

A Request for All Residents of Oita Prefecture

July 7, 2022

Oita Prefecture Novel Coronavirus Infection Countermeasure Headquarters

1. Situation regarding infection rates

The 6th wave of infection that began at the beginning of this year has now led to rates that have reached unprecedented levels. Infection rates in the prefecture had been finally seeming to calm down, thanks to the cooperation of every resident. However, for the past few days, they have been on the increase, with the amount of new infections increasing to over 500 per day.

This is believed to be due to the new prevalence of subvariants such as BA. 5 and BA. 2.12.1, which are said to have a higher capability for transmission. Recently, there have been other prefectures whose per-day infection rates have surpassed all-time highs. In response to these trends, we intend to pay the upmost caution.

Today, the hospital bed utilization rate stands at 22.6% and we have managed to avoid overrunning hospitals. However, the prefecture intends to do its fullest to prepare for any sudden influxes of new patients and continue to maintain current systems of medical care provision as well as hasten the addition of more facilities for recuperation. With that in mind, we particularly ask for all residents' understanding and cooperation with the following points.

2. Thorough application of fundamental infection countermeasures

Fundamental infection countermeasures are important to stop the spread of COVID-19, even for Omicron subvariants. To that effect, we again ask for residents to be thorough in insuring apt ventilation, washing their hands, and wearing masks indoors. COVID-19 is an airborne disease. As such, insuring constant ventilation is especially effective against it. We ask that you open windows located on two different sides of the room you are in and use fans and other methods to allow for the proper ventilation of air. Carbon dioxide monitors that allow you to check on the status of ventilation in a room are also very effective.

3. Vaccine

Getting a vaccine can prevent the development of serious symptoms even with Omicron subvariants. The prefecture is currently rolling out the fourth round of inoculations. Persons who have had five months pass since their third inoculation and are aged 60 or older or have pre-existing conditions are asked to get the shot as soon as possible to reduce their risk of developing serious symptoms.

The Prefectural Vaccination Center can handle all stages of inoculation, from the first shot to the current fourth shot. They can also provide the Novavax vaccine to those with allergies or those who would experience side-effects with the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines

4. Conclusion

With the appearance of more infectious subvariants, there are concerns that infections of COVID-19 will once again begin escalating, but at this stage, the most important thing is to avoid overrunning hospitals and to protect general health care. To reiterate, we humbly ask for your cooperation in receiving the vaccine and maintaining fundamental infection countermeasures.