

Regarding Countermeasures and Special Urgent Requests for the 6th Wave of COVID-19 Infections Due to the Omicron Variant

In order to maintain social and economic activities as much as possible while curbing the rapid increase in infections caused by a variant with significantly different characteristics, urgent special requests in addition to current measures will be made to citizens, businesses, and schools in the prefecture. (From February 1st until February 28th)

Characteristics and Trends of the 6th Wave

【Characteristics of the Omicron Variant】

- ✓ Unprecedented levels of **transmissibility**
- ✓ **Lower rate of severe symptoms** than previous variants
※(Taking into consideration the effectiveness of vaccines)

【Changes in Settings where Infections Happen】

- ✓ Restaurants and bars → **Settings closer to daily life**
(※ Schools and daycares, welfare facilities, workplaces, households)

【Age Groups】

- ✓ Increases in infections among people **under 40**
(In particular, there are concerns about the spread of infection among **preschoolers, young children, and students**)

【All Regions in Miyagi Prefecture】 Special Urgent Requests (2/1-2/28)

▶ In addition to following basic infection countermeasures, we are also requesting cooperation with the following:

- ① Accelerate the **third shot of the COVID-19 vaccine**
- ② Strengthen infection countermeasures at **schools and daycares**
- ③ Maintain infection countermeasures and programs **at elderly and disabled persons care centers**
- ④ Further promotion of **telework and staggered work hours, etc.**

By not entering **Quasi-State of Emergency Measures** and requesting restaurants and bars to shorten their business hours, etc., which has a significant negative economic impact, **we aim to balance the prevention of the spread of infection**

with maintaining social and economic activities

Content of Prevention Requests for **Prefectural Residents** 【All Regions】

Starting February 1st

【Per Article 24, Paragraph 9】

○ **When holding events that involve eating** (excluding delivery and takeout), use restaurants that have taken appropriate infection prevention measures, such as Ninshoten^{※1}, and **ensure that events are held over a short period of time** and that masks are worn during conversation **【New】**

※1 : Ninshoten are restaurants recognized under the Miyagi Restaurant COVID-19 Countermeasures Certification System

○ **Refrain from activities that carry a high risk of infection, and follow infection prevention measures (People who are not yet vaccinated should be especially careful)**

○ When dining out at a restaurant, etc., **avoid eating with more than five people in the same group at the same table** 【Ongoing】

○ Actively comply with infection prevention measures implemented by restaurants 【Ongoing】

○ Refrain from going out to crowded places or places where the risk of infection is high

In particular, refrain from any unnecessary travel to areas where infection is spreading, such as **areas under state of emergency measures and areas under quasi-state of emergency measures** 【Ongoing】

○ Asymptomatic prefectural residents who are worried that they have been infected should get tested ^{※2}

(※ In consideration of the rapid spread of infection, including breakthrough infections, there shall be no relaxation of restrictions regarding the application of the vaccine-test package system.)

※2 : **The request that asymptomatic prefectural residents who are concerned about being infected be tested** based on Article 24, Paragraph 9 **has been extended until the end of February 2022**. In line with this, the free general testing program (free tests) will be extended to that same date.