

A Message from the Mayor of Izumo City Concerning COVID-19 Increased Spread of Infections

To the people of Izumo City,

COVID-19 infections have surpassed 230,000 cases nation-wide. 12 prefectures, including Shimane, are experiencing record numbers of cases, while every region in Japan has now entered the 8th wave of the pandemic. Izumo City is no exception to these circumstances.

In the midst of this, the third semester has just begun for elementary and junior high school students. Particularly for children preparing for their exams, this is a vital period where they must monitor their physical health.

Schools and other institutions are taking thorough preventative measures such as disinfection and ventilation. I would like to encourage everyone to do their best to carry those measures home as well by washing and disinfecting your hands when you return home, regularly airing out indoor spaces, and so on.

Furthermore, for the elderly and individuals with pre-existing conditions, infection carries a high risk of becoming seriously ill. Omicron strain-compatible vaccines are currently offered until the end of March this year so I strongly encourage those who haven't received a vaccination to consider getting one.

There have also been confirmed cases of influenza in Izumo City. In addition to considering vaccinations against COVID-19, I would like to also ask residents to consider a vaccination against seasonal influenza.

While I must apologize for making weighty request of you, I would also like to thank you once again for continuing to implement these preventative measures in your daily lives. By continuing to prevent infections, we can protect our families, reduce pressure on our hospitals, and allow society to move smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation.

January 10, 2023

Mayor of Izumo City, Toshiyuki Iitsuka