

An Urgent Message from the Mayor of Izumo City Concerning COVID-19

To the people of Izumo City,

Today, Shimane Prefecture announced 755 new COVID-19 cases in the prefecture. Out of these, 410 were within the jurisdiction of Izumo Public Health Center. This is by far the largest increase in infections so far.

To me, this is a state of emergency to Izumo City. I call out to our residents loud and clear.

COVID-19 spreads when people are in close contact in closed spaces for extended periods of time.

I urge you, now more than ever, to take thorough infection prevention measures such as keeping your distance from other people as much as possible, wearing a mask when having a conversation, and ventilating indoor spaces regularly.

Please avoid nonessential outings as much as possible, and plan in advance to complete necessary errands such as voting in the House of Councillors election as fast as possible. Remain focused on infection prevention at all times.

If you have a sore throat or you feel sluggish, please refrain from going to work or school even if you have no fever, and consult your doctor as soon as possible.

Getting vaccinated while protecting your health is connected to our activities as a society. Please get vaccinated at your earliest convenience if you have received a vaccination coupon.

From now on, avoiding crowded spaces, closed spaces, close-contact settings, and other situations where COVID-19 might spread will be even more necessary and important than before. I strongly ask for your understanding and cooperation.

Some daycare centers and kindergartens have been closed due to confirmed COVID-19 infections among the children and staff. Cases where staff members are unable to work due to infections among their contacts have increased as well.

It is important to avoid situations where measures must be taken at childcare facilities so that their duties are not interrupted. Starting tomorrow, please do not bring your children to nursery schools, kindergartens, or authorized daycare centers in the city if it is at all possible to arrange their care at home.

Depending on the situation of the area, elementary schools and junior high schools may consider temporary closures if infections are confirmed among several grades and there is concern that they might further spread within the school. I ask for your understanding and cooperation on this matter.

Let us all work together, in cooperation with Shimane Prefecture, to overcome this emergency, and to regain the days of engaging in joyful conversation with one another. I humbly ask for your cooperation.

July 5, 2022

Mayor of Izumo City, Toshiyuki Iitsuka