

Request for All Prefectural Residents Regarding the “Miyagi Strengthened BA.5 Countermeasures Declaration”

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Miyagi Prefecture has been on the rise since July, reaching a record high of 3,711 on July 29, and the number of people recovering has continued to reach record highs day after day, indicating that we are entering a phase in the spread of infection that we have never experienced before, and placing a great burden on our medical facilities.

Amid concerns we will soon run out of hospital beds if this state of infections continues, the national government’s Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters has decided to "support prefectures that respond to the spread of the infection while maintaining socioeconomic activities". This means that where the burden on medical facilities has increased beyond a certain level, prefectures can make a “Strengthened BA.5 Countermeasures Declaration” and call for cooperation from residents and businesses, based on their judgment of the actual conditions of the region, and the national government will support such efforts.

Factoring in the current strain on medical facilities, and concerns of an even greater spread of infection likely to accompany the influx of crowds over the summer and Obon holidays, I have decided to issue the “Miyagi Strengthened BA.5 Countermeasures Declaration.” I would like to again call on prefectural residents to follow basic infection countermeasures, and to ask businesses to take appropriate measures to lower the risk of infection.

We ask all residents and businesses in the prefecture to understand that this declaration is intended to protect people’s lives while aiming to both maintain socioeconomic activities and avoid straining our medical facilities, and seek your cooperation in taking further measures to reduce the risk of infection.

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Yoshihiro Murai

Chairperson

Miyagi Prefecture Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters