

The Period to Curve the Further Spread of Infections in Preparation for the Resumption of Economic Activity (Okinawa Prefectural Policy)

【Request Period】 Friday, October 1st, 2021 - Sunday, October 31st, 2021

Details of Implementation

In working towards curbing the further spread of Covid-19, in order to thoroughly reduce person to person contact, based on article 24 of the Act on Special Measures Against Novel Influenza, requests will be made to prefectural residents and businesses, and the necessary cooperation will be encouraged.

Area

The entirety of Okinawa prefecture

【Measures for Curbing the Further Spread of Covid-19】

Current Situation

- The period after the lifting of the state of emergency is an important phase in preventing the re-spread of the infections.
- Although the number of positive cases has decreased and the state of emergency has ended, the medical system remains at its highest alert, stage 5, and the number of infections must continue to decrease before restrictions on general medical care can be lifted.
- The Delta variant is still rampant and infections continue to spread within the prefecture and the percentage of minors who are positive due to household infections remains high at 30%.
- There are also concerns about the spread of the infection to children who cannot be vaccinated.
- At the end of September, more than 60% of the prefectural residents had received their first dose of vaccine. Nearly 90% positive cases are among those not completely vaccinated, and there is an urgent need for vaccinations as the most effective method for preventing infection and severe cases of the virus.
- Even if the number of COVID-19 cases decreases, they will easily re-spread (rebound) if infection prevention measures are not taken.
- To protect yourself, your loved ones, and your communities, make sure that you don't take the virus home with you by practicing "good hand hygiene, washing hands, etc.", "wearing mask", "room ventilation", and "keeping track of your health with daily temperature checks, etc." Even if you are only feeling a little unwell, please "wear a mask at home and rest in an isolated area within the house", wear a mask when family members are around, and consult with the prefectural call center or see your family doctor.

Prefectural Policies and Measures

- We consider this period as a preparation period to curb the spread of infections and remove restrictions on the medical system, the economy, and daily life. If the number of infected people decreases steadily, the restrictions will be lifted ahead of schedule even if still within the period.
- However, if the pattern of infections seems to be increasing (using the number of new positive cases compared to the previous week as an estimate), strong measures based on Article 24, Section 9 of the Act should be taken to prevent rebound.
- Work for expansion of the medical care provision system in preparation for the sixth wave.

Requests to Prefectural Residents

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

Request Regarding Traveling and Going Out

- Refrain from going out and traveling during the infection spread prevention period, especially at night, and avoid crowded places and times.
- Carefully consider the necessity of traveling to and from between prefectures.
Vaccinations should be completed or PCR or other tests should be taken prior to departure.
- As for travel for outer islands, refrain from travel to and from outer islands that are asking for refrain from visiting. **Completion of vaccination or taking a PCR test, etc. in advance** is recommended.
- Refrain from holding events with a large number of people and that will lead to drinking and eating, such as Moai (social support group meetings), beach parties, etc., or events with people you do not normally see.

Special Requests

- If you are 12 years old or older, please get vaccinated as it is the linchpin of infection preventions measures.
In order to prevent children from being infected, take thorough infection prevention measures at schools, cram schools, lessons, etc., and actively incorporate the use of online learning.
- ◆ Even those who have completed two rounds of vaccination are still at risk of infection.
Please continue to wear masks, wash hands, and implement other infection prevention measures.

Requests to Prefectural Residents

【Request for Cooperation Based on Article 24, Paragraph 9 of the Act】

Requests when Eating and Drinking

- ◆ Group dining should be done with no more than 4 people, no longer than 2 hours, and as much as possible only with the family members whom you live with.
- ◆ Proactively cooperate with infection prevention measures required by restaurants.
(Do not talk loud, wear a mask when talking, etc.)
- ◆ Refrain from using restaurants that are not taking thorough infection prevention measures and please use "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility".
- ◆ Avoid using restaurants, etc. that are not following requests for shortened business hours.
- ◆ Even if you are only feeling a little unwell, please don't participate or if someone is feeling the same, don't allow the person to participate.
- The same precautions should be taken for group dining at other than restaurants, such as at home.
- ※ Do not participate in events where an unspecified large number of people gather and congestion is expected.
(especially where food and drink are involved).

※Less than 4 people, avoid the 3 C's, less than 2 hours, return to home after the 1st party.

Thorough Infection Prevention Measures

- Observe your health by taking your temperature every day, and if you have any symptoms, stop commuting to work, school, or going out.
- When feeling sick, you should see your family doctor or go to a clinic during the day. When you have a fever contact the Prefectural Call Center.
- Thorough Implementation of Basic Infection Prevention Measures 【wearing masks, frequent hand washing, and thorough ventilation】

To visitors (who are considering coming to Okinawa)

【Prior to Visit: Requests for Cooperation not Based on the Act】

【During the Visit: Request for Cooperation Based on Article 24, Paragraph 9 of the Law】

Requests for coming and going

- Please carefully consider following the request for inter-prefectural travel as required by the governor of your place of residence.
 - 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 the vaccination or take a PCR, etc. test 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.
 - During your visit, refrain from using restaurants that do not comply with requests for shortened business hours and please use "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility".
 - If you feel unwell or have a fever during your stay in Okinawa, please contact the Traveler's Consultation Center Okinawa.se "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility".
- 【Traveler's Access Center Okinawa (「TACO」)】
- ※ Telephone number : 098-840-1677 Operating hours : 8 a.m. ~ 9 p.m. (open all year round.)

Requests to Restaurants

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

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| <p>Target Facilities</p> | <p>[Restaurants] Restaurants (excluding takeout and delivery) [Entertainment facilities / wedding halls] Bars, karaoke boxes, wedding halls (etc.) that possess a restaurant business license under the Food Sanitation Act</p> |
| <p>Details of the Requests</p> | <p>[Request for Shortening of Business Hours] ※Facilities open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. are not eligible to receive subsidy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Operation hours should be between 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.</u> (excluding takeout and delivery) ➤ (Provision of alcohol should be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.) ➤ ※The operation hours for "Certified Infection Prevention Facility" should be from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Alcohol may be served from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.) ➤ Refrain from using karaoke equipment (at a restaurant that mainly serving food and drinks with karaoke equipment) ➤ <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>[Request for Cooperation in Infection Prevention Measures]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Request implementation of the measures stipulated in Article 12, Enforcement of the Special Measures Act. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to employees for testing, thoroughly organize and guide entering patrons, ventilation of facilities • Prohibition of entry for those have symptoms such as fever. • Installation of hand sanitizing equipment, Disinfection for places where business is conducted • Widely publicize about wearing masks and other infection prevention measures • Prohibit the entry of those who do not wear mask and do not take infection prevention measures • Installation of acrylic panels (or at least 1 meter space between seats) ➤ Cooperation with the prefectural government's and municipality's inspection program to promote infection prevention measures ➤ Recommendation to Obtain "Certified Infection Prevention Facility". |

Requests when Holding Events

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

- 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.
- When holding events that require nationwide travel or large-scale events over 1,000 participants are requested to consult with the prefecture in advance regarding the requirements for holding the events. If the requests from the prefecture are not met, postponement or cancellation of the event might be requested.
- In the event of a nationwide spread of infection or clusters occurring, and the government revises industry-specific guidelines, the maximum capacity ratio requirements, or ceiling of the maximum number of participants, organizers should take prompt action.
- Encourage patrons to complete the vaccination or take a PCR, etc. test in advance to confirm that they are negative.
- Requirements for holding an event are as follows (with the condition to place appropriate infection control measures)

| Duration | Venue capacity ratio ※3 | | Maximum venue capacity number ※4 |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|
| From October 1st to October 31st ※1 | Events expected to have no loud cheering/shouting. | Events expected to have loud cheering/shouting. | 5000 people or less. |
| | •Events such as a classical music concert, play, dance, traditional performing arts, performing arts/shows, public performances / ceremonies, exhibitions/events. •Events where food and drink is served but without shouting (※2) | Rock and pop concerts, sports events, public races/competitions, performances, live music house and nightclub events, etc. | |
| | 100% or less (Appropriate space between persons must be secured if there are no seats) | 50% or less (Enough space between persons must be secured if there are no seats) | |

※1: In accordance with the national government's administrative guidance, the scale requirements for the transitional period will be applied for one month after the declaration of a state of emergency is lifted.

※2: "Events with meals during the event" can be treated as those "assumed to be free of loud cheering/shouting" as long as the necessary infection prevention measures are taken and there is no shouting during the event.

※3: The above classifications are examples, and the presence or absence of loud voices will be determined on a case-by-case basis according to the actual situation of each event.

※4: Either the venue capacity ratio or the maximum number of people, whichever is smaller, should be the limit (both conditions must be met).

○Request that business hours be from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Cooperation request not based on the Special Measures Act)

Requests to facilities

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

Requests to Retail Facilities and Customer Facilities

Requests for 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, and other facilities. In addition, the implementation status of each initiative should be actively published on website home pages.

- "Patron traffic control" should be executed to prevent crowds by organizing and guiding, managing and limiting the number of entering patrons.
- Measures effective in preventing infection by droplets from conversations (especially at food courts) Installation of acrylic panels, maintaining a distance between seats or thorough room ventilation, etc. should be implemented.
- Installation of hand disinfection equipment, request to hand sanitization to patrons, etc., recommend staff to get PCR testing.
- Measures to prohibit the entry of those with a fever or other symptoms (temperature check upon entry, installation of thermography) Spread awareness about the infection prevention measures such as wearing masks, etc. to entering patrons.
- Prohibit the entry of patrons who do not comply with wearing masks without valid reason. (Including ejection from the premises)
- At game centers, sports clubs, and other amusement facilities, check symptoms, take temperatures, and require hand hygiene before entering.

Encouraged to Retail Facilities and Customer Facilities

- For facilities such as sports facilities, amusement facilities, and movie theaters as stipulated in Article 11, Paragraph 1, Enforcement of the Special Measures Act, the hours of operation should be reduced to 9 p.m. when events are held and to 8 p.m. otherwise. (Request for cooperation not required by law)

✘In the case of requests for cooperation (encouragement) that do not comply with the law, no subsidy will be paid.

Requests to Businesses

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

Requests to Businesses/Business Community

(in the context of easy vaccination environment)

- Thoroughly manage the physical condition of staff, and do not come to work or do not allow them to come to work if they are not feeling well.
- Work from home (telework), expand staggered commuting, and take other measures to prevent denseness during commuting and work.
- Ask your staff to refrain from using stores that have not responded to requests of shortening business hours.
- Be careful about switching places in the workplace (break room, changing room, smoking room, company cafeteria), which increases the risk of infection.

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

Implementation of Initiatives in Cooperation with Municipalities

- 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.
- Cooperation with restaurant inspections (calls for infection prevention measures, calls for thorough cooperation with requests to shorten business hours/closures)
- Initiatives as facility or park (etc.) managers (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)
- Spread information about good examples of municipal initiatives (e.g., support to people receiving treatment at home, accommodation subsidies for close contacts, etc.)
- **Provide information on positive cases to municipalities and work together to support people receiving treatment at home.**
- While continuing to provide childcare services, in regions where infections are spreading, excluding guardians who are essential workers, such as medical staff, etc. who would have difficulty in taking time off from work, we requests for cooperation in taking care of children at home, or consideration of the possibility of temporarily closing daycare facilities.

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

Requests to Schools, etc.

- Thoroughly implement infection prevention measures in school educational activities and student dormitories based on the Sanitation Management Manual, etc. However, temporary closing of classes, grade closures, and temporary school closures will be implemented according to the infection situation at schools
- Thoroughly monitor the health of students at home, and have them refrain from attending school if they are not feeling well.
- When holding school events, etc., take the status of infections in the area into the consideration for location, time, and method of holding the event.
- Students should restrict or refrain from club activities and extracurricular activities with a high risk of infection. (refrain from eating and drinking in groups before and after club activities and training camps outside of the prefecture should not be held, etc.)
- Universities and vocational schools should take appropriate measures to balance infection prevention and effective implementation of face-to-face and remote classes.
- Universities should thoroughly remind students, etc., that social gatherings and drinking parties with a high risk of infection should be held with no more than 4 people by avoiding “3 Cs”, and gathering should be held within 2 hours.

Measures at public facilities, etc.

- Prefectural public facilities, such as museums, art galleries, and athletic facilities, will be operated while taking thorough measures to prevent infection, and the hours of operation should be until 8 p.m. Request facilities of municipalities to take the same approach
- 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.