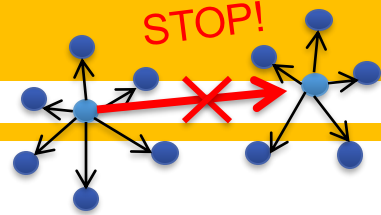# Preventing COVID-19 outbreaks

STOP!

Preventing the spread of infection

In Japan, multiple cases have been reported sporadically on a small scale. At this stage, the spread of infection has been prevented by tracing the route of transmission, especially for close contacts.

At the time, we need to minimize the spread of infection within the country by **preventing small groups of patients (patient clusters) from creating more groups**.

> * The term "small-scale patient cluster" refers to a group made up of a few to several dozen patients with transmission routes that could be traced.

Characteristics of the route of transmission

◆ So far, 80% of infected patients in Japan have not infected others.
◆ However, cases have been reported where a single infected person has infected multiple other people in **sport gyms, houseboats, restaurants that offer buffet-style meals, mahjong rooms, guest houses at ski resorts, and closed temporary tents.**

This suggests that **poor ventilation, spaces crowded with people, and places where large numbers of strangers may come into contact with each other** are particularly common contributory factors in outbreaks.

Request to the public

◇ **Avoid group gatherings in poorly ventilated spaces crowded with people.**

◇ Regardless of the size of an event, the organizers should consider whether there is an urgent need to hold it given the high infection risk posed by spaces with poor ventilation and environments where people communicate at close range. If you do decide to hold the event, try to find creative ways of doing so, such as **avoiding spaces with poor ventilation where possible**.

These findings are considered best practice at present, but they may be subject to change depending on further epidemiological information and studies.

The MHLW is working with municipalities that have experienced patient clusters and has established a Cluster Response Team comprised of experts on infectious diseases in Japan. They are also working to provide support in a variety of areas, including the early detection of patient clusters, the dispatching of expert teams, and the collection and analysis of data and examination of countermeasures.

厚生労働省
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

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