

Special Measures during the Autumn Holiday Season to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

September 29th, 2021

Autumn Season Special Measures

As the vaccination rates rise and Japan considers moving towards a return to normal life, there is a possibility that the measures taken so far will change significantly. We are at an important turning point; however, national experts speculate that the increased movement of people due to autumn travel season may lead to another wave of infection, and this must be taken into consideration.

Therefore, in order to curb the increased movement of people after state of emergency is lifted, special measures will be taken to ensure a gradual relaxation of current restrictions and prevent a sudden increase in infections.

If a Vaccine-Test Package system, a system which certifies people vaccinated or testing negative for the coronavirus as having low risks of infecting others, is implemented in the future, any related relaxation of movement regulations will be applied separately.

Target Areas All of Hokkaido

Period Friday, October 1st ~ Sunday, October 31st, 2021

Sapporo, which is at the center of Hokkaido and has high traffic with other areas, is designated as “focus area,” and will be under more thorough infection prevention measures.

Focus Area Sapporo

Period Friday, October 1st ~ Thursday, October 14th, 2021

*In principle, the additional requests and calls for cooperation in the Focus Area will end when the period ends (and will shift to the same measures as above Target Area.) However, if the infection rates increase (such as the number of newly infected approaching 15 / 100,000 of the population), then strong measures will be taken, including extending the priority measures.

All of Hokkaido
(Excluding Sapporo)

(For Everyday Life)

- ◆ Avoid the “Three C’s”*, and the “5 High-Risk Situations for Infection”** and take other measures, such as social distancing, wearing masks, hand washing, and disinfecting. (Special Measures Law, 24(9))

*Three C’s: Closed spaces with poor ventilation, Crowded places with many people nearby, Close-contact setting such as close-range conversations **Five High Risk Situations; Social gatherings involving alcohol, Eating and drinking in a large group over a long period of time, Talking without masks, Communal living in small spaces, Change of scenery

(When Going Out)

- ◆ Avoid crowded spaces and times, and only gather or meet in small groups. (24(9))
- ◆ Please be extra careful to avoid the risk of infection if you are in contact with an individual who is at high risk* of developing severe symptoms. (24(9))
*This includes the elderly, those who have certain pre-existing medical conditions, or some people in the late stages of pregnancy
- ◆ When unable to avoid the risk of infection, refrain from any unnecessary, non-urgent travel to Sapporo. (24(9))
*Specifically, please stay home except for essential outings, such as visiting a hospital or clinic, exercising / walking outdoors in order to maintain or improve health, going out to buy daily necessities such as food or medicine, or commuting to work. Additionally, even during essential or urgent outings, please avoid times and places where congestion can be expected.
- ◆ Avoid non-urgent, unnecessary travel between prefectures where there are high infection numbers. (24(9))
- ◆ When travelling to other prefectures, along with implementing basic infection countermeasures, avoid eating in groups of higher than 5 people. Additionally, if you haven’t received a vaccination, make sure to check your body temperature as well as taking a PCR test if necessary, and refraining from travel if you have any symptoms, such as a fever, etc. (24(9))

【Requests for Visitors to and Residents of Hokkaido ②】

Request
Contents

(When Eating Out)

- ◆ Avoid visiting Eating Establishments which have not properly implemented Infection countermeasures. (24(9))
- ◆ Co-operate with Infection countermeasures implemented by eating establishments (24(9))
- ◆ Please practice 'Mokushoku' (Silent Eating)
*Groups of up to 4 people, only for a short period of time, no heavy drinking, shouting, or loud voices, and keep masks on while talking.
(24(9))

【Call for Co-operation for those considering visiting Hokkaido】

Request
Contents

- ◆ When visiting Hokkaido, along with implementing basic infection countermeasures, avoid eating with groups of more than 5 people, and take a PCR test and regular body temperature readings, especially if you have not yet completed your vaccinations. Please refrain from travelling if you have symptoms such as a fever. (Call for Co-operation)

【Requests and Calls for Co-operation regarding events】

Maximum
attendees
/capacity
(※1)

○Max. Attendees (Whichever is larger)

5000 people, or 50% capacity (if 50% is under 10,000)

24(9)

○Capacity

[Within 100%] Where loud voices or cheers are not expected (※2)

[Within 50%] Where loud voices or cheers can be expected (※3)

※Organizers of events in which infection countermeasures cannot be effectively enforced should consider hosting the event online, or delaying or cancelling it until further notice.

※1 The maximum capacity/personage is limited to whichever is smaller (but must fulfill both conditions)

※2 Events where attendees are not allowed to eat or make sounds, such as classical concert, theatrical performance, dance, traditional performance, performing arts, ceremonial performance, exhibition. (In case the events allow eating or drinking, if appropriate countermeasures are applied, the event will be allowed as long as making sounds during the events is not allowed)

※3 Rock or Pop concert, sports event, horse racing, performance at live house or nightclub, etc. (one seat distance between each group, maximum of 5 people per group, in some case the capacity could exceed 50%)

Request
Contents

◆Observe industry-specific guidelines when holding events (24(9))

◆Prevent eating, drinking, and the three C's before and after events. (24(9))

◆Make use of infection tracing measures such as the COCOA contact tracing application, name lists, etc. (24(9))

◆Consult with the local government before hosting events that involve a national tour or have over 1000 attendees. (24(9))

◆Carefully plan and hold events that involve a national tour. (Call for co-operation)

◆Observe limits on capacity and maximum attendees for event facilities, regardless of whether an event is being held or not. (Call for co-operation)

Request Contents

- ◆ Implement measures such as Remote work, Staggered commutes, Commuting via bicycle, etc. in order to reduce contact between employees. (call for co-operation)
- ◆ Follow industry-specific guidelines (24(9))
- ◆ Inspect areas with a high risk on infection, such as break rooms, cafeterias, etc. to make sure countermeasures are in place. (24(9))
- ◆ For eating establishments, as well as strictly enforcing items on the infection countermeasure checklist, ensure that each group only has 4 members per single table, as a rule. (Call for Co-operation)
- ◆ Do not provide Karaoke facilities if the primary purpose of your business is to provide food and drinks. (24(9))
- ◆ Karaoke stores should take steps to keep distance between anyone singing, ensure proper ventilation, and implement infection countermeasures. (24(9))

Request Contents

- ◆ Thorough implementation of infection countermeasures at schools and school dormitories, based on the hygiene management manual. (Revised April 28, 2021) (Article 24(9) Special Measures Law)
- ◆ Keep track of the infection status of all students and family members, etc. living in the same household, and take measures such as prompt and wide ranging closures (all school, grade, class depending on spread of infection) as necessary. In case of closure, ensure that students still engage in online learning, etc. and that those students who are unable to stay home have a place to go. (Article 24(9) Special Measures Law)
- ◆ Carefully consider the running of school events and field trips, with consideration to the destination and type of event being run. (24(9))
- ◆ Strictly enforce infection countermeasures during the running of club activities, implementing multiple daily health checks, along with guidance that it consistent and unified school-wide. Participation in events must be decided by the principal, and events at schools must strictly adhere to infection measures. (24(9))
- ◆ Vocational schools, Technical Colleges, and Universities must implement appropriate infection countermeasures while also ensuring that extra-curricular organizations are appropriately aware and warned of infection measures relevant to them. (24(9))

【Public Facilities】

Public Facilities

- ◆ Facilities will follow industry-specific guidelines, and make the decision to close or remain open as necessary, based on the infection situation.

Focus Area

(During daily life)

- ◆ Avoid the “Three C’s”*, and the “five high infection-risk scenarios”** and implement other measures, such as, social distancing, wearing masks and hand washing and disinfecting. (24(9))

*Three C’s: Closed spaces with poor ventilation, Crowded places with many people nearby, Close-contact setting such as close-range conversations **Five High Risk Scenes; Social gatherings involving alcohol, Eating and drinking in a large group over a long period of time, Talking without masks, Communal living in small spaces, Change of scenery

(When going out)

- ◆ If you cannot avoid infection risk, refrain from unnecessary, non-urgent outings. Especially try to avoid outings after 9PM. (24(9))

*Specifically, please stay home except for essential outings, such as visiting a hospital or clinic, exercising / walking outdoors in order to maintain or improve health, going out to buy daily necessities such as food or medicine, or commuting to work. Additionally, even during essential or urgent outings, please avoid times and places where congestion can be expected.

- ◆ Please be extra careful to avoid the risk of infection if you are in contact with an individual who is at high risk* of developing severe symptoms. (24(9))

*This includes the elderly, those who have certain pre-existing medical conditions, or some people in the late stages of pregnancy

- ◆ Avoid unnecessary, non-urgent travel to areas where infection numbers are high. (24(9))

- ◆ When travelling to other prefectures, along with implementing basic infection countermeasures, avoid eating in groups of higher than 5 people. Additionally, if you haven’t received a vaccination, make sure to check your body temperature as well as taking a PCR test if necessary, and refraining from travel if you have any symptoms, such as a fever, etc. (24(9))

Request Contents

(When eating out)

- ◆ Do not dine at restaurants that do not follow requests for the shortening of business hours or that have not properly implemented infection countermeasures. (24(9))
- ◆ Follow infection countermeasures as implemented and requested of you by restaurants. (24(9))
- ◆ Please practice 'Mokushoku' (Silent Eating) (24(9))
*Groups of up to 4 people, only for a short period of time, no heavy drinking, shouting, or loud voices, and keep masks on while talking.

【Call for Co-operation for those considering visiting Sapporo】

Request Contents

- ◆ When travelling to other prefectures, along with implementing basic infection countermeasures, avoid eating in groups of higher than 5 people. Additionally, if you haven't received a vaccination, make sure to check your body temperature as well as taking a PCR test if necessary, and refraining from travel if you have any symptoms, such as a fever, etc. (24(9))

Target Businesses

[Dining] Restaurants (Including Izakaya, Bars, etc.), Cafes, etc. (Not including takeout)
 [Entertainment] Carabets clubs, Karaoke shops, and other establishments that have permission to serve food and drink under the food sanitation act.

Request Contents

- ◆ Business hours should be between 5AM and 8PM, with the provision of Alcohol ending at 7:30 PM, and the maximum number of people in the same group seated at one table being 4, as a rule.

However, establishments that have been verified under the Hokkaido Eating Establishment Infection Countermeasure verification system can operate until 9PM, and serve alcohol until 8PM. (24(9))

- ◆ Implement the items on the infection countermeasure checklist, along with following industry-specific guidelines (24(9))
- ◆ Establishments must not provide Karaoke facilities if their primary purpose is to serve food and drinks. (24(9))
- ◆ Karaoke stores should take steps to keep distance between anyone singing, ensure proper ventilation, and implement infection countermeasures. (24(9))

※Grants are available for businesses that comply with these requests.

【Grants for Eating Establishments】 When cooperating for the full 14 day period from October 1st - October 14th
 SME : 350,000 to 1,050,000 yen, Large Companies: Max. 2,800,000 yen per shop

【Requests and Calls for Co-operation regarding Events】

Maximum attendees /Capacity (※1)

○ Maximum number of Attendees (whichever is larger)
5000 people, or 50% capacity (up to 10,000 people or less)

Article 24(9)

○ Max. Capacity:

[Within 100%] It can be assumed in advanced that there will be **no** loud cheers, singing, etc. (※2)

[Within 50%] It can be assumed in advanced that there **will** be loud cheers, singing, etc (※3)

If infection countermeasures cannot be properly implemented, the organizers should look into running the event online, or postponing or cancelling it until further notice.

※1 The maximum number of people and the accommodation rate, whichever is smaller (must meet both conditions).

※2 Classical music concerts, Plays, Dance Performances, Traditional Performing arts, Ceremonies, Exhibitions, Events involving Food/Drink without speaking (Events can be classified as not expecting cheers or loud voices as long as appropriate infection countermeasures are in place, and there is no speaking during the event)

※3 Rock/Pop Concerts, Sporting Events, Public Competitions, Performances, Events at Live Houses/Nightclubs, etc. (One seat must be left vacant between groups, but attendees in the same group (up to 5 people) may sit next to each other. There may be some events which can exceed the 50% maximum capacity, as long as they follow the previous guidelines.

Request Contents

- ◆ Events should end at 9PM (unless they are being held without a crowd/spectators) (Call for Co-operation)
- ◆ Consumption of Alcohol should end at 8PM, including that of alcohol brought in by attendees. (Call for co-operation)
- ◆ Industry-specific guidelines should be followed for the running of events (24(9))
- ◆ Organizers should avoid the 3 C's and Eating/Drinking before/after events (24(9))
- ◆ Infection tracing measures such as the contact tracing application COCOA and name lists should be implemented. (24(9))
- ◆ Events that involve national tours or attendees over 1000 people should consult with the Hokkaido Government before holding the event.(24(9))
- ◆ Events that involve national tours should be carefully considered according to the infection situation (Call for co-operation)
- ◆ Attendee and capacity limits should be followed, even when events are not being held. (Call for co-operation)

Request Contents

- ◆ To reduce the number of workers at one time in the workplace, implement measures such as Remote Work (Telework), Encouragement of the taking of leave, as well as staggered working hours, encouragement of commuting via bicycle, etc. (Call for Cooperation)
- ◆ Follow industry specific guidelines. (24(9))
- ◆ Confirm that infection countermeasures are properly implemented in high-risk areas such as break areas, eating spaces, etc. (24(9))
- ◆ When providing Karaoke facilities, ensure the separation of people singing, as well as sufficient ventilation and thorough implementation of infection countermeasures. (24(9))
- ◆ Implement thorough infection countermeasures such as limits on customer numbers, etc. in large scale shopping facilities (malls, etc.). (Call for Cooperation)
- ◆ Major tourist facilities with light-up installations and businesses with light-up advertisements in entertainment districts, etc., please make efforts to turn them off after 9pm. (Call for Cooperation)

Request Contents

- ◆ Thorough implementation of infection countermeasures at schools and school dormitories, based on the hygiene management manual. (Revised April 28, 2021) (24(9))
- ◆ Keep track of the infection status of all students and family members, etc. living in the same household, and take measures such as prompt and wide ranging closures (all school, grade, class depending on spread of infection) as necessary. In case of closure, ensure that students still engage in online learning, etc. and that those students who are unable to stay home have a place to go. (24(9))
- ◆ Carefully consider the running of school events and field trips, with consideration to the destination and type of event being run. (24(9))
- ◆ Strictly enforce infection countermeasures during the running of club activities, implementing multiple daily health checks, along with guidance that it consistent and unified school-wide. Participation in events must be decided by the principal, and events at schools must strictly adhere to infection measures. (24(9))
- ◆ Vocational schools, Technical Colleges, and Universities must implement appropriate infection countermeasures while also ensuring that extra-curricular organizations are appropriately aware and warned of infection measures relevant to them. (24(9))

【Public Facilities】

Public Facilities

- ◆ Facilities will adhere to industry-specific guidelines, opening or closing based on the infection situation.