

# Thoroughly Prevent the Rapid Spread of COVID-19 (Excerpt from the Governor's Message)

9<sup>th</sup> November

Since the beginning of November, although few variant cases have been identified, the number of new COVID-19 infections has increased faster than the previous national average. As a result, the peak of the 6<sup>th</sup> wave has already been surpassed.

The following causes for concern are expected to be amplified further, and if the current momentum continues, it could lead to infection spreading on an unprecedented scale.

1. The possibility of a winter season in which infection continues to spread, as it did during the previous two winters.
2. As well as the easing of border controls, there will be even more opportunities for people to get together as the end of the year and the New Year approach.
3. There are also concerns about simultaneous epidemics of COVID-19 and seasonal flu.

Once again, all of us in Gifu must continue to make an effort to thoroughly implement the following measures aimed at both infection control and socio-economic recovery.

We ask all prefectural residents to cooperate with the following measures:

- Consider getting vaccinated
- Try to avoid eating and drinking in large groups and for long periods of time, and make sure to wear masks when dining together (remain silent when eating and drinking, and wear masks while conversing).
- Follow basic preventative measures such as wearing a well-fitting masks that covers the nose and mouth, washing hands thoroughly with soap, avoiding crowded places, ventilating indoor spaces, and taking care of one's health.
- Take a free COVID-19 test before travelling or other leisure activities, or when meeting elderly people or those with an underlying health condition.
- When feeling unwell, take time off work, school, etc. or allow others to take time off.
- Prepare test kits, fever medicine, a thermometer, and daily necessities (e.g. food).