

Hokkaido · Sapporo Joint Emergency Declaration

In order to slow the spread of what appears to be a second wave of new COVID-19 infections, Hokkaido and Sapporo will take the following emergency countermeasures.

1. Reduce chances of contact (social distancing) within Sapporo City

In light of the current spread of COVID-19, from now until May 6th we ask you to refrain from leaving your home for non-urgent and non-essential reasons, as it can increase the risk of infection for Sapporo citizens.

We also ask that those living in other regions refrain from visiting Sapporo, an area at high risk for infection, for non-urgent and non-essential reasons.

2. Refrain from going out to restaurants, etc. with customer service

Based on the Government of Japan's "Basic Policies for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control," we strongly ask that you refrain from going out to restaurants, etc. or other places with customer service in the entertainment or shopping areas of Hokkaido until May 6th. In addition, we also ask that those restaurants, etc. which temporarily close in light of this declaration will be compensated for under the responsibility of the Government of Japan.

3. Refrain from traveling between regions under state of emergency

Visitors to Hokkaido, we ask that you inform yourself as best as you can regarding the measures Hokkaido has implemented thus far against COVID-19, be watchful of your health for the next two weeks, and avoid going out for any non-urgent or non-essential reasons. Residents of Hokkaido, we ask that you please avoid traveling to other prefectures currently under a state of emergency as much as possible.

4. Closure of schools and public facilities

Measures will be taken to close all elementary, junior, and senior high schools under the Sapporo City administrative jurisdiction from April 14th to May 6th. Similar measures will also be taken for schools under Hokkaido BOE jurisdiction which are either located within Sapporo City limits, or have a large percentage of students who commute from Sapporo City.

In addition, certain public facilities under Sapporo and Hokkaido jurisdiction which receive unspecified numbers of visitors will be closed for the period of April 14th to May 6th.

5. Strengthen and reinforce the medical care provision system

In preparation for a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 patients, Hokkaido and Sapporo will make efforts to secure enough beds to treat patients with moderate to severe symptoms and provide them with the proper medical care. If it becomes difficult to provide inpatient hospital care for patients with severe symptoms, Hokkaido and Sapporo will endeavor to strengthen and reinforce the medical care provision system, such as making swift preparations to enable the treatment of patients with mild symptoms in accommodation facilities etc.

6. Strengthen support for Hokkaido economy

Starting with the tourism industry, effects of COVID-19 have had a shattering impact on the Hokkaido economy. Hokkaido and Sapporo will continue to take measures to provide the necessary measures for the continuation of business and V-shaped (rapid) recovery for those businesses who have already suffered from effects of COVID-19, as well as appeal to the national government for aid.