

Governor's Message: Take Every Measure to Stop COVID-19 Resurgence

One and a half months have passed since the declaration of the State of Emergency. Thanks to your cooperation, the number of new cases is steadily decreasing, and the situation surrounding medical services shows signs of improvement.

We held a COVID-19 task force meeting on February 22 and decided that Hyogo Prefecture, along with the prefectures of Kyoto and Osaka, will request the national government to lift the State of Emergency.

When the State of Emergency is lifted, we will gradually relax our request to eating and drinking establishments to shorten business hours in stages.

Under the SoE	After the SoE
Eating and drinking establishments should stop serving alcohol by 7:00 p.m. and close by 8:00 p.m.	Eating and drinking establishments should stop serving alcohol <u>by 8:00 p.m.</u> and close <u>by 9:00 p.m.</u>

Request to Hyogo citizens (Do not bring the virus into homes, facilities, etc.)

If we fail to take proper measures during the end of the fiscal year, when many events are usually held, COVID-19 cases may surge again. Hyogo citizens, **young people in particular**, are requested to **be conscious of your physical conditions and behavior** and continue to take caution on the following to **avoid bringing the virus** into homes, facilities, etc.

- All citizens are **strongly requested to avoid unnecessary and non-urgent outings**, even during the daytime.
- **Avoid unnecessary and non-urgent visits to areas outside the prefecture, areas under the State of Emergency, and places with higher risks of infections.**
- **Refrain from dining and drinking in groups or for long hours, even if it is at home, and keep conversations to a minimum.**
- Please **refrain from participating in graduation trips, teacher appreciation parties, farewell/welcome parties, and cherry-blossom viewing parties.**
- **Manage your health properly** by **checking your temperature** daily, washing your hands, and wearing face masks. **If you have a fever, difficulty breathing, decrease/loss of sense of taste, or other symptoms, refrain from going out (including commuting to work or school), and immediately call and seek advice** from your family doctor.
- Please make efforts to reduce the number of commuters by proactively using **telecommuting**.

The infection mitigation depends on the efforts of each and every one of you, working together with the strong will of "Together We Prevent, Together We Fight against COVID-19." I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to essential workers, such as medical and social welfare workers who are protecting our everyday life and health. Let us overcome this crisis together.