

February 18th, 2022 Confirmed by the Okinawa Prefectural COVID-19 Response Headquarters.  
Okinawa Prefectural Policy on Countermeasures, effective February 21, 2022

## Infection Re-spread Control Period (Okinawa Prefecture Countermeasure Policy)

**【Request Period】 From Monday, February 21, 2022 to Thursday, March 31, 2022**

<b>Basic Concept</b>	<p><b><u>In working towards preventing the further re-spread of COVID-19,</u></b> and in order to reduce the opportunities for human-to-human contact, 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.</p>
<b>Area</b>	<b>The entirety of Okinawa Prefecture</b>

# 【Countermeasures to Prevent the Re-spread of the Infection】

## 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 and the elderly.
- Last year, during the same period when the spread of COVID-19 had settled down, a fourth wave occurred due to an increase of person-to-person contact opportunities caused by farewell parties and other events at the end of the fiscal year.
- In order to maintain social infrastructure and control the re-spread of the infection, in addition to the "thorough implementation of basic infection prevention countermeasures" and the "promotion of vaccination," it is necessary to refrain from activities with 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 "maintaining proper 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 re-spreading of the infection and to maintain the medical care provision system.
  - ① Countermeasures for the elderly (countermeasures for welfare facilities)
  - ② Countermeasures for children (prevention of infection at home, school/daycare PCR tests)
  - ③ Border security countermeasures (Thoroughness of PCR testing and other tests before visits)
  - ④ Acceleration of vaccination (vaccination at welfare facilities, vaccination at businesses in the entirety of Okinawa)
- 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)

# Requests to Prefectural Residents

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

## Request Regarding Traveling and Going Out

- **Refrain from going out or traveling to places with high risk of infection**
  - **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.
  
- **Please refrain from traveling to and from cities and prefectures that are designated as areas that have "Priority Countermeasures to Prevent the Spread of Disease". (Exclude individuals who had "tested and confirmed negative" and "need to take an examination, have a medical examination, need it for work, etc.")**
  - 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, vaccinations should be completed or a PCR test or other tests should be taken. Immediately after returning to Okinawa, please take a PCR test or other tests.
  
- **In some cases, refraining from traveling to and from remote islands may be required, please check the website of each outer island municipality for information on the acceptance status of the islands you are visiting.**
  - When you are not feeling well, please postpone or cancel your trip. Otherwise vaccinations should be completed or a PCR test should be taken.
  
- **In the case of holding Moai, farewell parties, etc., events involving food and drink should be held with no more than 4 people, avoid the 3 Cs, and not spend more than 2 hours at the event.**
  - The events should be held with family members who live together or people who are always together.
  
- **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 distance from others, wear a mask properly (non-woven masks are recommended), wash hands and disinfect hands frequently, avoid "closed spaces, crowded places and close-contact settings", (aim for zero densification), and ensure adequate ventilation indoors and inside vehicles.
- Observe your health by taking your temperature every day, and if you have any symptoms, refrain from commuting to work, school, and going out.
- In case you are not feeling well during the day time, 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.
- The elderly and those with underlying medical conditions should reduce the risk of infection by meeting with a smaller number of people than they usually meet.
- In the case of the Omicron strain, it has been shown that the vaccine's efficacy 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 consider the first and second round of vaccinations positively.
- If you are concerned about the spread of the infection, please consider taking a free PCR test or other tests, the availability will be extended until March 31.
- ◆ 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.

\* 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.
  - ◆ Group dining should be held with family members who live together or people who are always together.
  - ◆ When holding a group dining event with a large number of people, it should be held with persons who have tested negative (all of them must be tested in advance).
  - ◆ Proactively cooperate with infection prevention countermeasures required by restaurants (avoid shouting, wear masks when talking, etc.)
  - ◆ Avoid using restaurants that are not taking thorough infection prevention countermeasures and use an "Infection Prevention Countermeasure Certified Facility".
  - ◆ Even if you are only feeling 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 restaurants, 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 where food and drinks are involved).
- ※ No more than 4 people, avoid the 3 Cs, less than 2 hours, and return home after the first 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 for inter-prefectural travel required by the governor of your residential area, please ensure that you take basic infection prevention countermeasures when you come to the prefecture and refrain from eating with large groups of people (more than 5 people).
  - Please refrain from visiting areas where the infection is spreading (designated areas for "Priority Countermeasures to Prevent the Spread of Disease") in accordance with the government's basic policy. (Exclude individuals who have been "tested and confirmed negative" and "need to take an examination, have a medical examination, or need it for work, etc.")
  - 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 addition, the government is offering free PCR and other tests to passengers who wish to take flights from Haneda, Narita, Chubu, Itami, Kansai, and Fukuoka airports to Okinawa (from January 20 to February 28 [Note 1]).  
※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, 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 : 8 a.m.~9 p.m. (open all year round)
- Regarding school excursions, please take thorough countermeasures to prevent infection and act in accordance with the (separate) "Okinawa School Trip Quarantine and Tourism Guidelines".

Note 1: [https://corona.go.jp/passengers\\_monitoring/](https://corona.go.jp/passengers_monitoring/) Cabinet Secretariat website: Free testing for passengers on flights between Haneda Airport, etc. and airports in Okinawa Prefecture.

## Requests to Restaurants

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Request for Cooperation】

【Request for cooperation, not based on a law】

<p>Target Facilities</p>	<p>〔Restaurants〕 Restaurants (excluding takeout and delivery)          〔Entertainment facilities / wedding halls〕 Bars, karaoke boxes, wedding halls (etc.) that possess a restaurant business license under the Food Sanitation Act.</p>
<p>Details of the Requests</p>	<p><b>〔Request for Cooperation in Infection Prevention Countermeasures〕</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <u>Thorough implementation of infection prevention countermeasures, including compliance with industry-specific guidelines (The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend taking tests to employees, guiding entering patrons, and ventilating the facility.</li> <li>• Prohibit the entry of patrons who has fever. (temperature check for users)</li> <li>• Installation of hand sanitizing equipment, disinfection for places where business is conducted.</li> <li>• Ensure patrons are informed about wearing masks and other countermeasures to prevent infection.</li> <li>• Prohibit the entry of those who do not wear a mask with valid reasons and do not take infection prevention countermeasures. (Wear a mask when talking)</li> <li>• Installation of acrylic panels, etc. (or secure at least 1 meter space between seats and seating position to face each other is prohibited)</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Encourage obtaining the "Infection Prevention Countermeasure Certified Facility" certification.</li> <li>➤ When using Karaoke equipment avoid close proximity between users, thoroughly implement infection control countermeasures such as ensuring ventilation, etc.</li> <li>➤ <u>In principle, no more than four people in the same group and at the same table (exception: when a certified infection prevention facility confirms that all the relevant people have tested negative and when assistance or care is required)</u></li> </ul> <p>( * When holding events such as wedding ceremonies, please respond according to the request for holding the event)</p> <p>◆ <u>Limit use of facilities to 2 hours or less (request for cooperation not based on the law)</u></p>

## Requests when Holding Events

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Request for Cooperation】

Request 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 /Shouting	Up to Capacity	Up to 5,000 People (※3)	Up to Half of the Capacity (※3)
Events where Spectators Tend to Shout (※2)	Up to Half of the Capacity		

※1: 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. (The spacing should be enough to avoid person-to-person contact at a minimum).
- Events where spectators tend to shout → Sufficient space (2m as much as possible and at least 1m) between people must be provided.

※2: 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: Under the condition that an infection prevention safety plan is prepared and implemented, the "No loud voices" commitment is a must.

- 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 a "Safety Plan for Infection Prevention" that describes specific countermeasures to be taken at least two weeks prior to the event. If the requests from the prefecture are not met, postponement or cancellation of the event might be requested.
- Organizers should take prompt action in the event of 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 island, visitors should be encouraged to be vaccinated or have negative results confirmed by a PCR test or other tests prior to the event.
- 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 <https://www.pref.okinawa.lg.jp/site/chijiko/kohokoryu/koho/20200828.html>)

# Requests to Facilities

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Request for Cooperation】

## 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)
- Patron traffic control should be executed, to prevent crowds, by organizing and guiding entering patrons.  
(Especially when implementing events that attract customers, work to avoid crowding and close proximity.)
- Countermeasures effective in preventing infection through droplets from conversations (especially at food courts)  
(Installation of acrylic panels, maintaining a distance between seats or 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.
- Check symptoms, take temperatures, and require good hand hygiene before entering game centers, sports clubs, and other amusement facilities.
- Request that patrons not be allowed to bring alcoholic beverages in. (not based on a law)

## Requests to Businesses

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Request for Cooperation】

### 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 an easy vaccination environment)
- Thoroughly manage 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 working from home (telework) and staggered commuting,
- Request employees to avoid using facilities that have not responded to request implementing infection prevention countermeasures.
- Be careful about switching places in the workplace (break room, changing room, smoking room, company 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 Businesses

【The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9: Request for Cooperation】

### Requests to Welfare Facilities

- Thoroughly manage 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.
- 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, infection control countermeasures 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 within a building at day-care facilities.
- If there are any family members living with the employee who are not in good health, actively encourage them to take a COVID-19 test.
- Actively participate in periodic PCR testing for employees.
- Encourage vaccination (including 1st, 2nd, and 3rd dose)
- 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.

### **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 (refrain from any non-essential and non-emergency trips to the emergency room, 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.

### **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 to caution the public to avoid 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., 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.
- Carefully consider how to implement the countermeasures even in areas where the infection has not spread.
- When holding school events, etc., sufficient consideration should be given to the location, time, method of holding the events, according to the infection situation in the community.
- Club activities should be limited to 90 minutes or less on weekdays (no early morning practice) and 2 hours or less on weekends and holidays, and 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 no more than 4 people, avoid the 3Cs, and for no more than 2 hours, as there is a high risk of infection.
- ※ Example: A chorus performed indoors with a short distance from others in a music class, playing wind-instruments such as recorder, and dense exercise in physical education.  
Training matches and training camps with other schools held independently by schools  
(Countermeasures to prevent infection based on the characteristics of omicron strain 【from the 12th Subcommittee on Countermeasures against Novel Coronavirus Infections】)

# Caution the Public Regarding Seasonal Events

## ① Returning to the Prefecture and Graduation Trips

- ◆ 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 returning home** and **prior to leaving for trips**, and consider postponing your return or trip if you are not feeling well.
- ◆ If you feel unwell after arriving in Okinawa, please contact the prefectural call center (098-866-2129) and refrain from going out.

## ② Group Dining at **Graduation Celebrations and Farewell 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**).
- ◆ If possible, group dining should be held with family members who live together or people who are always together.
- ◆ When holding a group dining event with a large number of people, it should be held with persons who have tested negative (all must be tested in advance).
- ◆ Select an "Infection Prevention Countermeasure Certified Facility" that has infection control countermeasures in place.

## ③ For those who travel to and from other prefectures for examinations, etc.

- ◆ Please take care of your physical condition every day and conduct PCR and other tests to confirm negative results before traveling to and from other prefectures.
- ◆ Please refrain from unnecessarily going out, except for taking exams during your visit, and refrain from eating in crowded places or with an unspecified large number of people.