

Emergency Announcement: Novel Coronavirus Prevention Edition

Message from the Mayor (4/15/2020 excerpt)


On April 14, 2020, Fukui Prefecture declared a State of Emergency in hopes of preventing the further spread of COVID-19. Soon afterwards, on April 16, 2020, a nationwide State of Emergency was declared. In a time where even health facilities have become danger zones, we must not let our guard down. Fukui City will try its best and coordinate with Fukui Prefecture to slow the spread of the virus.


Fukui City would like to ask our residents to reassess their actions during these difficult times and to please cooperate in our efforts to prevent the further spread of the virus.


HIGASHIMURA Shinichi, Mayor of Fukui City


Useful Personal Hygiene Tips!


Proper Handwashing Technique


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1 After rinsing, apply soap and scrub palms thoroughly
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2 Scrub the back of your hands
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3 Clean nails and fingertips thoroughly
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4 Scrub in between fingers
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5 Scrub each finger with palm in a twisting motion
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6 Don't forget the wrists!

After scrubbing with soap, rinse thoroughly with water and dry with a clean towel.

! Avoid the “Three Cs”!

The “Three Cs” (Closed spaces, Crowded places, Close-contact settings) increase your chances of infection. To shop owners and those in related businesses, we ask that you take please measures to prevent large gatherings. One countermeasure could be something as simple as distributing queue tickets.

Avoid unnecessary travel and gatherings

Although someone may not seem to have symptoms, they may still be carriers of the virus. To ensure others do not get infected, it is important to try as much as possible to reduce the number of the people we come in contact with every day.

Prevent spreading in the workplace

Please work from home, slightly change working hours, or take actions with similar effects; at the very least, lower the number of people who must be present in the workplace at any given time.

As an alternative to the above, have all employees take their temperature before going to the workplace, thoroughly wash hands, and wear face masks at all times.

Before getting a checkup, call a consultant first

If you begin to display fever-like symptoms or have developed a cough, be sure to call for consultation or your healthcare doctor ahead of time, and be sure to wear a face mask when you go for your checkup. TEL: 0776-33-5184

Avoid going to other prefectures

Please refrain from travelling to other prefectures, especially to those with high infection rates. For those who come back to Fukui Prefecture, carefully monitor your health and avoid any unnecessary outings.

Help protect the healthcare system

Medical workers from all over Fukui Prefecture are helping places all over the country to fight the disease; Fukui City asks you to help these medical workers and their families. In order to protect our healthcare system, please understand and allow family members of medical workers to use child care buildings and nursery homes as temporary housing when necessary.

Protect human rights and personal information

Do not discriminate against anyone who gets checked for the virus, any individuals they may have come in close contact with, the health facility they visit, etc. in any capacity. Do not spread rumors and respect the civil rights of others.

Stay calm at all times

Only buy the necessary amount of products you need, be it food ingredients, everyday life items, medicine, or anything else. Use the information presented to you by both the government and your local authorities to make calm and intelligent decisions.

If you suspect that a family member may be infected...

Isolate the Family Member Try to have the family member stay in their room as much as possible. Keep their usage of communal spaces to a minimum (bathroom, kitchen, sink areas, etc.)	Insulation is Important Opening a window in the living room or any room in general will help improve air circulation. Every little bit helps.
Leave it to the Professionals Avoid tending to pregnant women or those with preexisting medical conditions. Seek professional help.	Sanitize Commonly Handled Objects Doorknobs, appliances, shelves, and any other communal objects should be closely monitored and sanitized to lower infection rate.
Wear Face Masks After using a face mask, do not touch the surfaces of the face mask. Remove the face mask by the bands.	Wash Clothes and Sheets When doing laundry, wear gloves and a face mask to prevent direct contact and use detergent to wash clothes.
Frequently Wash Hands Thoroughly wash hands with soap or hand sanitizer. Do not touch your face prior to washing your hands or disinfecting.	Make Sure Garbage is Completely Sealed Make sure all used tissues, face masks, paper towels, etc. are properly sealed in a garbage bag before disposal.

Coronavirus Questions and Answers

Q: I may be infected...What should I do?

A: For those with the following symptoms, please seek help from a consultant at a Coronavirus consultation center. If you are found to possibly be infected, you will be escorted to another location.

- Cold-like symptoms or a fever of 37.5°C that persists for 4 days or longer
- Experiencing heavy fatigue

*For the elderly, pregnant mothers, or those with preexisting medical conditions,

change the above duration from “4 days or longer” to “2 days or longer”.

Q: What happens if someone in my workplace is infected?

A: Please notify everyone of the situation. Healthcare centers request the following instructions for this situation, so please read them carefully:

1. Cooperate with the healthcare center’s investigation to find any close-contact individuals.
2. Anyone found to be a close-contact individual should be put under quarantine. They are to stay at home for 14 days and cooperate with the healthcare center by carefully monitoring their health.
3. Any close-contact individuals who show signs of a fever or have a cough must contact a healthcare center.
4. Complete sterilization of the workspace of the infected person(s)

*If everyone practices good personal hygiene, you do not need to stop all work/practices, discard any products or belongings of the infected individual(s), etc.

Q: Someone in my neighborhood may be infected...Will I get infected?

A: This Novel Coronavirus is currently known to be spread primarily through water droplets or through direct physical contact with mucus membranes (eyes, mouth, nose, etc.), so generally staying around 2m away from each other should lower your chances of infection.

But also please be aware that there is more information to be learned about this virus. To be completely sure of whether or not you have contracted the virus, please make an appointment for a medical check-up.

Q: “Close-Contact Individuals”...? What’s that?

A: This term refers to anyone the infected individual(s) in question has come in contact with **within the past 2 days**. At least one of the following will usually apply in this case:

1. You live in the same living quarters or have spent an extended period of time with the individual(s) (carpooling and such)
2. You have come in contact with water droplets from the individual(s) in question
3. You have physically touched the individual(s) with your hand(s) or engaged in conversation with the individual(s) in question for around 15 minutes or more in close proximity (about within 1m distance)

Driver's License Expiration Date Extension

For those who currently cannot renew their driver's license via traditional methods due to the current COVID-19 situation, extensions and other methods of renewal are now available.

1. For those with upcoming renewal dates...

If you go to the Driver's Education Center and present your currently valid driver's license before it expires, you will be allowed to drive for up to 3 months after the current expiration date.

Only for...

- those with an expiration date between 3/13/2020 and 7/31/2020
- those who have already been given an extension, but the extension falls between the above two dates (second extension)

*This extension is only a temporary measure. As things currently stand, you must go through the whole standard renewal process once the new expiration date after 7/31/2020 has passed.

2. For those whose driver's license has already expired...

You must reacquire your driver's license. You may bypass tests and receive a discount on the required fees, so please call ahead in advance.

Fukui Prefecture Driver's Education Center (Sakai City)

TEL: 0776-51-2820

Deadline for car insurance rate reduction application EXTENDED for those with disabilities

In order to reduce the risk of infection, the deadline for car insurance rate reduction applications for those with disabilities will be extended.

Deadline after extension: Tue. June 6, 2020

Info: *Kei Cars* – Residence Tax Division

TEL: 0776-20-5306

Other – Fukui Prefecture Tax Office

TEL: 0776-21-8274

Beware of Frauds and Scams

There has been an increase in frauds and scams using COVID-19 as leverage to take advantage of concerned citizens. There are various different examples, but to list a few, telemarketing face masks, asking you for your personal information over the phone,

sending advertisements for face masks to your mailbox, etc. In any of these situations, please remain calm, do not sign/agree to any contracts, and most importantly, **NEVER GIVE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION.**

If you have any suspicions fraud or a scam, call
Consumer Information Center TEL: 0776-20-5070

Fukui Prefecture to Distribute Face Mask Vouchers

A pink postcard should have come in the mail some time between April 23 and April 30. Every household in Fukui Prefecture will be given one of these postcards.

This postcard allows you to buy up to 2 cases of 50 face masks at your local GENKY store for 2350 yen (tax included).

You **MUST** purchase these boxes in person. You can neither purchase these online nor have them delivered.

The date on the postcard reads that the expiration date is May 10, 2020, but that date has recently been changed to May 31, 2020.

You can submit paperwork without going in person!

Most official documents for Fukui City may currently be submitted via mail. If you would like to mail in any official documents, please consult the respective reception counter.

Documents possible to submit via mail	Info
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Family registry, certificate of residence, applications for moving out <p>*If you have a “My Number Card” or “Juki Card” (Citizen Identification Card), your certificate of residence, a Fukui City-registered stamp, or other types of authorized identification, you may receive the above documents at your local convenience store.</p>	<p>Citizen’s Affairs Division TEL: 0776-20-5286</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Buying or Cancelling National Health Insurance● Reissuing of insurances● Applications for payments for high-cost medical expenses, birth allowance, funeral/ceremonial occasion	<p>Health Insurance and Pension Division TEL: 0776-20-5383</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Applications for child-rearing allowance or any other allowances related to child healthcare support	<p>Child Welfare Division TEL: 0776-20-5412</p>

Common Words/Phrases on the News Regarding COVID-19

The following words/phrases are currently being used in Japanese media to talk about COVID-19. The way the Japanese government uses these words/phrases may differ from the definitions you are familiar with.

COVID-19

Short for “COrona VIRus Disease, 2019”

This describes the disease.

クラスター (Cluster)

A group of infected individuals

オーバーシュート (Overshoot)

A term used to describe a situation where the number of infected individuals exceeds a certain threshold. It is also referred to as 「感染爆発」(かんせんぱくはつ) , or “Infection Explosion” but not to be confused with “outbreak”

アウトブレイク (Outbreak)

The number of infected individuals surpasses the projected level of infection rate

ロックダウン (Lockdown)

A state of isolation or restricted access issued as a security measure

Also referred to as 「都市封鎖」(としふうさ) , or literally “City Sealing”

ソーシャル ディスタンシング (Social Distancing)

Action taken to prevent the spread of the virus by avoiding crowded areas and taking all precautionary measures to keep your distance from others (at least 2 meters apart)

テレワーク (Tele-work)

A term used in the place of “Work From Home” or WFH; not working in the usual workplace

パンデミック (Pandemic)

A term used to describe the objective geographical spread of a disease when a disease has spread to most countries around the globe

Also referred to as 「世界的大流行」(せかいてきだいりゅうこう) or “Worldwide Spread”