

Pre-emergency Measures Extended: Curb the Infections by All Means!

The period of **pre-emergency measures** for Hyogo Prefecture has **been extended to March 6**. Although the new case counts in the prefecture are decreasing, **the weekly average still exceeds 4,000**, and **the hospital bed occupancy rate for severe cases is increasing**. **Many clusters of infections have been reported at schools, nursery schools, elderly facilities, and business establishments**, and overwhelming hospitals and social stagnation are a great concern. We request Hyogo-based business operators to implement the following so that we can **stop the spread of the virus and contain the infection surge** as soon as possible.

1. Take thorough countermeasures at eating and drinking establishments

- Eating and drinking establishments are requested to practice the following **business hour regulations and entry restrictions**.

		Restaurants that are certified as taking proper measures	Restaurants that not are certified as taking proper measures
Period		January 27 (Thu.) to March 6 (Sun.), 2022	
Area		Throughout Hyogo Prefecture	
Contents	Business hours	5:00–21:00 (serving alcohol: 11:00–20:30) <u>or</u> 5:00–20:00 (no serving alcohol)	5:00–20:00 (no serving alcohol)
	Entry restrictions	4 persons per table, within 2 hours	4 persons per group, within 2 hours

- Take thorough infection prevention measures by ventilating rooms and urging visitors to avoid any of the three Cs, wear face masks during conversations, and refrain from talking loudly at eating and drinking establishments. Take extra caution when offering karaoke services.**

2. Thoroughly practice infection prevention measures

- Thoroughly practice **infection prevention measures based on each industry's guidelines**.
- Facilities that attract many visitors** are requested to **take thorough infection prevention measures**, such as limiting visitors, urging them to wear face masks, and installing equipment to prevent the spread of droplets. **Take extra caution at cluster-prone facilities**, such as social welfare facilities, hospitals, schools, kindergartens, and nursery schools.
- Maximum number of visitors at events that have a safety plan** which has been approved: **20,000** (100% of capacity for events where visitors do not speak loudly)
Maximum number of visitors at events that are not included in the above: 5,000 (100% of capacity for events where visitors do not speak loudly; 50% for events where visitors speak loudly)

3. Reduce the number of commuters

- To reduce social interactions, **promote working in shifts, staggering work hours, and working from home (teleworking)**. **Give due consideration to employees with higher risk of aggravation**, such as elderly people, those with underlying conditions, and pregnant women.
- Take **proper measures based on the BCP**.

Infection prevention measures based on cluster incidents in facilities

Schools, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid activities with a high risk of infections, such as singing in a choir and playing wind instruments (recorders, etc.) in the room without keeping a physical distance, and physical exercises where there is close-contact. • During physical education classes, encourage students to wear face masks as much as possible when they are not exercising. • Regarding club activities, practice matches with other schools and training camps should be temporarily restricted. • Properly incorporate staggered attendance, group schooling, online learning, or other measures into the curriculum in consideration of the students' developmental stages.
Nursery schools, certified centers for early childhood education and care, after-school centers, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urge staff members and guardians to wear face masks. It is recommended for children to wear face masks as much as possible if it is determined that they are able to wear face masks without difficulty from the perspective of their developmental status and other factors (this is a temporary measure). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Children under two years old are not recommended to wear face masks; it is required to pay extra attention to them. * Pay close attention to changes in children's physical conditions while they are wearing face masks. Children are not required to wear face masks if they are not feeling well or if it is difficult for them to wear face masks properly for an extended period of time. • Prevent the spread of infections while providing childcare by avoiding activities with a high risk of infections, dividing children into small groups, etc. • Frequently disinfect playground equipment and toys shared by children. • Avoid holding events that involve a large number of participants. Cancel or postpone events where guardians participate. • Urge children to wash their hands. Avoid seating arrangements where children are facing each other. • Proactively provide tests to childcare workers, etc., who have become close contacts so they can safely return to work as soon as possible.
Elderly facilities, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice proper measures based on the "infection prevention guidelines for nursing-care facilities" prepared by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and materials prepared by the Hyogo Prefectural Government, such as posters and checklist indicating how to prevent the spread of infections. • Strengthen management systems at elderly facilities, etc. by enhancing infection prevention measures under the instructions provided by Certified Nurses for Infection Control, such as zoning the facility. • Thoroughly monitor the health of staff members daily and make sure that they take tests frequently.
Business establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a numerical target to reduce employee attendance through measures such as working-from-home (teleworking) even before the State of Emergency is announced. • When employees are going on business trips to areas where a surge of infections is observed, urge them to take thorough infection prevention measures, such as wearing face masks, and avoid behavior with a high risk of infections. • Business establishments providing essential services are required to review their BCPs, specify important tasks, improve systems for business continuity, and stockpile necessary supplies.