

Period of Balancing Prevention of Rebound in COVID-19 Cases and Increasing Socioeconomic Activities (Okinawa Prefectural Policy)

【Request Period】 Monday, November 1st, 2021 - Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

Details of Implementation	In working towards curbing the further spread of Covid-19, in order to resume socio-economic activities while maintaining infection prevention measures, 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 the necessary cooperation will be encouraged.
Area	The entirety of Okinawa prefecture

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

Current Situation

- In order to prevent the rebound of infection and to balance socio-economic activities, it is necessary to thoroughly implement basic infection prevention measures through "new lifestyles" and "promoting vaccination".
- According to a report by the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, eating and drinking in large groups (more than 5 people) and for an extended period of time (more than 2 hours) has been shown to increase the risk of infection (the same applies to eating at home with anyone other than the people you live with).
- 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

- This period is defined as a period to prevent infection rebound and to achieve a balance between medical care, economy and life.
- Work for expansion of the medical care provision system in preparation for the sixth wave.
- If infection re-spreads, the following measures should be taken.
 - ① When signs of the spread of infection are confirmed, a "warning" is promptly issued by each city or public health center.
(Guideline: More than 25 people per 100,000 city/health center unit population [per week])
 - ② When signs of the prefecture-wide spread of infections are identified, we will alert the entire prefecture.
(Guideline: More than 15 people per 100,000 people of all prefectural residents [per week] [One day average number of new positive cases increases by more than 32 people])
 - ③ Stronger measures will be taken when there is a threat of rapid infection spread.
(Guideline: More than 25 people per 100,000 people of all prefectural residents [per week] [(One day average number of new positive cases increases by more than 53 people] and more than 1.3 times higher than the previous week)

Requests to Prefectural Residents

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

Request Regarding Traveling and Going Out

- Avoid going out to crowded places, and when going out or traveling, try to do so with family members or other people you normally interact with.
- Continue to wear masks, wash hands, and implement other basic infection prevention measures.
- In terms of travel to and from between prefectures, refrain from non-essential and non-emergency travel to areas where the infection is spreading. 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 and no longer than 2 hours.
- ◆ As much as possible, it should be with family members or other people you normally interact with.
- ◆ Proactively cooperate with infection prevention measures required by restaurants.
(Do not talk loud, wear a mask when talking, etc.)
- ◆ Avoid using restaurants that are not taking thorough infection prevention measures and please use "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility".
- ◆ 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

- In accordance with the request for inter-prefectural travel required by the governor of your residential area, please follow basic infection prevention measures and refrain from eating with large groups of people (more than 5 people) when you come to the prefecture.
- Please consider carefully if you are coming 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.)
- ※ Regarding school excursions, please take thorough measures to prevent infection and act in accordance with the (separate/additional) "Okinawa School Trip Quarantine and Tourism Guidelines".

Requests to Restaurants

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

Target Facilities

[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

Details of the Requests

【Request for Cooperation in Infection Prevention Measures】

※The request to shorten business hours ended on October 31. We ask for your continued cooperation on the following points.

- Request implementation of the measures stipulated in Article 12, Enforcement of the Special Measures Act.
- 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".
- Thorough implementation of infection prevention measures, etc. and compliance with industry-specific guidelines.
- When using Karaoke facilities, avoid close proximity between users, thoroughly implement infection control measures such as ensuring ventilation, etc.
- In principle, no more than four people in the same group and at the same table (exception: when assistance or care is required).

(However, for events such as weddings, etc. please follow the event guidelines.)

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 10,000 People	Over 10,000 People
Events Free from Loud Spectator cheering /Shouting (※2)	Up to Capacity	Up to 5000 People	Up to Half of the Capacity
Events where Spectators Tend to Shout (※3)	Up to Half of the Capacity		

(Events free from loud spectator cheering/shouting) Classical music concerts, plays, exhibitions, etc.

(Events where spectators tend to shout) Rock and pop concerts, sporting events, etc.

※1: In the case a maximum venue capacity has not been set, the capacity shall be as follows.

- Events free from loud spectator cheering/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 (1 m) between people must be provided.

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

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

- 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.

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.
- **Compliance with the industry-specific guidelines.**

Encouraged to Retail Facilities and Customer Facilities

- **Request that users not be allowed to bring alcoholic beverages to exercise facilities, amusement facilities, movie theaters, shopping centers, and other facilities stipulated in Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Order for Enforcement of the Special Measures Act. (Request for cooperation not required by law)**

Requests to Businesses

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

Requests to Businesses/Business Community

- Encourage vaccination at the workplace. (development 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.
- **Request your employees to refrain from using facilities that do not have infection prevention measures in place.**
- 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.

Requests to Schools, etc.

- Thoroughly implement measures to prevent infection based on the sanitation management manual in school educational activities, **extracurricular activities**, and student dormitories. However, temporary closing of classes, grade closures, and temporary school closures will be implemented according to the infection situation at schools
- Ensure children and students are **informed** about thoroughly monitoring the condition of their health at home and 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.
- **For club activities, infection prevention measures should be thoroughly implemented, and health checks should be conducted prior to activities and before various competitions.**
- 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.

- **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.