

Message from Yakushima

– Request to the people of Yakushima and potential visitors

(January 27, 2022)

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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.

Omicron variant of COVID-19 transmission has been increasing throughout Japan. The number of infected people in Kagoshima Prefecture has been rapidly increasing since January due to the increase in human movement flows during the New Year holidays. Kagoshima Prefecture has issued a Warning for the High Increase in COVID-19 Infections in Kagoshima. Since the rate of infections has not changed, Kagoshima Prefecture has applied to the national government for semi-state of emergency. It will start from today. All of Kagoshima will be under this emergency state which will be valid for 25 days from January 27 to February 20. In total 34 prefectures have been designated semi-state of emergency.

Omicron infections are rapidly spreading all over Japan and has become the dominant COVID-19 variant. Considering the current situation, Omicron infections are possible anywhere anytime.

If Omicron outbreak were to occur on Yakushima, our regional medical care facilities would be overwhelmed making medical care difficult.

I would like for the people of Yakushima to continue with the countermeasures against COVID-19. Please make sure to wash your hands, gargle, wear masks, and use hand sanitizers. Avoid CLOSED-IN SPACES, CROWDED PLACES, CLOSE-CONTACTS. Keep the number of people at one table to four or less. In addition, please refrain from nonessential and non-urgent travel outside Yakushima.

In order to prevent the spread of infections, I would like for all potential visitors to refrain from nonessential and non-urgent visit during the period of semi-emergency status. Please make your decision carefully. We ask that you follow all the countermeasures against COVID-19 during your stay on Yakushima in order not to contract COVID-19 and/or infect other people.

Please always be mindful of your actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections. The live of you and your love ones may be at risk of being infected by COVID-19. Please continue with following all countermeasures against COVID-19.

January 27, 2022

Koji Araki
Mayor of Yakushima Town