorough implementation of basic infection prevention measures" and "promotion of vaccination," it is necessary to refrain from activities with high risk of infection, such as eating in crowded places or with an unspecified number of people.
- In order to protect yourself, your loved ones, your community, and in order to be sure you are not bringing the virus home with you, "hand washing and other hand hygiene", "wear a mask", "monitor your health by taking your temperature every day", and even if you are feeling a little unwell, please rest in an isolated area of your residence.

Prefectural Policies and Measures

- Requests and encouragements will be made to prefectural residents and businesses to curb the re-spreading of the infection.
- We will continue to alert people in areas where there are signs of the spread of infection.
- Provide reminders about seasonal events.

To Prefectural Residents (The Entirety of Okinawa Prefecture)

Request Regarding Traveling and Going Out

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Requests for Cooperation】

【The Act, Article 31-6, Paragraph 2: Request as Priority Measure】

- **Refrain from going out or traveling to places with high risk of infection** (The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9)
Avoid going to crowded places or places with a high risk of infection (especially at night), and when going out or travelling do so with family members or friends that you normally interact with.
- **As much as possible, please refrain from non-essential and non-emergency travel outside the prefecture.** (The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9)
If you need to travel, vaccinations should be completed or a PCR test or other tests should be taken prior to departure. Immediately after returning to Okinawa, please take a PCR test and refrain from group dining with people other than family members for one week.
- **Please refrain from non-essential and non-emergency travel to and from the outer islands** (The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9) Please refrain from non-essential and non-emergency travel to and from the outer islands in the prefecture. If a visit is unavoidable, complete vaccination or take a PCR test or other tests in advance.
- In the case of holding Moai, beach parties, etc., events involving food and drink should be held with family members who live together or people who are always together, with no more than 4 people, avoid the 3 Cs, and not spend more than 2 hours at the event (The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9).
- **Do not use restaurants or other establishments, without justification, after the hours for which the reduction of business hours has been requested.** (The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9, The Act, Article 31, Paragraph 6-2)
Avoid using restaurants that are not taking thorough infection prevention measures and please use an "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility" that is certified by Okinawa prefecture.
- Observe your health by taking your temperature every day, and if you have any symptoms, stop commuting to work, school, and going out. (The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9)

To Prefectural Residents (The Entirety of Okinawa Prefecture)

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9:
Requests for Cooperation】

Requests for Group Dining (Eating and Drinking)

- ◆ Group dining should be held with family members who live together or people who are always together, with no more than 4 people, and for no more than 2 hours.
 - ◆ Proactively cooperate with infection prevention measures required by restaurants.
(Check your temperature, do not speak loudly, wear a mask when speaking, stay in your seat, etc.)
 - ◆ Avoid using restaurants that are not taking thorough infection prevention measures and please use an "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility".
 - ◆ Strictly avoid using restaurants and other establishments that have not responded to requests to shorten business hours.
 - ◆ Even if you are only feeling a little unwell, please do not participate in dining or if someone else is feeling the same, please do not allow the person to participate
 - The same precautions should be taken for group dining at other than restaurants, such as at a residence.
- ※Do not participate in any events where an unspecified number of people gather and it is expected to be crowded (especially where food and drink are involved).

※ Less than 4 people with family members that are living together, avoid the 3 Cs, for less than 2 hours, and go home after the first round of group dining.

Request Regarding Basic Infection Prevention Measures

- Please get vaccinated as it is the trump card of infection prevention measures.
- When you are feeling sick, you should see your family doctor or go to a clinic during the day. When you have a fever, please contact the Prefectural Call Center.
- Thorough Implementation of Basic Infection Prevention Measures 【wearing masks, frequent hand washing, and thorough ventilation】
- ◆ Even those who have completed two rounds of vaccination are still at risk of infection.

To visitors (who are considering coming to Okinawa)

【Before your visit: Request for cooperation, not based on a law】

【After your visit: Request for cooperation, based on The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9】

Requests for Coming and Going

- In accordance with the request for inter-prefectural travel required by the governor of your residential area, please ensure that you take basic infection prevention measures when you come to the prefecture and refrain from eating with large groups of people (more than 5 people) when you come to the prefecture.
- Please carefully consider coming if you are from an area where the infection is spreading
- Before coming to the prefecture, please make sure to observe your health well in advance and take all possible measures to prevent infection. When you are not feeling well, please postpone or cancel your trip to the prefecture.
- Prior to coming to the prefecture, please make sure that you have completed vaccinations or take a PCR test, etc. in advance to confirm that you are negative.
 - ※ Now, for those who are unable to take tests in advance, we have established a system where one can take a PCR test upon their arrival at Naha Airport, Miyako Airport, Shimojishima Airport, New Ishigaki Airport, and Kumejima Airport.
- When coming to the prefecture, avoid restaurants and hotels that are not taking thorough infection prevention measures, please use an "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility" instead. In addition, strictly avoid using restaurants and other establishments that have not responded to requests to shorten business hours.
- If you feel unwell or have a fever during your stay in Okinawa, please contact the Traveler's Access Center Okinawa. 【Traveler's Access Center Okinawa 「TACO」】
 - ※ Telephone number: 098-840-1677 Operating hours: 8 a.m. ~ 9 p.m. (open all year round)
 - ※ Regarding school excursions, please take thorough measures to prevent infection and act in accordance with the (separate) "Okinawa School Trip Quarantine and Tourism Guidelines".

Requests to Restaurants in the Target Areas

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Request for Cooperation】
 【The Act, Article 31-6, Paragraph 2: Request as Priority Measure】

【Requests for Cooperation in Shortening Business Hours and Preventing Infection】

Period	January 9, 2022 (Sunday) through January 31, 2022 (Monday)
Target Facilities	[Restaurants] Restaurants (excluding takeout and delivery) ※Take-out includes eat-in spaces at supermarkets and Bento (lunch box) shops, etc [Entertainment facilities / wedding halls] Bars, karaoke boxes, wedding halls (etc.) that possess a restaurant business license under the Food Sanitation Act.
Details of the Requests	<p>【Based on The Act, Article 31-6, Paragraph 1: Requests subject to orders, a fine, etc.】 ※Businesses with actual business operations on the date of the request are eligible for the cooperation subsidy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The hours of operation for "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility" should be from 5:00 to 21:00 (alcoholic beverages are served from 11:00 to 20:00) <u>When using Karaoke equipment in Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility that mainly serve food and drink, avoid close proximity between users, thoroughly implement infection control measures such as ensuring ventilation, etc.</u> ➤ <u>Hours of operation shall be between 5:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (no alcoholic beverages shall be served) (excluding takeout and delivery)</u> <u>Facilities that mainly serve food and drink (other than karaoke boxes [karaoke cafes, karaoke bars, etc.]) should refrain from using karaoke equipment.</u> ○ <u>In principle, no more than four people in the same group and at the same table (exception: when assistance or care is required)</u> <u>※Due to the rapid spread of infection, including breakthrough infections, the relaxation of the number of people eligible for vaccine-test package is temporarily suspended.</u> ○ Prohibit the entry of those who do not wear a mask and do not take infection prevention measures. (Wear a mask when talking) ○ Installation of acrylic panels, etc. (or at least 1 meter space between seats and seating position to face each other is prohibited) ○ In addition to the above, follow measures stipulated in the Order for Enforcement of the Special Measures Act, Article 5-5, Paragraph 1. (Recommend that employees take tests, guide entering patrons in an organized manner, prohibition of admission of persons with fever or other symptoms, installation of hand sanitizing equipment, disinfection for places where business is conducted, and ventilate the facility.) <p>【Based on The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9 : Requests for Cooperation】</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooperation with the prefectural government's and municipality's inspection program to promote infection prevention measures. ○ Thorough room ventilation, temperature checks, and implementation of the industry specific guidelines. ○ Encourage obtaining the "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility" certification. <p>(※ When holding events such as wedding ceremonies, please respond according to the request for holding the event).</p>

※Restaurants that would be normally operating can apply for a subsidy when they obtain the business license by the date of issuance of the request and when they respond to the request. Due to the rapid spread of the new variant of concern Omicron in Okinawa Prefecture, if a facility that has been in operation until January 4 voluntarily closes temporarily from January 4, when the alert level in the prefecture is set to "Level 2", to January 8, the day before the request period starts, the store will be considered to be operating normally and can apply for the cooperation subsidy (for January 9 to 31) if the store responds to the request.

Requests when Holding Events

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Requests for Cooperation】

◆ Request Organizers to Hold Events in Accordance with the Event Capacity Requirements (maximum number of people, venue capacity, etc.)

	Maximum Venue Capacity of Facilities (※1)		
	Less Than 5,000 People	Over 5,000 People ~Less Than 20,000 People (※3)	Over 20,000 People (※4)
Events Free from Loud Spectator Cheering /Shouting	Up to Capacity	Up to Capacity (※3)	
Events where Spectators Tend to Shout (※2)	Up to Half of the Capacity		

※1: In the case a maximum venue capacity has not been set, the capacity shall be as follows. [For the events where spectators tend to shout, the number of people shall be half of the maximum n venue capacity of facilities and no more than 5,000.](#)

- Events free from loud spectator cheering and/or shouting → The spacing should be sufficient to avoid having close-contact between people (The spacing should be enough to avoid person-to-person contact at a minimum).
- Events where spectators tend to shout → Sufficient space (2m as much as possible and at least 1m) between people must be provided.

※2: A "Loud Voice" is defined as "a spectator ①speaking louder than their usual voice and ②speaking up repeatedly and continuously", and events that actively encourage this practice or do not take sufficient necessary measures are classified as "Events where spectators tend to shout".

※3: Under the condition that an infection prevention safety plan is prepared and implemented, the "No loud voices" commitment is a must.

※4: [Due to the rapid spread of infection, including breakthrough infections, the relaxation of the number of people eligible for the vaccine-test package system is temporarily suspended.](#)

- In addition, organizers should ensure compliance with industry-specific guidelines to implement thorough tracking measures, such as the national governments Contact Confirming Application (COCOA) and the Okinawa COVID-19 Countermeasure Personal Support Application (RICCA) or the creation of a list of participants.
- For events with more than 5,000 spectators and a capacity ratio of more than 50%, the organizer must prepare and submit to the prefecture a "Safety Plan for Infection Prevention" that describes specific measures to be taken at least two weeks prior to the event. If the requests from the prefecture are not met, postponement or cancellation of the event might be requested.
- Organizers should take prompt action in the event of a nationwide spread of infection or clusters occurring and the government revises industry-specific guidelines, the maximum capacity requirements or the ceiling of the maximum number of participants.
- For events that attract a large number of visitors from outside the island, visitors should be encouraged to be vaccinated or have negative results confirmed by a PCR test or other tests prior to the event.
- Be cautious about selling tickets for events with more than 5,000 people.

- [The publicity period shall be three days from the date of issuance of the request. Tickets that go on sale before the end of the publicity period do not need to be cancelled if the upper limit of the number of people is 5000 or 50% of the capacity, whichever is greater, and if the capacity is 100% \(50% for the events where Spectators Tend to Shout\).](#)

Requests to Facilities (Target Area)

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Request for Cooperation】

【The Act, Article 31-6, Paragraph 2: Request as Priority Measure】

Requests to Retail Facilities and Customer Facilities

Requests for the implementation of the measures stipulated in Article 11, Paragraph 1, Enforcement of the Special Measures Act are requested for sports facilities, amusement centers, movie theaters, shopping centers and other facilities. In addition, the implementation status of each measure should be actively published on the facility's website.

【Requests for Cooperation Based on The Act, Article 31, Paragraph 1】

- Patron traffic control should be executed, to prevent crowds, by organizing and guiding entering patrons.
- Ensure that all entering patrons are aware of the need to wear masks.
- Prohibit the entry of patrons who do not comply with the infection prevention measures.
- Measures effective in preventing infection through droplets from conversations (especially at food courts) (Installation of acrylic panels, maintaining a distance between seats or thorough room ventilation, etc. should be implemented.)

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9】

- Thorough implementation of the industry-specific guidelines and infection prevention measures
- Installation of hand sanitizing equipment, recommend the usage of hand sanitizer, and encourage employees to take PCR tests.
- Measures to prohibit the entry of those with a fever or other symptoms (temperature check upon entry, installation of thermography)
- Check symptoms, take temperatures, and require hand hygiene before entering game centers, sports clubs, and other amusement facilities.
- Request that patrons not be allowed to bring alcoholic beverages in. (not based on a law)

Requests to Businesses (The Entirety of Okinawa Prefecture)

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Request for Cooperation】

Requests to Businesses and the Business Community

- Thoroughly manage the physical condition of staff, and do not come to work if you do not feel well or do not allow staff to come to work if they are not feeling well.
- If there are any family members living with the employee who are not in good health, actively encourage them to take a COVID-19 test.
- To reduce close contact opportunities, make efforts to reduce the number and density of commuters, expansion of working from home (telework) and staggered commuting,
- Request that employees not go to restaurants or other establishments, without justification, after the new requested closing time. Especially avoid using facilities that have not responded to requests to shorten their business hours.
- Be careful about switching places in the workplace (break room, changing room, smoking room, company cafeteria), which increases the risk of infection.
- Encourage vaccination at the workplace. (Development of an easy vaccination environment)
- Thorough implementation of the industry specific guidelines

Requests to Businesses (The Entirety of Okinawa Prefecture)

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Request for Cooperation】

Requests to Transportation Operators

- Perform temperature checks at major terminals.
- We request that public transportation operators, such as airlines, ships, buses, and taxis, etc. strictly comply with the industry specific guidelines for measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Requests to Welfare Facilities

- Thoroughly manage the physical condition of staff, and do not come to work or do not allow staff to come to work if they are not feeling well.
- If there are any family members living with the employee who are not in good health, actively encourage them to take a COVID-19 test.
- Actively participate in monitoring inspections.
- Encourage vaccination (including 1st, 2nd, and 3rd dose)

Implementation of Initiatives in Each Municipality in Cooperation with the Prefecture

- Raising awareness about infection prevention measures among local residents through use of public information vehicles and disaster warning systems, etc. and calling for cooperation from residents' associations, etc.
- Initiatives as a manager of various facilities, parks, etc. (including cautioning against drinking in groups on the street and in parks)
- Notification of how to receive treatment when one has a fever (refrain from any non-essential and non-emergency trips to the emergency room, how to use the antigen test kit, contact the Okinawa Prefecture Covid-19 Call Center: 098-866-2129)
- Provide information on positive cases to municipalities and work together to support people receiving treatment at home.
- Cooperation in Restaurants Inspection, etc. (Spread awareness of infection prevention measures and request cooperation in shortening business hours)
- Promote Vaccination. Work on the third round of vaccination for medical personnel, personnel working in elderly care facilities, and residents of these facilities.
- When holding New Year's events such as coming-of-age ceremonies, participants are advised to take a PCR test in advance, or to take thorough infection control measures using antigen test kits, setting up temporary test booths, and to strictly refrain from participating in the event if they are not feeling well Consider postponing or cancelling the ceremony and pre- and post-event receptions in areas where there is rapid spread of infection.
- Childcare facilities, etc.: While requesting to provide normal childcare service, continue to provide childcare service with basic countermeasures against infectious diseases and thorough health management of children and staff.

Measures at Public Facilities, etc.

- For prefectural public facilities such as museums, art galleries, and athletic facilities, they should be operated while taking thorough measures to prevent infection, such as organizing and guiding entering patrons to avoid congestion, and municipalities are requested to take the same measures as prefectural governments.
- Request facility managers to caution the public to avoid behaviors with high-risk of infection, such as drinking in groups on the street or in parks.

Requests to Schools, etc.

- Implement staggered school attendance, etc., based on the infection situation in the region. Elementary and junior high schools should request their municipal boards of education to make decisions based on the situation of the area and school with reference to the responses of prefectural schools.
- Thoroughly implement measures to prevent infection in school educational and extracurricular activities, and student dormitories based on the hygiene management manual, etc. However, depending on the infection situation at the school, class closures and other measures should be implemented.
- In the event of class closures, etc., online and other methods will be used to ensure learning.
- With regard to the suspension of attendance of students who are unable to attend due to concerns about their health, etc., there is a need to take more flexible measures and to make efforts to provide online learning support.
- Thoroughly monitor the health of students at home and inform them that they should refrain from attending school if they or their family members living with them are not feeling well.
- School events (farewell events, cultural festivals, school excursions, overnight learning program, etc.) should be canceled, postponed, or reduced.
- In principle, club activities shall be suspended.
However, in the case of participating in the Kyushu and National Tournaments to be held before the end of March, club activities should be limited to 90 minutes on weekdays (no early morning practice) and 2 hours on weekends and holidays, with the minimum number of players required. In addition, if the district and prefectural tournaments are to be held, the minimum number of people necessary shall be allowed to participate in the activities from up to 2 weeks before the tournaments, within 90 minutes on weekdays (no early morning practice), and within 2 hours on weekends and holidays.
- Universities and vocational schools should take appropriate measures to balance infection prevention and effective implementation of face-to-face learning and remote classes.
- Universities should thoroughly remind students and others to have group dining, eating and drinking with no more than 4 people, avoid the 3 Cs, and for no more than 2 hours, as there is a high risk of infection.

Caution the public regarding events during the year-end and New Year holidays

① Returning to the Prefecture

- ◆ Please complete the vaccination in advance or confirm negative results by PCR test or other tests prior to your visit.
- ◆ Please check your health for 10 days prior to returning home, and consider postponing your return if you are not feeling well.
- ◆ If you feel unwell after arriving in Okinawa, please contact the prefectural call center (098-866-2129) and refrain from going out.
- ◆ Those who will be socializing with people returning home are also requested to complete the vaccination in advance.

② Regarding year-end, New Year's parties, and other group dining

- ◆ Reduce the frequency of group dining (especially in consecutive days) and avoid drinking late at night.
- ◆ Select an "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility" that has infection control measures in place.

③ Regarding the Coming-of-age Ceremony

- ◆ Please complete the vaccination in advance or confirm negative results by PCR test or other tests.
- ◆ When participating in the ceremony, please follow basic infection prevention measures such as wearing a mask.
- ◆ Please limit social gatherings before and after the ceremony with people who are always with you, for no more than 2 hours with no more than 4 people, and avoid drinking until late at night. In areas where the infection is spreading rapidly, please consider postponing or canceling the event.