

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Declaration of State of Emergency

April 10, 2020

Gifu Prefecture COVID-19 Response Headquarters

COVID-19 has the following unique characteristics:

1. Extremely rapid spread of infection
2. Cases where individuals are unaware they are infected
3. No medical treatment available
4. Anyone, from young children to the elderly, can be infected

Humanity is experiencing this virus for the first time.

The number of cases within Gifu Prefecture has increased rapidly since mid-March, with cases reported every day for 19 consecutive days since March 22, including 1 death, totaling 87 cases in all. This high number comes close to the number of cases in the 7 prefectures covered by the national State of Emergency.

Examining the increase on a weekly basis shows that there have been 2.5 times as many cases in the past week (46) as compared to the previous week (19).

Furthermore, while the cluster outbreak in Kani City has been brought to an end, there is now another cluster outbreak related to a nightclub in Gifu City, and yesterday a further cluster related to a restaurant emerged.

Additionally, cases where the route of transmission is unclear have grown to make up around 20% of the total number of cases, suggesting further cluster outbreaks are likely.

Regarding this situation, the Prefectural Expert Meeting has issued a warning that the entire prefecture has reached an urgent state of affairs which must be acted upon without delay.

In light of the above, recognizing that Gifu Prefecture is in a state of emergency, the Prefecture has undertaken a drastic review of the current "Stop COVID-19 2 Week Strategy" and will implement the following State of Emergency comprehensive countermeasures.

1. Strengthening and extension of the "Stop COVID-19 2 Week Strategy" (until May 6)
2. Enhancement and strengthening of the provision of medical services to withstand the peak of infection (thorough testing, increasing the number of hospital beds, securing medical supplies such as masks)
3. Establishment and expansion of economic, livelihood, and job support measures

The State of Emergency comprehensive countermeasures must be implemented across all of Gifu with the cooperation of all prefecture residents. We ask for your understanding and cooperation.