

○ Message from Yakushima

– Request to the people of Yakushima and potential visitors

(August 13, 2021)

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I would like to express my sincere respect to all the healthcare workers dealing with the coronavirus pandemic under these extremely tough situations.

The Japanese government declares fourth state of emergency for six prefectures including Tokyo over the novel coronavirus outbreak. Five other prefectures were also designated for semi-emergency status. The situation surrounding us is very critical.

On August 13th, Kagoshima Prefecture raised the COVID-19 alert level up to stage IV and issued its own Prefectural State of Emergency.

Three new cases of COVID-19 on Yakushima also have been confirmed on August 13 and the number of infected people in our neighboring island, Tanegashima, is rapidly increasing.

We have not completed the vaccination of all the people on Yakushima yet. Many people living here are worried about an outbreak of COVID-19 infections because of our limited regional medical facilities. Moreover, the Delta Variant of COVID-19 outbreak is rapidly spreading over the Kagoshima Prefecture, and medical facilities in mainland Kagoshima have been overwhelmed. So, it would be difficult to transfer COVID-19 cases on Yakushima to hospitals in the mainland of Kagoshima.

We are facing a national crisis over the coronavirus outbreak. In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, I would like for the people of Yakushima and all potential visitors to refrain from nonessential and non-urgent visits or travel during the period of the COVID-19 state of emergency.

We ask that you follow all the countermeasures against COVID-19 during your stay on Yakushima in order not to contract COVID-19 and infect other people. We are requesting people to adhere to the “New Norm of Lifestyle”.

We greatly appreciate everyone’s understanding and cooperation in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

August 13, 2021

Koji Araki
Mayor of Yakushima Town