

Message from the Governor of Kochi regarding COVID-19

19 August 2021

- In regard to the recent rise in COVID-19 infections in our prefecture, it seems that this has resulted from an increase in residents travelling to other prefectures over the August long weekend and the Obon holiday period. The last three days have seen us enter an extremely concerning period. Daily case numbers have increased to unprecedented levels with eighty new cases confirmed today.
- When looking at prefectural infection levels over the last week in reference to the national subcommittee guideline table, we can see that in most aspects we are experiencing infections at a stage 4 level, stage 4 being the reference point for a state of emergency being declared.
- Furthermore, recovery accommodation facilities for those with mild cases of COVID-19 are almost at full capacity with hospitals in a similar situation in regard to hospital beds.
- Due to this, I have made the decision today to raise the prefectural alert level to the highest level, (Emergency-purple) and ask all residents to show a high level of vigilance.
- I believe we must urgently curb the recent sharp rise in infection. As a government we will commit all our effort to achieve this and ask for the cooperation of all residents to make this possible.
- We can see that in particular, there has been a sharp rise in infection levels in Kochi City, Nankoku City and Konan City. In response to this, I would ask for the cooperation of all residents in these three cities in following the requests outlined below for the next two weeks (until 3 September 2021).
- The first request is in regard to going out. In these three cities, we are in a position in which we must think that COVID-19 is spreading undetected throughout the community. This means there is a need to reduce human interaction and outings as much as possible. Because of this, I would request that the residents of these cities avoid unnecessary outings, regardless of the time of day.
- Secondly, in regard to eating at restaurants, I would ask that residents avoid eating out with anyone that you don't currently live with (non-family members).
- In regard to this, I am also requesting the cooperation of restaurants to shorten trading hours to 8pm each night and to refrain from serving alcohol after 7pm.
- The government will be providing support funds for the next two weeks (until 3 September 2021) for businesses that cooperate with the above request.
- In regard to residents of areas outside Kochi City, Nankoku City and Konan City, I would ask that you undertake infection prevention measures even more thoroughly than you have to date and refrain from travelling to the three cities mentioned above as much as possible.
- We can see that people under fifty, many of which have not yet been vaccinated, account for 90% of the new infections that we have seen in the most recent surge in infection.
- This data shows that there is a high risk of infection for those who have not yet been vaccinated. Therefore, I would ask all residents you have not yet received a vaccine to avoid eating out or travelling with anyone that they do not see on a regular basis.
- We are currently experiencing a surge in infections we have not seen before. I strongly believe the key to putting a stop to this surge is the vaccine rollout.
- In particular, there may be members of the younger generations who have concerns regarding side effects associated with vaccination. However, as vaccination clearly has benefits in infection prevention, symptom onset prevention and reducing severe infections, I would encourage all of you, upon clear understanding of these benefits, to proactively seek out vaccination as soon as it becomes available to you.
- The fifth wave of infection that is spreading across the nation has brought about infection levels never seen before. This has left us in a situation in which I must request business owners to cooperate with

measures that restrict social and economic activity for the first time since Spring last year, when a national state of emergency was proclaimed.

- In order to protect the health of all residents, as a government, we will commit all our efforts to curb this most recent surge in infections as soon as possible and ask all resident for your assistance and cooperation to help achieve this goal.
- In order to protect yourself and your loved ones, I once again ask for the cooperation of all residents in thoroughly taking infection prevention measures and proactively getting vaccinated when the opportunity arises.
- The most recent national surge of infections has plunged us into trying circumstances in which it can be difficult to see an end to the spread of infection. However, I strongly believe that by working together we can overcome this wave of infection. Our current predicament has required me to request residents and businesses to make sacrifices and I apologize for this inconvenience but ask for your understanding and cooperation in taking strong infection prevention measures so we can overcome COVID-19 together.

19 August 2021

Governor of Kochi Prefecture

Hamada Seiji

Kochi Prefecture COVID-19 Alert Stage "Emergency"

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Additional Request for cooperation for residents of Kochi City, Nankoku City and Konan City

Requests to resident of Kochi City, Nankoku City and Konan City (20 August - 3 September)

1 Regarding going out

- Please **limit unnecessary outings** as much as possible.

2 Regarding eating out

- **Please refrain from eating out with people not in your immediate family or people you don't currently live with**

Requests for cooperation from business in Kochi City, Nankoku City and Konan City

Request to shorten hours of operation

- Period: 21 August 2021 (Sat) ~ 3 September 2021 (Fri)
- Request: Keep hours of operation **between 5am and 8pm** and **refrain from serving alcohol after 7pm.**
- Target:
 - 1) **Restaurants** (e.g. Cabaret, Clubs, Bars, Pubs, Snack bars, Cafes, Izakayas (not including take out, delivery))
 - 2) **Facilities within lodgings and hotels that provide food and alcohol**
 - 3) **Karaoke boxes, live music clubs**

Kochi Prefecture COVID-19 Alert Stage "Emergency"

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Prefectural Response Measures (20 August - 3 September)

1 Regarding Events

- Prefectural events planned in Kochi City, Nankoku City and Konan City will be **canceled, postponed** or the **method of hosting to be reconsidered**.

2 Regarding Prefectural Schools

● School Activities

- School activities and external activities to be **canceled, postponed** or the **method of running the activity to be reconsidered**.

● Club Activities

- **Canceled for summer holiday period and weekends.**
- **On weekdays, one hour of activity allowed** upon approval from school principal.

3 Prefectural Facilities

- **Popular indoor tourist attractions in Kochi City, Nankoku City and Konan City to be closed.** for more details see following slides)
- Request has been made for city managed facilities in Kochi City, Nankoku City and Konan City to adopt the same measures.

※ In regard to residents of areas outside Kochi City, Nankoku City and Konan City, we would ask that you undertake infection prevention measures even more thoroughly than you have to date and refrain from traveling to the three cities mentioned above as much as possible.

Operation of Prefectural Facilities

Name	Operation Status	Periods
Kochi Castle	Closed	21 August - 3 September
Kochi Castle Museum of History	Closed	21 August - 3 September
The Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum	Closed	21 August - 3 September
Kochi Travel Plaza	Closed	21 August - 3 September
Makino Botanical Gardens	Opened: Main building, Gallery, Tosa Kanran Center Closed: Restaurants, Café, Shop	20 August - 3 September
Noichi Zoological Park	Closed: Jungle Museum, Animal Science Museum	20 August - 3 September