

14 April 2021

## **A Message to the Citizens and People Working in Tsuruoka City**

Today, the city has confirmed a new case of COVID-19 infection within the city. Since the beginning of the year, there has been only 1 confirmed case in February, and there had been no confirmed cases for 2 months since then.

Currently, the more contagious mutant COVID-19 strains have been confirmed in various parts of the country, and concerns about the 4<sup>th</sup> wave are rapidly increasing. In Yamagata Prefecture, Yamagata City was placed under State of Emergency Declaration by the prefecture. With regards to priority measures such as preventing spread of infections, there are currently 6 prefectures placed under quasi-state of emergency, and the list may increase if there are any regions experiencing rapid spread of infections.

I ask all citizens to be aware that the risk of infection is all around you. Once again, please understand and cooperate with these guidelines in order to protect the health and lifestyle of yourselves and the people you care for, and to prevent putting further strain on our healthcare system.

Lastly, please refrain from any inconsiderate behaviours, discrimination, prejudice targeted at infected patients, their families, and the healthcare workers who help care for them.

Osamu Minakawa,  
Mayor of Tsuruoka City

1. Avoid all unnecessary/non-urgent outings to and from regions with large number of cases

Please refrain from visiting regions that are experiencing an increase in spread of infections such as Yamagata City which is placed under State of Emergency Declaration by the prefecture, as well as places (Miyagi, Osaka, Hyogo, Tokyo, Kyoto, Okinawa) under quasi-state of Emergency during the Golden Week period.

2. Basic measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases

Please cooperate in the basic measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as washing your hands frequently and thoroughly, disinfecting, wearing the mask correctly, ensuring proper ventilation, maintaining distance between people, and avoiding the 'Three Cs' (Closed spaces, Crowded places, Close-contact settings).

We request businesses to comply with the "Industry-specific Guidelines to Prevent Spread of Infections".

3. Measures with regards to various events

When holding dinners, please make thorough efforts to prevent spread of infection, such as using shops that comply with industry-specific guidelines, going with smaller groups of people, spending shorter time spent at the location, and taking out. With regards to holding events, please avoid the 'Three Cs' and make conscious effort to cooperate in the measures to prevent the spread of infections.