

Request to Prefectural Residents

~Measures for the living with COVID-19~

【Request Period】 Tuesday, March 7 - Sunday, May 7, 2023

- ◆ Please proactively consider **vaccination for COVID-19** which is expected to be effective in preventing severe symptoms.
- ◆ **On a daily basis**, avoid 3C “closed spaces, crowded places and close-contact settings” and make it habit to ventilate, use hand sanitizer, and observe your health daily.
- ◆ **If you have any symptoms** such as a fever, sore throat, cough, or runny nose please refrain from going to work, school, on outings, and to group dining.
- **From March 13, mask-wearing** will basically be up to an individual's decision, however, wearing a mask is recommended in situations where mask-wearing is effective.

1 Vaccination

- Request for cooperation, based on The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9
- Request for cooperation, not based on a law

Please receive vaccinations for the COVID-19 omicron BA.1 subvariant (You can also receive the Novavax vaccine, which is a recombinant protein vaccine.)

- For eligible persons who are 12 years old and over, please proactively consider vaccinations for the COVID-19 omicron BA.1 subvariant which is expected to be effective in preventing severe symptoms and against new COVID-19 variants. Those between the ages of 6 months and 12 years of age should consider getting vaccinated as well.
- Keeping up-to-date with vaccinations reduces the risk of a severe case of COVID-19. Residents of elderly care facilities and users of day facilities should receive their vaccination as soon as possible, as they are at a higher risk of severe infection.

2 On a daily basis

Please follow the COVID-19 control measures, and avoid “closed spaces, crowded places and close-contact settings”

- Make it habit to ventilate, use hand sanitizer, and observe your health daily (especially, the elderly, people who have underlying conditions, and expectant mothers).
- In case of infection, keep at least a three-day supply of food, (over-the-counter) COVID-19 test kit, and medicine, for example, fever reducers stocked at home.
- In places where children gather (such as after-school day-cares, cram schools, etc.), adults should check infection control measures such as the ventilation.
- When dining, use an "Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility", avoid visiting restaurants and other facilities which are not taking thorough infection prevention measures.

* Until March 12, please put on and take off a mask appropriately according to the situation, such as indoors or outdoors, physical distance from others, and whether or not you converse with others.

3 When you feel unwell

If you have any symptoms such as a fever, sore throat, cough, or runny nose please refrain from going to work, school, on outings, and to group dining.

- If you have any cold symptoms, please make sure to avoid the elderly and expectant mothers for a week as they have a higher risk of a severe case of COVID-19.
- Please avoid the crowd and wear a mask, when you feel unwell and need to go out such as seeing a doctor, etc.
- To protect the emergency medical system, please refrain from going to the emergency room if you have mild symptoms or to take a COVID-19 test and refrain from the misuse of ambulance

▪ Mask-wearing (effective from March 13)

Mask-wearing will basically be up to decisions of individuals, however, wearing a mask is recommended in the following situations.

- When workers are on duty at medical institutions and elderly care facilities where many people at a higher risk of a severe case of COVID-19 are hospitalized or live.
- When you see a doctor
- When you visit medical institutions or elderly care facilities where many people at a high risk of a severe case of COVID-19 are hospitalized or live.
- When those at higher risk of a severe case of COVID-19 go to a crowded place (where adequate distance cannot be secured) during an infectious outbreak.
- When you get on congested monorails or buses during rush hour, etc.
- When business entities ask you to wear a mask when you use a facility or attend an event.

To Travelers (Those Considering a Trip 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】

- **Before traveling to Okinawa, please conduct a thorough health check. If you feel unwell, please postpone your trip. Before your trip and during your stay in Okinawa, please make sure to adhere to basic infection prevention measures.**
- **For those that will visit Okinawa on a school trip, take thorough infection prevention measures, and also make sure to act in accordance with the "Okinawa School Trip Quarantine and Sightseeing Guidelines" and other relevant guidelines.**
- **It is recommended to update your vaccination status prior to your trip.**
- **For those who have chronic illnesses, take it easy and take care of your health during your stay. Also, ensure you have adequate supplies of prescribed medications, and bring extra medication when you visit Okinawa.**
- **Please use the Okinawa COVID-19 Countermeasure Personal Support Application (RICCA) to see relevant information on the COVID-19 situation and vaccinations.**
- **If you feel unwell or have a fever during your stay, please consult the "Traveler's Access Center Okinawa".**

【Traveler's Access Center Okinawa (TACO)】

Phone: 098-840-1677 Operation hour: 8:00 ~21:00

Requests to Restaurants

【Request for cooperation, based on The Act, Article 24, Paragraph 9】

<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>➤ Infection Prevention Measure certified facilities: please continue to ensure that the restaurant is safe and secure by taking thorough infection prevention measures, including compliance with the certification standard, etc.</p> <p>① Restaurant hygiene management: Sufficient ventilation, disinfection of areas and utensils that are touched by customers.</p> <p>② Ensuring staff safety: Conducting thorough health checks of staff, including conducting daily temperature checks before work. Recommend vaccination to staff.</p> <p>③ Safety for customers: Body temperature checks upon entry, sanitizing hands thoroughly, spaced seating, etc. (Deny entry to customers that display symptoms, such as a fever, even if they are mild symptoms. Ensure customers comply with infection prevention measures.)</p> <p>➤ For restaurants that are not certified with Infection Prevention Measure Certified Facility Certification, please comply with the industry specific guidelines.</p>

- ◆ For event organizers, please hold events in accordance with the Event Capacity Requirements (maximum number of people, venue capacity, etc.)

Maximum Venue Capacity		
Less than 5,000 people	Over 5,000 - less than 10,000 people	Over 10,000 people
Up to capacity	Up to capacity (If an Infection Prevention Safety Plan is prepared)	
	Up to 5,000 people	Up to Half of the capacity

- Event Organizers should thoroughly comply with the industry specific guidelines.
- For events with more than 5,000 participants and over 50% of the capacity (in the case a maximum venue capacity has not been set, events that are estimated to have more than 5,000 participants and are unable to provide sufficient space between people [unable to provide 1 meter of physical distance between people]), the organizers must prepare and submit an Infection Prevention Safety Plan with specific measures to the prefectural government at least two weeks before the event.
- Respond promptly in the event of a national outbreak or cluster at an event, and if the national government revises its industry-specific guidelines, capacity requirements and maximum number of people.
- For events with large numbers of people, recommend visitors receive the latest vaccine or confirm negative COVID-19 results by PCR or other tests in advance.
- If food or drink is served, organizers should designate an eating and drinking area and ensure participants do not eat or drink outside the dedicated areas. In addition, make sure participants adhere to infection control measures when eating and drinking.
- For events that do not have an Infection Prevention Safety Plan, infection control measures should be thoroughly implemented through the preparation of checklists and other. For more details, see the "Restrictions on holding events". <https://www.pref.okinawa.lg.jp/site/chijiko/kohokoryu/koho/20200828.html>
- If you are planning to organize an event after March 13, 2023, please take measures referring to the infection prevention measures from the announcement of “Notes for restriction on events and use of facilities based on the basic response policies” issued by Director General of Office for COVID-19 and Other Emerging Infectious Disease Control, Cabinet Secretariat as of February 10, 2023. (Changes have been made to infection prevention measures related to mask-wearing and others.)
 - **Based on the national policy that “mask-wearing should be up to individuals’ decisions,” it is not necessary for event organizers to encourage performers and participants to wear a mask.**
 - **Event organizers can ask performers and participants to wear a mask to prevent infections and for business reasons.**

To Commercial and Visitor-attracting Facilities

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

The following infection control measures shall be implemented in sports facilities, amusement centers, cinemas, shopping malls and other facilities as regulated in Article 11, section 1 of the Special Measures Act.

- Compliance with relevant industry specific guidelines, and implementation of thorough infection prevention measures.
- Control and guide visitors so that they do not crowd together (work to ensure that it is not crowded or visitors are too close together, especially when holding events that attract visitors)
- Take effective measures to prevent infection through droplets from conversation, etc.
(Especially, for food courts, measures such as the installation of acrylic panels, etc. or ensuring seating spacing and thorough ventilation).

To Businesses

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

- Ensure that employees take care of their health condition thoroughly and if you are unwell, stay home, if your employees are unwell, do not allow them to go to work.
- In cases that an employee tests positive or becomes a close contact of someone who is COVID-19 positive, negative proof of PCR or other tests shall not be required when the employee goes to work.
- Take measures to prevent crowded commuting to and from work, such as allowing work from home (teleworking), videoconferencing and expanding staggered working hours.
- Business continuity plans (BCP) should be developed and re-examined for industries that require business continuity.
- Adhere to the Guidelines for Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 specified by the industry.
- Encourage vaccination in the workplace (please provide an environment conducive to vaccination).
- Provide an environment that makes it easier for employees to nurse and take care of their children in case of home treatment or temporary closure of primary schools, etc.
- Conduct effective indoor ventilation and other measures to deal with aerosol transmission of infections, such as the constant operation of ventilation fans and opening additional windows.

Requests to Elderly Care and Disabled Care Facilities

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

- Ensure that employees take care of their health condition thoroughly and if you are unwell, stay home, if your employees are unwell, do not allow them to go to work.
- The "Manual for countermeasures against COVID-19 in facilities for the elderly and those with disabilities (Okinawa Prefectural COVID-19 Countermeasures Headquarters)" and the "Guideline for infection control in nursing care facilities (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)" should be used as the foundation of countermeasures.
- Efforts should be made to formulate a business continuity plan (BCP) based on the assumption that clusters may occur, and simultaneous tests should be conducted around COVID-19 positive persons.
- Conduct effective indoor ventilation and other measures to deal with aerosol transmission of infections, such as the constant operation of ventilation fans and additional window openings
- **As a visitation is important for both users of facilities and their families, please consider to carry out visitations in person as much as possible, with taking infection prevention measures and lowering the risk of infection.**
- Conduct regular testing of employees and vaccination should be recommended to users of facilities (please provide an environment conducive to vaccination).
- **Mask-wearing is recommended when visiting elderly care facilities and when elderly care facility workers are on duty.**

Implementation of Initiatives in each Municipality in Cooperation with the Prefecture

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

- Raise awareness of infection prevention measures among local residents and call for cooperation from residents' associations, etc., by using the information systems and disaster warning systems.
- For municipalities, please continue to maintain the system so that vaccines for the omicron variant and other can be provided to those who wish to receive them.
- Please check the vaccination status of elderly persons requiring care and encourage them to receive vaccination through care managers and other care professionals.

Requests to Schools

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

- Base your response on the hygiene management manuals, indoor ventilation should be provided in response to aerosol transmission, including constant operation of ventilation fans and additional window openings.
- At a graduation ceremony, please take measures in accordance with the notice "Basic guidance on use of masks at a graduation ceremony" from Director General for Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Japan as of February 10, 2023.
- Thoroughly monitor the health of teachers, staff and students, using health observation charts and health observation apps, and ensure they refrain from going to work, school, club activities, etc. when they are unwell.
- For club activities, health checks should be carried out at the start of activities and before various competitions, with thorough infection prevention measures such as **conducting ventilation in the clubrooms, changing rooms and other.**
- Promote the use of RADECO, which allows preschool, elementary, junior high, and high school students who are symptomatic and their family members living with them who may be in close contact to carry out qualitative antigen testing at home.
- In case a teacher, staff member or student tests positive or becomes a close contact of someone who is COVID-19 positive, the teacher, staff member, or student shall not be required to submit a negative PCR test or other tests before being allowed to go to work or school.
- **Please take action on the basis of the policy not asking mask-wearing, when conducting school educational activities on and after April 1.**