# Period of Countermeasures to Prevent Re-spread of Infection and to Maintain Social Infrastructure

[Request Period] From Friday, April 1 to Thursday, April 28, 2022

**Basic Concept** 

In working towards preventing the further re-spread of COVID-19, and in order to maintain social infrastructure, based on the Act on Special Countermeasures against COVID-19 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act"), Article 24, Paragraph 9 requests will be made to prefectural residents and businesses, and any necessary cooperation will be encouraged.

Area

The Entirety of Okinawa Prefecture

# [Countermeasures to Prevent the Re-spread of the Infection and to Maintain Social Infrastructure]

#### **Current Situation**

- Although countermeasures taken in accordance with the designation of "Priority Countermeasures to Prevent the Spread of Disease" have been able to control the explosive spread of the disease, the pandemic continues to persist and the spread continues in all age groups, including among children. However, due to a decrease in the number of hospitalized elderly patients who have a high risk of serious illness, the hospital bed utilization rate has remained stable at less than 50%.
- In order to prevent the rapid spread of infection and to maintain social infrastructure, it is necessary to continue to "promote vaccination" and to refrain from activities with a high risk of infection, such as eating in crowded places or with an unspecified large number of people.
- In order to protect yourself, your loved ones, your community, and in order to be sure "you are not bringing the virus home with you", go back to the basics and implement "proper social distance between others" as a basic infection prevention countermeasure, "hand washing and other hand hygiene", "wearing a mask properly", and "monitoring your health by taking your temperature every day". Even if you are feeling a little unwell, please rest in an isolated area of your residence. Please wear a mask when you are with your family, and consult your family doctor or contact the prefectural call center.

#### **Prefectural Policies and Countermeasures**

- The prefectural government has implemented the following countermeasures based on the characteristics of the Omicron strain to prevent the respreading of the infection and to maintain social infrastructure.
  - ①Avoid spread of infection to the elderly to have a high risk of serious illness
  - ② Protect children from spread of infection
  - 3 Avoid risks related to travel and dining out
  - 4 Acceleration of vaccination
- If there is a tendency for the infection to re-spread, consider requesting the designation of "Priority Countermeasures to Prevent the Spread of Disease" in order to prevent a rebound.
  - \*Benchmark: If the total number of new positive cases in 7 days has more than doubled from the previous week or the hospital bed utilization rate reaches 60% or more in each area (the level at which the number of inpatients increases and difficulties in adjusting hospitalization occur)
- ➤ If there is a shortage of beds in an area, a "spread of COVID-19" warning will be issued.

## **Requests to Prefectural Residents**

[The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Requests for Cooperation]

### Requests Regarding Traveling and Going Out

- Refrain from going out or traveling to places with a <u>high risk of infection</u>
  - •Avoid places where a 1 meter distance from others (even with a mask) cannot be maintained or facilities with inadequate ventilation.
  - •Whenever possible, spend time with family members or friends that you normally interact with.
  - •Refrain from using stores or facilities with inadequate infection prevention measures, such as those that do not comply with industry-specific guidelines.
- **Careful consideration** should be given to travel to and from out-of-prefecture destinations after confirming the COVID-19 status of the destination.
  - When visiting a destination, refrain from activities that carry a high risk of infection, such as dining with an unspecified number of people.
  - •Before traveling to or from other areas, observe your health and follow the precautions of the cities and prefectures that you are visiting.
  - Prior to departure, <u>vaccinations should be completed or a PCR test or other tests should be taken</u>. Immediately after returning to Okinawa, please take a PCR test or other tests.
- When traveling to/from outer islands, please check the website of each outer island's municipality for information on the conditions of acceptance of your visit.
  - In case of illness, consider canceling or postponing the visit. Also, vaccinations should be completed or undergo PCR or other tests prior to the visit.
- If you are holding Moai, welcome parties, etc., events that involve food and drink should be held with no more than 4 people, avoid the 3 Cs, and should be no longer than 2 hours.
- > Observe your health by taking your temperature every day, and if you have any symptoms, refrain from commuting to work, school, and going out.

### **Requests to Prefectural Residents**

[The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Requests for Cooperation]

#### Request for Basic Infection Prevention Countermeasures

- Maintain proper social distance from others, properly wear a mask (non-woven masks are recommended), wash and disinfect your hands frequently, avoid "closed spaces, crowded places and close-contact settings" (aim for zero densification), and ensure adequate ventilation indoors and inside vehicles.
- Dbserve your health by taking your temperature every day, and if you have any symptoms, refrain from commuting to work, school, and going out.
- ➤ If you are not feeling well during the day, please visit your family doctor such as at a clinic, etc., and contact the prefectural call center (098-866-2129) when you have a fever.
- > Since a lot of the spread of infection occurred at home, it is important to take thorough countermeasures to prevent children from becoming infected at home by regularly ventilating rooms and washing hands frequently.
- > Those who come in contact with the elderly or those with underlying medical conditions should be especially thorough in infection control measures.
- It has been shown that the vaccine's efficacy against the Omicron strain is restored after the third dose.

  After 6 months have passed since the completion of the second vaccination, please have the third vaccination as soon as possible.
- According to an Expert Committee of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the percentage of vaccinated individuals who require hospitalization is lower than that of unvaccinated individuals, and the vaccine is expected to be effective in "preventing serious illness" and "preventing the onset of illness".
- ➤ Please positively consider the first and second round of vaccinations (Especially the elderly, those with underlying medical conditions, and those who are obese).
- If you are concerned about the spread of the infection, please consider taking a free PCR or other tests, the availability will be extended until April 28.
- Even those who have completed two rounds of vaccination are still at risk of infection. Please continue to take countermeasures to prevent infection, such as wearing a mask and washing your hands.

<sup>\*</sup> Please return to the starting point once again, please implement thorough basic infection control countermeasures.

## Requests to Prefectural Residents

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

## Requests for Group Dining (Eating and Drinking)

- ◆ Group dining should be held with no more than 4 people, and for no more than 2 hours (exception when all participants have been tested).
- Group dining should be held with family members who live together or people who are always together.
- ◆ Proactively cooperate with infection prevention countermeasures required by the establishment (avoid shouting/cheering, wear masks when talking, etc.)
- ◆ Avoid visiting establishments that are not taking thorough infection prevention measures and use an "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility".
- ◆ If you are feeling even a little unwell, please do not participate in dining out or if someone else is feeling the same, please do not allow the person to participate.
- The same precautions should be taken for group dining at other than establishments, such as at a residence.
- Do not participate in any events where an unspecified large number of people gather and it is expected to be crowded (especially when food and drinks are involved).
- X No more than 4 people, avoid the 3 Cs, less than 2 hours, and return home after the 1st event.

#### To visitors (who are considering coming to Okinawa)

[Before your visit: Request for cooperation, not based on a law]
[After your visit: Request for cooperation, based on The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9]

## Requests for Coming and Going

- In accordance with the request regarding inter-prefectural travel required by the governor of your residential area, please ensure that you take basic infection prevention countermeasures when visiting the prefecture, avoid high risk places, and eat with four or less people within a two hour time limit.
  - \*Except when all travelers have been tested.
- Before coming to the prefecture, please make sure to observe your health well in advance and take all possible countermeasures 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 vaccinations or take a PCR test, etc., in advance to confirm that you are negative. In particular, if you are going on a "business trip," "returning home," or "participating in an event" where you will interact with prefectural residents, please take a PCR or other test in advance.
  - \*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 countermeasures and please use an "Infection Prevention Countermeasure Certified Facility" instead.
- If you feel unwell or have a fever during your stay in Okinawa, please contact the Traveler's Access Center Okinawa. [Traveler's Access Center Okinawa (TACO)]
  - ※Telephone number: 098-840-1677 Operating hours: 8a.m.∼9p.m. (open all year round)
  - ORegarding school excursions, please take thorough countermeasures to prevent infection and act in accordance with the (separate) "Okinawa School Trip Quarantine and Tourism Guidelines".

## **Requests to Restaurants**

Target Facilities	(Restaurants) Restaurants (excluding takeout and delivery)  [Entertainment facilities/wedding halls] Facilities like bars, karaoke boxes, wedding halls, etc., that possess a restaurant business license under the Food Sanitation Act.
Details of the Requests	Thorough implementation of infection prevention Countermeasures, including compliance with industry-specific guidelines (The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9)   Recommend COVID-19 testing to employees, orderly guide entering patrons, and ventilate the facility.   Prohibit the entry of patrons who have a fever. (Check the temperatures of patrons)   Installation of hand sanitizing equipment and disinfect areas where business is conducted.   Ensure that patrons are informed about wearing masks and other countermeasures to prevent infection.   Prohibit the entry of those who do not wear a mask and do not follow infection prevention countermeasures without a valid reason. (Wear a mask when talking)   Installation of acrylic panels, etc. (or secure at least 1 meter space between seats and seating positions that face each other are prohibited)   Encourage obtaining the "Infection Prevention Countermeasure Certified Facility" certification.   When using Karaoke equipment avoid close proximity between users and thoroughly implement infection control countermeasures such as ensuring adequate ventilation.   In principle, there should be no more than four people in the same group at the same table (exception; when a certified infection prevention facility confirms that all the relevant people have tested negative or when assistance or care is required).   (*When holding events such as wedding ceremonies, please act according to the request for holding the event)

### **Requests when Holding Events**

#### [The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Request for Cooperation]

Request for 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 and/or Shouting	Up to Capacity	Up to 5,000 People (※3)	Up to Half of the Capacity (※3)
Events with Loud Spectator Cheering and/or Shouting (**2)		Up to Half of the Capacity	

X1: In the case a maximum venue capacity has not been set, the capacity shall be as follows.

- Events free from loud spectator cheering and/or shouting → The spacing should be sufficient to avoid having close-contact between people. (There should be enough to avoid person-to-person contact at a minimum).
- Events where spectators tend to cheer and/or shout 

  Sufficient space (at least 1m and 2m where possible) between people must be provided.

<u>\*\*2</u>: A "Loud Voice" is defined as "a spectator ①speaking louder than their usual voice and ②speaking up repeatedly and continuously", and events that actively encourage this practice or do not take sufficient necessary countermeasures are classified as "Events where spectators tend to shout".

\*3: The maximum number of people is allowed up to the capacity of the facility, under the condition that an infection prevention safety plan is prepared and implemented.

- In addition, organizers should ensure compliance with industry-specific guidelines to implement thorough tracking countermeasures, such as the national governments Contact Confirming Application (COCOA) and the Okinawa COVID-19 Countermeasure Personal Support Application (RICCA) or through the creation of a list of participants.
- For events with more than 5,000 spectators and a capacity ratio of more than 50%, the organizer must prepare and submit to the prefecture at least two weeks prior to the event a "Safety Plan for Infection Prevention" that describes specific countermeasures to be taken. If the requests from the prefecture are not met, postponement or cancellation of the event might be requested.
- Organizers should take prompt action in any of the following events: a nationwide spread of infection or clusters occurring, and the government revises industry-specific guidelines, the maximum capacity requirements, or the ceiling of the maximum number of participants.
- For events that attract a large number of visitors from outside the prefecture, visitors should be encouraged to be vaccinated or have negative results confirmed by a PCR test or other tests prior to the event.
- When food and beverages are served, the participants are requested to refrain from eating and drinking outside of the areas dedicated to eating and drinking. However, this does not apply in environments where measures can be taken to ensure that no vocalizations are made, such as when masks are worn except to eat or drink, or eating and drinking times are shortened to reduce the time with masks off.
- For events that do not have a "Safety Plan for Infection Prevention", thorough infection control countermeasures should be taken through the creation of checklists, etc. (For details, refer to "About Event Restrictions" at <a href="https://www.pref.okinawa.lg.jp/site/chijiko/kohokoryu/koho/20200828.html">https://www.pref.okinawa.lg.jp/site/chijiko/kohokoryu/koho/20200828.html</a>)
- We ask that those attending the event take basic infection control measures before and after participating in the event and take measures to reduce the risk of infection, such as going directly home.

## Requests to Facilities

#### Requests to Retail Facilities and Customer Facilities

Requests for the implementation of the countermeasures stipulated in Article 11, Paragraph 1, Enforcement of the Special Countermeasures Act are requested for sports facilities, amusement centers, movie theaters, shopping centers and other facilities. In addition, the implementation status of each countermeasure should be actively published on the facility's website.

- Thorough implementation of infection prevention countermeasures, including compliance with industry-specific guidelines (The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9)
- Organize and guide entering patrons to avoid crowding. (Work to avoid crowding and close proximity especially when conducting events that attract customers.)
- Countermeasures effective in preventing infection through droplets from conversations (<u>especially at food courts</u>) (Installation of acrylic panels, maintaining distance between seats, and thorough room ventilation, etc., should be implemented)
- Installation of hand sanitizing equipment, recommend the usage of hand sanitizer, and encourage employees to take PCR tests.
- Countermeasures to prohibit the entry of those with a fever or other symptoms (temperature check upon entry, installation of thermography)
- Encourage entering patrons to wear masks properly at all times.
- Prohibit the entry of patrons who do not wear a mask with valid reasons.
- In game centers, sports clubs, and other amusement facilities, check for symptoms, take temperatures and request good hand hygiene before entering.

## Requests to Businesses and the Business Community

- Businesses engaged in operations that are essential for ensuring the stability of people's lives and the national economy, as well as businesses that support these operations, should re-examine their business continuity plans (BCP) (if they have not already done so, they should do so as soon as possible) based on the characteristics of their businesses. In addition, proactive efforts should be made to implement video conferencing and working from home (telework).
- Encourage vaccination at the workplace. (Development of a vaccination friendly environment)
- Monitor the physical condition of staff, and do not come to work or do not allow staff to come to work if they are not feeling well.
- To reduce close contact opportunities, make efforts to reduce the number and density of commuters, expansion of work from home (telework), and staggered commuting,
- Request employees to avoid using facilities that have not responded to the request to implement infection prevention countermeasures.
- Be careful about switching places in the workplace (break room, change room, smoking room, cafeteria), which increases the risk of infection.
- Thorough implementation of the industry specific guidelines

#### 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 countermeasures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Re-examine the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) (if it has not yet been formulated, create it as soon as possible) in preparation for a situation when employees are forced to take a leave of absence.

#### Requests to Welfare Facilities

- Thoroughly monitor the physical condition of staff, and do not come to work or do not allow staff to come to work if they are not feeling well (e.g., encouraging employees to take leave when they are ill).
- Reconfirm and strengthen infection control countermeasures such as wearing masks, hand disinfection, and thorough ventilation.
- In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to users of welfare facilities for the elderly, countermeasures should be considered, including the implementation of online face-to-face visits. In addition, <u>infection control countermeasures</u> should be taken according to the local COVID-19 situation and the characteristics of the facility, such as wearing masks during recreational activities, opening windows during transportation, and separating flow lines inside facilities.
- ➤ If there are any family members living with the employee who are not feeling well, actively encourage them to take a COVID-19 test.
- ➤ Actively encourage employee participation in periodic PCR testing.

  Apply Here → https://www.pref.okinawa.jp/site/hoken/kansen/soumu/kansenshou/ewpcr.html
- Encourage vaccination (For the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd doses)
- Re-examine the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) (if it has not yet been formulated, create it as soon as possible) in preparation for a situation when employees are forced to take a leave of absence.
- If you find a positive case in a facility for the elderly or disabled, please contact the Hospital and Facility Support Group, General Information Department, COVID-19 Headquarters, to report the outbreak in the facility.

#### Implementation of Initiatives in Each Municipality in Cooperation with the Prefecture

- Raising awareness about infection prevention countermeasures among local residents through use of public information vehicles and disaster warning systems, etc. and calling for cooperation from residents' associations, etc.
- Initiatives as a manager of various facilities, parks, etc. (including cautioning against drinking in groups on the street and in parks)
- Notification of how to receive treatment when one has a fever (Please refrain from any non-essential and non-emergency trips to the emergency room, and for information on how to use the antigen test kit, contact the Okinawa Prefecture Covid-19 Call Center: 098-866-2129)
- > Provide information on positive cases to municipalities and work together to support people receiving treatment at home.
- Promote Vaccination. Work on the third round of vaccination for medical personnel, personnel working in elderly care facilities, and residents of these facilities.
- Childcare Facility, etc.: While taking countermeasures based on the "Guidelines for Infectious Disease Control at Childcare Facilities" and other guidelines avoid activities with a high risk of infection. Continue to provide childcare and request that childcare be provided as usual, with basic countermeasures against infectious diseases and thorough health management of children and staff and recommend vaccinations for staff.

#### Countermeasures at Public Facilities, etc.

- For prefectural public facilities such as museums, art galleries, and athletic facilities, they should be operated while taking thorough countermeasures to prevent infection, such as organizing and guiding entering patrons to avoid congestion, and municipalities are requested to take the same countermeasures as prefectural governments.
- ➤ Request facility managers caution and advise the public against behaviors with high-risk of infection, such as drinking in groups on the street or in parks.

#### Requests to Schools, etc.

- In principle, in order to "ensure learning," students will attend school as usual. However, depending on the infection situation at the school, class closures and other countermeasures should be implemented. Elementary and junior high schools should ask their municipal boards of education to make decisions based on the situation of the community and school, by referring to the countermeasures of prefectural schools.
- While taking countermeasures based on the hygiene management manual, etc., please refrain from conducting educational activities (\*) that have a particularly high risk of infection, regardless of the level in the manual. Carefully consider how to implement the countermeasures even in areas where the infection has not spread.
- > Thoroughly monitor the health of students at home and inform them to refrain from coming to school if they are not feeling well.
- When holding school events, etc., the basic countermeasures against the spread of infection should be thoroughly implemented.
- Please refrain from club activities that have a high risk of infection, and while thoroughly implementing the countermeasures against the spread of infection, club activities should be limited to 2 hours or less on weekdays (including early morning practice) and 3 hours or less on weekends and holidays. Health checks should be conducted at the start of activities and before various competitions.
- ➤ Universities and vocational schools should take appropriate countermeasures to balance infection prevention and effective implementation of face-to-face classes and remote classes.
- Universities should thoroughly remind students and others to have group dining, eating and drinking with <u>no more than 4 people</u>, avoid the 3Cs, and for no more than 2 hours, as there is a high risk of infection.
  - \* Examples: A chorus performed indoors in music class a short distance from others, playing a wind-instrument such as a recorder, and exercises performed densely in a gym class.
  - (Countermeasures to prevent infection based on the characteristics of omicron strain [from the 12th Subcommittee on Countermeasures against Novel Coronavirus Infections])

# **Cautions Regarding Seasonal Events**

## 1 New Work Appointments and New School Entrance

- Please complete your vaccination(s) in advance or confirm negative results by PCR test or other tests prior to your visit.
- ◆ Please check your health for 10 days prior to starting your new appointment or entrance to your new school, if you are not feeling well ensure that you take a PCR or other test.
- ◆ If you feel unwell after arriving to Okinawa, please contact the prefectural call center (098-866-2129) and refrain from going out.

## **②** Group Dining at Welcome Parties

- ◆ Reduce the frequency of group dining (especially those held on consecutive days) and limit them to no more than 4 people, and for no more than 2 hours (※) (even if held at home).
  - \*(Exception when all participants have been tested)
- ◆ Select an "Infection Prevention Countermeasure Certified Facility" that has infection control countermeasures in place.

## **3** Tomb Sweeping Festival

- ◆ As much as possible the event should be held with family members who live together or people who are always together
- ◆ In order to protect the elderly, ensure to wear your mask and to thoroughly implement the basic countermeasures against the infection and refrain from eating out with an unspecified large number of people.

# Requests to Prevent the Re-spread of Infection and to Maintain Social Infrastructure

1 Protect the elderly, who have a high risk of serious illness, from the spread of infection

Please help us prevent the spread of infection to the elderly, which can lead to medical shortages.

## 2 Protect children from the spread of infection

We ask for cooperation from parents/guardians, childcare/education staff, and child day care staff as spread of infection often occurs among children.

# 3 Avoid risks related to transportation and dining out

We ask for your cooperation as we enter a period of increased opportunities for travel and dining out.

## 4 Accelerate vaccination

In order to prevent the onset and severity of the disease, we also ask that you promptly receive the third dose and the first two doses of vaccination (especially for the elderly, those with underlying medical conditions, and those who are overweight).

# ① Protect the Elderly, Who Have a High Risk of Serious Illness, From the Spread of Infection

What <u>you</u> can do

- Please ensure you follow basic infection prevention countermeasures such as hand washing and wearing a mask.
- Please refrain from activities with a high risk of infection.
  - OPlease refrain from going out to crowded places or places with a high risk of infection (e.g. poorly ventilated indoor spaces). OPlease refrain from unmasked interactions with people you do not normally meet, such as dinners with an unspecified large number of people.
- Please improve your immunity through a well-balanced diet and moderate exercise.
- Please proactively get vaccinated.

What families can do

- Please take measures to prevent the introduction of COVID-19 into your home.
  - OPlease wash your hands frequently, wear a mask when going out, and keep a safe distance from other people.
  - OIf you have contact with the elderly, please refrain from activities that may increase the risk of infection.
- Please receive <u>vaccinations</u> when it is time.

What establishments can do

- Please continue to be vigilant against infection within establishments.
  - OPlease have staff participate in <u>periodic PCR testing</u>.
  - OPlease take care of the <u>physical condition</u> of the staff (and their families).
- The prefecture has a support program in place <u>if someone tests positive</u>, <u>please inform the Prefectural COVID-19 Headquarters</u>.

Prefectural Measures: "Implementation of periodic PCR testing for nursing care workers" and "Establishment of a support for residential facilities for the elderly" etc.

# 2 Protect Children from the Spread of Infection

Parents and/or Guardians

- Please <u>check temperatures and other physical conditions</u> at home before going to school. <u>If you have any symptoms (including illness other than fever), please refrain from going to school.</u>
- If a family member is confirmed to be positive, please refrain from going out, going to school or preschool as you may be considered a person who has come into close contact with COVID-19.
- Please take measures to prevent infection such as washing hands with your children, avoiding crowded places and taking care of your health.

Schools,
Kindergartens,
Daycare
Centers, Afterschool
children's
clubs, Tutoring
School, Sports
Organizations,
etc.

- Please instruct students to take basic infection prevention countermeasures during activities, on the way to and from school, during breaks, after school, and during other activities.
  - OProperly wear a mask OWash and disinfect hands frequently OSocial distance (1m with a mask) OFrequent ventilation (e.g. opening windows) OImplementation of the three 'Cs' avoid closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings
- Please refrain from learning activities (including club activities) with a high risk of infection.
- Children and students who are not feeling well, without having to exert themselves, should be sent home.
- Teachers and instructors are also <u>requested to take care of their health thoroughly and to take leave when they are not feeling well.</u>
- If there is a confirmed positive case, please conduct a wide range of testing at schools and day-care centers.

Prefectural Measures: "The strengthening of school and day-care PCR testing with wide-range testing" and "Implementing periodic PCR tests for day-care staff"

# 3 Avoid Risks Related to Transportation and Dining Out

Out-ofPrefecture
and Outer
Island Travel

- Carefully consider the situation in the destination prefecture or the outer island.
   Refrain from activities with a high risk of infection at the destination, such as dining with an unspecified large number of people.
- Complete vaccination or undergo PCR or other testing before departure, and undergo PCR or other testing as soon as possible after returning to Okinawa.

Dining Out

- No more than 4 people should dine at the same table in the same group for 2 hours or less.
- If you are going to have dinner with more than 5 people, whether at a restaurant or at home, <u>please</u> <u>have PCR testing done in advance.</u>
- <u>Select an "Infection Prevention Countermeasure Certified Facility"</u> that has infection control countermeasures in place

Please Refrain From

× Participating if sick × Speaking loudly or without a mask × Heavy Drinking × Sharing Drinks

Prefectural Measures: "Establishment of free PCR and other testing"

## 4 Accelerate Vaccination

To Prefectural Residents (Third round of vaccinations)

• Although the COVID-19 is effective in preventing the onset of disease, its effectiveness is preventing infection and, in the elderly, in preventing serious illness, has been suggested to gradually decline with time. For this reason we recommend early vaccination at facilities where reservations can be made early in order to prevent serious illness.

(First and second round of vaccinations)

• The vaccination system is in place or those who wish to be vaccinated and for those who are newly eligible for vaccination and vaccinations continue to be offered. Please consider getting vaccinated if you have yet to receive your first vaccination.

Municipalities

We ask that each municipality make a systematic effort to accelerate the vaccination program in order to prevent serious illness and aid in the early recovery and maintenance of social infrastructure.

- Prompt issuance of vaccination tickets
- Respond effectively to prefectural residents who need to have their vaccination tickets reissued due to loss, etc.
- Encourage senior citizen facilities to provide vaccinations
- Call outs to residents in cooperation with neighborhood associations, etc.

Prefectural Measures: Support for municipalities in securing medical personnel, operation of prefectural wide vaccination centers to complement municipalities' vaccinations,

Consideration and implementation of effective measures to encourage positive attitudes toward vaccination through a variety of media, including social networking sites.

# Now, you can get free COVID-19 tests all over the prefecture !

(Until April 28, 2022)

■ Locations where free testing is available (As of March 18, 2022)

Test kits
provide
results
quickly!

Region	PCR and Qualitative Antigen Testing	Qualitative Antigen Testing
Main Island	North: 4 locations Center: 12 locations South: 16 locations	North: 2 locations Center: 8 locations South: 8 locations
Outer Islands	Minamidaito, Izena, and Kumejima (1 location each)	
Miyako	Miyakojima City: 8 locations	Miyakojima City: 8 locations
Yaeyama	Ishigaki: 4 locations	Ishigaki: 4 locations

The Detailed List for Vaccination Testing Sites Here



If you do not have the time to go and take a test, you can purchase a test kit and take it yourself. (For more information, please visit the URL on the right)



Before taking the test, please refer to the leaflet "If you wonder "is it COVID-19?"", to learn more about the process after vaccination.