

May 22, 2020

## A Message from the Governor of Okayama Prefecture

This is a message from IBARAGI Ryuta, governor of Okayama Prefecture.

As of today, exactly two months have passed since Okayama confirmed its first case of infection. Up until now, we have had 25 reported cases of infection, but each infected person has been discharged from the hospital. I would like to send my most sincere thanks to all of the doctors, nurses and members of medical institutions who have administered treatment and examinations during this time.

I would also like to re-express my gratitude to the residents and business operators who have cooperated with us by limiting their outings and business hours.

Okayama Prefecture was able to withstand the first wave of infection, but we must avoid letting our guards down, causing a second wave of infection and letting our efforts up until now go to waste. On the other hand, it is essential for us to reconvene socioeconomic activity in order to maintain our livelihood.

For the time being, I would like to request for all citizens of Okayama to refrain from any movement outside of the prefecture and to absolutely avoid any locations where more than one of the Three C's can occur. In particular, I ask that you avoid entering establishments where clusters may occur, as seen in other prefectures.

In regards to showing up for work, I would like for workplaces to continue implementing initiatives for limiting close contact, such as working from home or staggering working times whenever possible. Please thoroughly implement all measures for preventing the spread of disease within the workplace.

I ask that business operators take appropriate and thorough measures for preventing the spread of disease, based on the guidelines given for their respective industries.

Prefectural schools will reconvene educational activity on June 1st, as scheduled. All reopening schools are working to enforce the mandatory wearing of masks, ventilating classrooms and securing an environment that lowers the risk of infection. It has been decided that summer recess will be shortened in order to secure the standard amount of school days.

Prefectural establishments that are continuing their closures may reopen under the condition that they have carried out the proper disease prevention measures.

We are currently in the phase where in order to balance socioeconomic activity and disease prevention measures, it is necessary for us to carefully and gradually reconvene activity while observing the status of infection within the prefecture.

Residents of Okayama Prefecture will gradually return to their previous lifestyle of shopping and eating out. I ask that you practice a “New Lifestyle” by wearing masks, keeping a proper distance between yourselves and others and thoroughly carrying out the appropriate prevention measures.