

Measures requested to prevent the spread of infection in spring

To all residents of Hokkaido

April 18, 2022 Hokkaido

- Amid concerns about the highly infectious BA.2 strain becoming the dominant strain, the Hokkaido Government is asking the residents of Hokkaido for their cooperation with three requests in order to prevent the rapid spread of infection.
- The Hokkaido Government will continue to carefully monitor the infection status and consider any necessary measures as needed.

Three actions requested of the people of Hokkaido

Requests/events for other businesses

Three actions requested of the people of Hokkaido

24(9) Special Measures Law

1 In daily life

- Avoid the 3Cs, practice social distancing, wear a mask, disinfect hands, ensure adequate ventilation
 - Avoid congested areas and other places with high infection risk
 - When meeting persons who you do not usually meet, or who are at high risk of becoming seriously ill, take extra care to thoroughly implement infection control measures.

When traveling between prefectures, implement thorough infection prevention measures and refrain from activities with a high risk of infection at your destination

2 When eating out,

- Keep the time short, avoid heavy drinking, refrain from shouting and wear a mask during conversation
 - Please pay special attention to implementing these measures when you are gathering in large groups or with people you do not meet often
- Choose restaurants etc. with official Hokkaido Restaurant Infection Prevention Measures Certification, and please comply with infection countermeasures and rules set out by restaurants, bars etc.
- At restaurants, etc., follow the infection control checklist items.
- Get the official Hokkaido Restaurant Infection Prevention Measures Certification. (Call for cooperation)

3 If you are worried that you may have contracted COVID-19,

- Regardless of your vaccination status, get tested. (Limited to asymptomatic people.)
 - If you have symptoms such as a fever, visit a medical institution, and refrain from going out unnecessarily.

● For the Workplace, comply with industry-specific guidelines

(Preschools/Nurseries, Certified centers for early childhood education and care, Elderly Care Facilities, etc.)

- Implement strict health management policies, and ensure that staff can take leave if they have symptoms such as a fever, etc.
- In addition to conducting training in preparation for infection outbreaks, also ensure that provisions are made to allow staff to take vaccine booster shots if they wish to do so.
- At facilities for the elderly, etc., implement thorough infection countermeasures based on the “Infection prevention measures guidebook for Nursing Care Sites” and cooperate with related departments in Hokkaido and municipalities, including health centers, to secure a support system for infection control and medical care.
- At preschools/Nurseries and Certified centers for early childhood education, implement thorough infection countermeasures based on the “Infection prevention measures guidebook for Nurseries”, and ensure that children that have symptoms such as a fever refrain from attending these institutions.

Educational Institutions

- Confirm that the infection countermeasures within schools are being properly implemented in accordance with the hygiene management manual as well as ensure thorough implementation of infection countermeasures in school education activities, etc..
In addition, even when these measures are taken, carefully consider and evaluate activities with a high risk of infection
 - Carefully consider and evaluate activities with a high risk of infection (Those requiring overnight stays as a group, e.g. Field trips, Classes requiring overnight stays, etc.), and ensure that such activities are only carried out with the permission and understanding of parents and guardians of the students.
 - Club activities should be carefully conducted, with time, amount of people, and location, etc. being taken into consideration. Activities in which infection countermeasures cannot be sufficiently followed must be cancelled
Multiple health checks should be implemented, and a school-wide guidance system for infection disease control should be established. Moreover, practice games or training camps organized with other schools, should implement infection countermeasures in accordance with the infection control guidelines of each participating organization.
- Universities, vocational schools, etc., should take appropriate measures to both limit infection spread as well as securing learning opportunities by using online and in person classes as appropriate. Additionally, there should be thorough warning and explanation regarding the implementation of infection prevention measures for extracurricular activities

Requests regarding events

24(9) Special Measures Law

The maximum number of allowed attendees is "Maximum Attendees", or "Maximum Capacity", whichever is smaller (Both conditions must be met)

Infection Prevention Measures Safety Plan	Maximum Attendees	Maximum Capacity	
Without plan	5,000 people, or 50% of maximum capacity, whichever is larger	No Cheering/Loud Voices	Within 100% (Appropriate distance between patrons if no seating provided)
		Cheering/Loud Voices	Within 50% (Appropriate distance between patrons if no seating provided)
With plan	100% Capacity	Within 100% (assuming that there is no Cheering/Loud Voices)	

*1 Cheering/Loud voices refers to “the attendees of the event repeatedly or continually speaking or shouting, etc. at a volume higher than normal” and such activity is actively encouraged or necessary infection prevention measures are not sufficiently implemented.

* 2 The “Infection Prevention Measures Safety Plan” details the specific strategies and measures that will be implemented in order to ensure effective infection prevention measures for each event (for events where the number of attendees is over 5,000 and the capacity is over 50%, the plan should be submitted up to 2 weeks before the event is held)

Wearing a mask outside

High temperatures and humidity increase the risk of heatstroke

- In an open-aired space where proper distance between individuals is ensured (2m or more,) taking off your mask is recommended.
- Children especially might have difficulties taking masks off by themselves due to age or development level. Therefore, they are not all required to wear a mask.