

Message from Yakushima

- National government cancellation of the novel coronavirus emergency declaration on May 25, 2020

On behalf of the people of Yakushima, I would like to send our deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of the novel coronavirus and to their bereaved family. I also would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to all those who were inconvenienced by the novel coronavirus emergency declaration.

Knowing that many tourist businesses would be affected, asking people to refrain from visiting or traveling to Yakushima during the period of the novel coronavirus emergency was a tough decision we had to make.

The main reason for making this decision was for the protection of human lives and their health. A secondary reason was our medical care facilities would not be able to handle an outbreak of novel coronavirus.

Thanks to the cooperation of the people and local businesses, Yakushima had no novel coronavirus outbreak.

Many shop owners and businesses were greatly affected by the loss of customers. Following the announcement of the national government complete cancellation of the emergency declaration, we would like to gradually resume the economic activities on Yakushima. But we would also like shop owners and businesses to continue with the countermeasures against the novel coronavirus.

Although the limit of traveling or visiting across prefectures will remain in effect, Yakushima Town Office has decided to open all municipal tourist spots/facilities on Yakushima from June 1st. We will still be implementing all countermeasures against novel coronavirus.

Yakushima Town Office will be setting up measures to support local businesses.

When all travel bans across prefectures are lifted, we will issue gift certificates as a part of a tourism campaign to revitalize tourism on Yakushima.

○ **To the potential visitors from Kagoshima**

In order to prevent the novel coronavirus infections, please cooperate with the following measures (**the Infectious Spreading Prevention Practice**).

< the Infectious Spreading Prevention Practice >

1. Visitors who have a fever, who feel ill or have novel coronavirus-like symptoms and who have traveled across the Prefectural border within 2 weeks are strongly requested to refrain from visiting.
2. Please cooperate with having your temperature checked at ports and/or airports.
3. Please make sure to wash your hands, gargle, and wear masks to prevent infection. (Bringing some sanitizing goods like hand Sanitizers are also recommended.)
4. Please avoid CLOSED-IN SPACES, CROWEDED PLACES, CLOSE-CONTACTS, keep physical distance from one another.
5. Please keep a record of your movements, as much as possible, in case you get infected.

We are looking forward to having the people of Kagoshima visiting Yakushima again. However, we would like you to follow **the Infectious Spreading Prevention Practice.**

◎ Open Tourist Spots/Facilities

1. Tourist spots & facilities

- Yakusugi Land · Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine · Yakusugi Museum
- Shitoko Gajumaru Banyan Park · Yakushima Comprehensive Nature Park
- Syakunageno-mori Park · Yakushima Seisyonen Ryokoson, campsite
- Yumugi Onsen · Honmura Onsen · Yudomari Onsen
- Hirauchi Kaichu Onsen
- Pon-tan kan, local produce processing and marketing center

2. Arakawa Mountain Bus Services

The Arakawa Mountain Bus services will be back in service from June 1st.

◎ To the people outside Kagoshima Prefecture

Once the national government and Kagoshima Prefectural government have lifted the banned of movement across prefectures we will determine whether to open Yakushima completely.

May 26, 2020

Koji Araki
Mayor of Yakushima Town