

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

【Period】 January 9 (Sunday) 2022 – February 20 (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 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 Control the Rapid Spread of Infection and Maintain Functions in Society】

<Current Situation>

- We believe that the measures taken in accordance with the designation of "Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease" have had a certain degree of effect on the goal of controlling the explosive spread of infection by the Omicron strain (from 17 times the week of January 7 to 0.8 times the week of January 26).
- However, the infection has spread to all age groups, and outbreaks of the infection are occurring frequently in social welfare facilities and medical institutions, resulting in the spread of the infection among the elderly and an increase in hospital admissions. (New positive cases in their 60s and older: From 952 people, the total for the week of January 11-17 to 1321 people, the total for the week of 1/18-24)
- The infection is spreading among essential workers, including healthcare workers, and is beginning to affect social infrastructure, with the occurrence of 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 the "thorough implementation of basic infection prevention measures" and the "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

- The prefecture will (1) prevent the rebound of the infection in all age groups and maintain the medical care provision system, (2) control the spread of infection to the elderly people and reduce the number of serious cases, and (3) make requests and encouragements to prefectural residents and businesses in order to maintain functions in society.
- If the number of infected people decreases and the situation of the medical system improves, we will consider lifting the ban ahead of schedule, even before the deadline. The lifting of the measures for each area will be considered based on the opinions of the local community, and the infection status and medical system of each area will be taken into consideration.

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) **Please take care to refrain from traveling to and from areas designated as "Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease."** 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, (non-woven masks are recommended), frequent hand washing, and thorough ventilation】
- **If you are a resident of Okinawa and are concerned about the possibility of infection, please take a free PCR test and other COVID-19 tests (free tests have been extended until February 28).**
- ◆ 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 refrain from visiting areas where the infection is spreading (designated areas for "Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease") in accordance with the government's basic policy. (Exclude individuals who have received "testing for all subject participants" and "when you need to take an examination, have a medical examination, need it for work, etc.")
 - 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. In addition, the government is offering free PCR and other tests to passengers who wish to take flights from Haneda, Narita, Chubu, Itami, Kansai, and Fukuoka airports to Okinawa (from January 20 to February 28 [Note 1]).
 - ※ 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".
- Note 1: https://corona.go.jp/passengers_monitoring/ Cabinet Secretariat website: Free testing for passengers on flights between Haneda Airport, etc. and airports in Okinawa Prefecture.

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 February 20, 2022 (Sunday)
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> <p>➤ 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)</p> <p><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></p> <p>➤ <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></p> <p>○ Prohibit the entry of those who do not wear a mask and do not take infection prevention measures. (Wear a mask when talking)</p> <p>○ Installation of acrylic panels, etc. (or at least 1 meter space between seats and seating position to face each other is prohibited)</p> <p>○ 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> <p>【Based on The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9 : Requests for Cooperation】</p> <p>○ <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></p> <p>* In consideration of the situation of infection and the pressures on the testing system, the relaxation of the number of patients by "vaccine-test package" and "testing for all subject participants" will not be applied.</p> <p>○ Cooperation with the prefectural government's and municipality's inspection program to promote infection prevention measures.</p> <p>○ Thorough room ventilation, temperature checks, and implementation of the industry specific guidelines. ○ Encourage obtaining the "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility" certification. (※ 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, January 7, 2022 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 facility will be considered to be operating normally and **can apply for the cooperation subsidy (for January 9 to 31) when they respond to the request.** (Days, that you have been temporarily and voluntarily closed, are not included in the period for calculation of the cooperation subsidy).

*If a facility that is normally open after 8:00 p.m. is closed, the amount of subsidy will be same regardless of whether the facility is certified as an "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility" or not.

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: In consideration of the situation of infection and the pressures on the testing system, the relaxation of the number of patients by "vaccine-test package" and "testing for all subject participants" will not be applied.

- 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.
- For events with less than 5,000 people, thorough infection control measures should be taken through the creation of checklists, etc. (for details, refer to "Restrictions on Events")

- The publicity period shall be three days from the date of issuance of the request. Tickets that went on sale before the end of the publicity period need not be cancelled, as long as they have been sold before the end of the publicity period.

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

- Businesses engaged in operations that are essential for ensuring the stability of people's lives and the national economy, as well as businesses that support these operations, should re-examine their business continuity plans (BCP)(if they have not already done so, they should do so as soon as possible) based on the characteristics of their businesses. In addition, proactive efforts should be made to implement video conferencing and working from home (telework).
- 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.
- **Re-examine the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) (if it has not yet been formulated, create it as soon as possible) in preparation for a situation when employees are forced to take a leave of absence.**

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.
- **Reconfirm and strengthen infection control measures such as wearing masks, hand disinfection, and thorough ventilation.**
- 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 periodic PCR testing for employees.**
- Encourage vaccination (including 1st, 2nd, and 3rd dose)
- **Re-examine the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) (if it has not yet been formulated, create it as soon as possible) in preparation for a situation when employees are forced to take a leave of absence.**
- **Depending on the situation of the spread of infection, please ask for the cooperation of facility users and their families by asking they refrain from using the day-care service as much as possible by temporarily switching to an alternative service if they are able to stay home.**

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.
- Childcare Facility, etc.: Continue to provide childcare and request that childcare be provided as usual, 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.

- In principle, in order to “ensure learning,” students will attend school as usual. However, based on the infection situation in the area, staggered school attendance is acceptable. 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.

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 Chinese New Year and Birth Year Celebrations and Other Events

- ◆ Events and functions should be held with family members who live together with you or people who are always together.
- ◆ In order to protect the elderly, please follow basic infection control measures such as wearing masks and refraining from eating with an unspecified number of people.

④ For those who travel to and from other prefectures for examinations, etc.

- ◆ Please take care of your physical condition every day and conduct PCR and other tests to confirm negative results before traveling to and from other prefectures.
- ◆ Please refrain from unnecessarily going out except for taking exams during your visit, and refrain from eating in crowded places or with an unspecified number of people.