

Rapid increase in COVID-19 cases

COVID-19 transmission has been rapidly increasing throughout Japan since July. On July 12, Kagoshima Prefecture announced a record daily total of COVID-19 cases, exceeding 1,000 for the first time with 1,712 confirmed cases. On July 20, 2,718 confirmed cases were reported and the number of infections per day continued to exceed 2,000 in Kagoshima.

Considering the current situation of COVID-19 infections, Kagoshima Prefecture issued a "High Increase in COVID-19 Infection Warning" on July 15th, asking people to strictly follow the countermeasures for COVID-19.

On Yakushima, the number of infected people has also continued to increase since July 16. So far, the total number of cases reported in July has reached over 110. Yakushima is experiencing an unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases with 3 clusters reported.

With Yakushima's elderly population, it is not hard to imagine that COVID-19 infections will possibly be life-threatening to them. If this situation continues, our regional medical care facilities would be overwhelmed making medical care difficult.

Due to COVID-19 cluster infections on Yakushima, Yakushima has raised the Town's COVID-19 Alert Level to stage 4.

I strongly appeal to the people of Yakushima to comply with all countermeasures against COVID-19. If you don't feel well, please avoid going out. If you have a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, call your family doctor. If you have no symptoms of COVID-19 but feel anxious, get tested. There are two free PCR testing places on the island.

Once you receive your COVID-19 booster vaccination notification, please make your reservation, and have your booster shot as soon as possible.

We also request that local businesses on Yakushima adhere to each industry guidelines.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we would like for any potential visitors to be aware of your health, for peace of mind have a PCR test before traveling.

I would like to thank everyone for understanding and cooperating with the prevention of the spread of COVID-19.

July 26, 2022

Koji Araki
Mayor of Yakushima Town