

Declaration of Medical State of Emergency in Sapporo City

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Sapporo City Mayor, Katsuhiko Akimoto
Hokkaido Governor, Naomichi Suzuki
Sapporo Medical Association President, Harumichi Matsuka
Hokkaido Medical Association President, Kiyoshi Nagase
Hokkaido Hospitals Association Chairman, Hirohiko Nakamura
All Japan Hospital Association Hokkaido Branch Chief, Satahisa Tokuda
Japan Hospital Association Hokkaido Block Chief, Shigemichi Tanaka
Japan Social Medical Corporation Council Hokkaido Branch Chief, Hirotohi Nishizawa
Hokkaido Nursing Association President, Junko Ueda

There has been a rapid increase in the number of patients infected with COVID-19 in Sapporo City, and the number of hospitalized patients has reached a record high. Due to this situation, and the lack of beds available in medical institutions in the city, the medical care provision system has been forced to take measures such as sending patients who require hospitalization to neighboring cities.

If nothing changes, many patients will not be able to enter a medical institution right away, and we fear the worst possible situation could occur, and patients could pass away in their home while waiting to be hospitalized.

The lives of citizens are at stake in Sapporo City, and it can be said that we are facing a medical emergency. The medical care provision system in Sapporo City is already at its limit.

In order to prevent the collapse of the medical care provision system, and protect the lives of our citizens, we declare a State of Medical Emergency in Sapporo City.

We ask again that citizens please follow basic infection measures, such as wearing masks, disinfecting, and social distancing. Furthermore, to prevent further spread of infection, we ask that citizens please refrain as much as possible from going out, and take thorough actions to reduce the risk of infection.

The spread of infection is more rapid than ever, and the situation is severe, but we will work closely with associated organizations and act as one to protect the lives of citizens.

1 Please avoid going out in, and travel to and from, Sapporo City, as much as possible.

- Please refrain from going out in Sapporo City, as well as any travel to and from Sapporo City as much as possible. Specifically, please stay home except for essential outings, such as visiting a hospital or clinic, exercising / walking outdoors in order to maintain or improve health, going out to buy dialing necessities such as food or medicine, or commuting to work.
- If you are not feeling well, in addition to staying home, please be extremely thorough to avoid the risk of infection when in contact with an individual who is at high risk of developing severe symptoms.

2 Please take action to reduce the risk of infection when eating or drinking.

- When eating and drinking, the likelihood that you will remove your mask increases, along with the risk of infection due to droplets. In order to prevent infection, please gather in groups of 4 or less, practice "Moku Shoku" (Silent Eating), wear a mask during conversations, and avoid heavy drinking, loud voices, and gathering for a long period of time.
- In Sapporo City in particular, please avoid eating or drinking with people not in your household (e.g. living in the same home) as much as possible.