

○Message from Yakushima

– Request to the people of Yakushima and potential visors

(September 16, 2021)

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

The Japanese government has declared a state of emergency for 19 prefectures over the novel coronavirus outbreak. Eight other prefectures have been designated for semi-emergency status.

Kagoshima Prefecture's COVID-19 Alert Level is at stage 4 and Prefectural Office issued the Explosive Infection Expansion Warning. They strongly request people to cancel or postpone nonessential and non-urgent visits or travel and avoid CLOSE-CONTACT.

Due to COVID-19 cluster infections on Yakushima in August, Yakushima has raised the **Yakushima Town's COVID-19 Alert Level from stage 3 to stage 4**. If the Delta Variant of COVID-19 outbreak were to occur on Yakushima, our regional medical care facilities would be overwhelmed making medical care difficult.

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.

It is important for all to keep in mind the COVID-19 situation. Please adhere to the "New Norm of Lifestyle".

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**. Please make sure to **wear masks, use hand sanitizers, and keep your distances from one another**.

September 16, 2021

Koji Araki
Mayor of Yakushima Town