

Request Concerning Semi-State of Emergency COVID-19 Measures in Saitama Prefecture

February 10, 2022

Based on Article 31, Paragraph 4, Item 3 of the Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response (henceforth “Act on Special Measures”), the New Coronavirus Countermeasures Headquarters has officially decided that Saitama Prefecture should extend the period of effect of the semi-state of emergency COVID-19 measures, and additionally, decided that the basic policies for countermeasures against COVID-19 should be updated.

Based on the decision of the New Coronavirus Countermeasures Headquarters, the period of effect of the semi-state of emergency COVID-19 measures in Saitama Prefecture will be extended, and we humbly make the following requests.

1 Regions Affected by the Semi-State of Emergency

(1) Regions where the semi-state of emergency will be in effect (henceforth “affected regions”)

- All regions within Saitama Prefecture (Designated on January 19, 2022 (Wednesday))

(2) Regions Exempt from the Semi-State of Emergency

- None

2 Period of Effect

January 21, 2022 (Friday) to March 6, 2022 (Sunday)

However, the following requests 3-7 will go into effect as of February 14 (Monday).

3 Outline of the Semi-State of Emergency Measures

(1) Concerning the Residents of Saitama Prefecture

Measures to be Implemented
Request based on the Act on Special Measures, Article 31, Paragraph 6, Item 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cease use of dining and drinking facilities outside of reduced business hours.
Request based on the Act on Special Measures, Article 24, Paragraph 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Travel outside the prefectural borders<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strictly avoid all nonessential and non-urgent travel outside the prefecture. (Excluding travel to medical institutions, for the purchase of essential food, medical, and living products, travel to work for essential employees, travel to educational facilities for students, and outdoor activities such as exercise which are essential for the maintenance of daily living and health.) ※Persons travelling outside of the prefecture will not be applicable for the Vaccine and PCR Testing Package System○ Outings and travel<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ When leaving the home or travelling, in addition to basic infection-prevention measures (social distancing, wearing a mask, hand washing and sanitation, etc.), along with avoiding the “Three Cs,” do not stop at any place besides your destination.▪ Avoid crowded places and periods of high congestion.▪ Refrain from activities that involve high risk of infection such as consuming alcohol while gathered in parks or on the street.○ Use of dining and drinking facilities<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Refrain from using facilities that are not strictly observing reduced business hours or implementing infection-prevention measures. (The use of Sai-no-Kuni “New Lifestyle” Safety Declaration Plus-certified venues (henceforth “certified venues”), which implement measures to protect the lives of their patrons, is highly recommended.

- Excluding venues which are certified under the Vaccine and PCR Testing Package System, groups are limited to no more than 4 members.
- **If you think you may be infected**
 - Regardless of whether you are exhibiting infection symptoms or if you have been vaccinated, you must get tested.

Other requests

○ **Infection-Prevention Measures Taking into Account the Characteristics of the Omicron Variant**

Strictly adhere to the following infection-prevention measures to lower the risk of infection

- In principle, eat and drink without speaking with as few other people as possible
- Always wear a mask when speaking with others
- Avoid going to places that pose a high risk of infection
- Even within your own home, regularly ventilate the rooms and frequently wash your hands
- Strictly adhere to infection-prevention measures for children
- Those who are elderly or have underlying health conditions, meet with the people you regularly see in small groups

○ **Infection-Prevention Measures**

- Refrain from gatherings such as parties at home with anyone other than the people whom you live with.
- If you must go shopping, do so alone whenever possible.

(2) Concerning Businesses (including facility managerial staff)

Measures to be Implemented

Request based on the Act on Special Measures, Article 24, Paragraph 9

- The use of resources such as the Sai-no-Kuni “New Lifestyle” Safety Declaration and the industry-specific guidelines, which were designed to assist businesses and facilities with specific independent measures to prevent the spread of infection, must be strictly adhered to.

Other requests

○ **Infection-Prevention Measures Considering the Characteristics of the Coronavirus Omicron Variant**

- For work places continuing business, proceed with plans to reduce the number of people in the work place through systems such as working at home (telework), etc.

○ **Infection-Prevention Measures**

- Facilities where cluster infections have previously occurred, or where avoiding the “Three Cs” is difficult, must fully implement infection-prevention measures.

(A) Concerning Dining and Drinking Venues

Measures to be Implemented

Request based on the Act on Special Measures, Article 31, Paragraph 6, Item 1

○ **Reduced business hours, etc.**

【Period】 From 12:00 a.m. on **Monday, February 14, 2022** until
12:00 p.m. on **Sunday, March 6, 2022**

【Affected Businesses】

Restaurants (Article 14): (Including Izakaya) Excluding home-delivery and take-out services

Recreational facilities, etc. (Article 11): Facilities with permission to serve food and beverages as well as karaoke facilities, etc., whose main business is not the service of food and beverages.

Wedding facilities (Article 5): Wedding facilities with permission to serve food and beverages, etc.

※The items in parenthesis correspond to Paragraph 11, Item 1 of the Special Measures Enforcement Order (henceforth “Order”).

	Certified Establishments			Non-Certified Establishments
	Establishments Registered under the Vaccine and PCR Testing Package System		Unregistered Establishments	
	Applicable Establishments	Non-Applicable Establishments		
	Confirmation of Vaccination (2 nd or 3 rd vaccine) or Negative Tests Results of all Group Members			
	All Members Confirmed			
Business Hours	5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.		5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	
Alcohol Service	11:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.	No service (No provision of alcohol)		
Customer Limit	None	Each group and each table must not contain more than 4 members (However, at gatherings such as weddings, etc. groups may be larger provided that each table does not contain more than 4 members.)		

※ Establishments registered for the Vaccine and PCR Testing Package System may choose either the Applicable or Non-Applicable option.

- Strict Observance of the Conditions Specified in the Act on Special Measures, Article 5, Paragraph 5
 - Encouragement of testing for employees
 - Guidance and organization of visitors to prevent close contact
 - Prohibit entry for visitors exhibiting symptoms such as fever, etc.
 - Installation of equipment for hand sanitization

- Sanitization of the workplace
- Enforce mask-wearing for all visitors
- Prohibit entry for visitors who refuse to wear a mask without a valid reason (and removal of visitors who have entered without wearing a mask)
- Ensure proper ventilation
- Take measures to prevent infection caused by saliva droplets during conversations (such as installation of plastic barriers and prohibiting the use of adjacent seating)