

(Provisional translation)

**Basic Policies for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control
by the Government of Japan
(Summary)**

March 28, 2020 (Revised on April 16, 2020)

On April 7, 2020, the Head of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters declared a state of emergency under Article 32, paragraph 1 of the Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response. The period during which emergency measures should be taken under the declaration is 29 days from April 7 to May 6, 2020. Areas where emergency measures should be taken are Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Osaka, Hyogo and Fukuoka Prefectures and on April 16th, targeted areas are expanded to all 47 prefectures (the period during which emergency measures should be taken for these areas is from April 16th to May 6th). If the emergency measures are deemed no longer necessary, the state of emergency will be released immediately even within the period.

Even under the state of emergency, the Government of Japan will work to minimize the impact on social and economic functions, and will not take compulsory measures such as "lockdown" (city blockade) that is being implemented in other countries.

This Basic Policies present unified guidance on measures to be taken by the government, local governments, and the people together to accurately grasp the situation and further advance counter-measures against the novel coronavirus infectious disease.

1. Facts on current situation of the Novel Coronavirus infectious disease

In Japan, 61% of infected people are those with unknown routes of transmission (situation up to April 13, known as of April 15). This means that the risk of infection in daily life has started to increase in addition to the infection in specific places where clusters were identified. Medical provision system is strained in some areas and strengthening of the system is an urgent issue.

From mid to late March of this year, there was an increase in the number of individuals who appear to have been infected overseas and then entered Japan.

In addition to the seven prefectures designated for the state of emergency on April 7th (Tokyo, Osaka, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Hyogo and Fukuoka), the cumulative numbers of infected people in Hokkaido, Ibaraki, Ishikawa, Gifu, Aichi, and Kyoto have exceeded 100 by April 14. Therefore, it is necessary to place particular emphasis on Tokyo, Osaka, Hokkaido, Ibaraki, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Ishikawa, Gifu, Aichi, Kyoto, Hyogo, and Fukuoka prefectures in taking measures to prevent the spread of infection

(These 13 prefectures are collectively called “Prefectures under Specific Cautions”). In other prefectures too, the tendency of the spread of infection is also observed with clusters in non-urban areas caused by the influx of people from metropolitan areas. Since it is necessary for all the prefectures to take concerted measures to prevent the spread of the infection when all citizens including the government, local municipalities, relevant organizations need to make further efforts toward long national holidays to come, the Government designates all the prefectures as the areas where emergency measures should be taken.

2. Overall Policies for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control

- Slow down the speed of infection by containing clusters and reducing chances of contact.
- Minimize incidence of severe cases and death through surveillance and appropriate medical care especially for the elderly.
- Minimize the impact on society and economy through pandemic prevention and economic and employment measures.

3. Key points in implementing measures against novel coronavirus disease

(1) Provision and sharing of Information

Provide the public with accurate information and clear message on the following points in the timely manner, promote awareness-raising to help change people’s behavior and call for calm response.

- the infection situation and the medical information
- basic counter-measures against infection
- need to refrain from leaving home when feeling sick
- guidelines for visiting medical institutions
- discrimination against infected persons, close contacts and medical personnel
- 3-Cs (closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings)
- the fact that the measure of “lockdown” (city blockade) will not be taken

Provide appropriately and expeditiously related information for Japanese national as well as foreign nationals living or staying in Japan and foreign governments.

(2) Surveillance and Information gathering

- Identify suspected disease carrier and conduct tests that the doctor considers necessary
- Strengthen the testing system by utilizing local and private institutes. Grasp the PCR testing system and make necessary coordination.
- Continue to develop simple test kits for rapid diagnosis.

(3) Pandemic Prevention

- The declaration of a state of emergency on April 7 is intended to further accelerate existing measures and to reduce the contact among people by

70% at minimum or 80% ideally. Restrictions on people's freedoms and rights must be minimal. Designated prefectures (prefectures covered by the emergency declaration) will, at first, call for voluntary cooperation in self-restraint of leaving home as measures to prevent pandemic.

- Designated prefectures will strongly make requests not to hold events at places where clusters could emerge or have gatherings under the 3-Cs circumstances, especially in case of nation-wide or large events and gatherings.
- Designated prefectures will make requests on restrictions on the use of facilities when the spread of infection can occur. When such requests are not met with no justifiable reason, designated prefectures will make further requests and instructions. These requests and instructions will be made public. When such requests and instructions are made based on the Act, designated prefectures need to consult with the Government and listen to the opinions of experts.
- Designated prefectures will take effective emergency measures taking into account the characteristics of each area and give careful explanation to the residents. The Government Response Headquarters will coordinate with designated prefectures as necessary, listening to the opinions of experts.
- Designated prefectures will work with the government in informing the residents that the emergency measures are different from "lockdown" (city blockade) and call for a calm response through asking people not to buy up food, medicine and daily necessities in a panic.
- Designated prefectures will at first request a self-restraint of going out while indicating the period and areas. Activities necessary for maintaining daily life such as visiting hospitals, purchasing food, medicine and daily necessities, going to workplaces as necessary, exercising outdoors or taking a walk can be excluded.
- Designated prefectures will request citizens to refrain as much as possible from moving to other prefectures for reasons such as non-urgent and non-necessary homecoming visits or travels, especially during long national holiday period.
- Designated prefectures will strongly discouraged citizens from visiting eateries with hospitality services in downtown.
- Designated prefectures as well as other prefectural governments will strongly encourage teleworking. Efforts to reduce contact with people including through staggered work hours and bicycle commuting will be promoted further. In workplaces, it is encouraged to take thorough measures to prevent infection and avoid the 3-Cs.
- Businesses engaged in operations essential for ensuring the stability of people's lives and the national economy (exemplified in the attachment), are required to continue their operation, depending on the characteristics of the businesses, while fully taking measures to prevent the spread of infection. The Government and designated prefectures will

work to establish a help desk for business operators, secure logistics, and ensure a robust lifeline system, etc., in order to support smooth activities of these businesses.

- Prefectures in metropolitan areas will thoroughly take these measures to prevent the spread of infection so that they will not trigger nationwide and rapid spread.
- The Government and local governments will encourage restaurants to take necessary infection control measures by avoiding the 3Cs.
- Secure and foster experts for the counter-cluster measures and strengthen the health center system.
- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology will disseminate the guiding principle on temporary closure of schools. Prefectural governments will provide guidance to school operators on infectious disease countermeasures such as health management. The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) will provide guiding principles of nursery schools and after-school children's clubs, etc. regarding the down-sizing of childcare and temporary closure of facilities. In this regard, the MHLW will also present guidance on securing childcare during such temporary closure for children of medical staff, those who need to continue working to maintain social functions, and those who have difficulty taking off work including single-parents.
- The Government will continue to implement entry restrictions, travel warnings, strengthened quarantine, and visa restrictions, from the viewpoint of preventing the flow of infected people into Japan

(4) Medical care, etc.

The MHLW will secure a flexible medical provision system in each region, responding to the spread of infection.

- Perform tests at the discretion of doctors and, if patients are found, provide appropriate medical care by admitting them to hospitals.
- Establish a system for those with mild symptoms to be taken care of at home in prefectures where an increase in patients may risk the medical care for severely ill patients in hospitals.

The MHLW will secure medical provision structure to prepare for possible significant increase of patients in Japan.

- Consider division of roles among medical institutions in each region.
- Secure necessary beds, personnel, and necessary medical equipment such as respirators.

The MHLW will also notify and ensure the following measures to thoroughly prevent nosocomial infection in medical institutions and facilities for the elderly.

- Take every possible precautionous measure to prevent workers from being a source of infection including by thoroughly avoiding the 3-Cs.

- Temporarily stop receiving visitors except for emergency cases in order to prevent infection.
- Consider measures such as suspending or restricting temporary use of such facilities in areas where infection is prevalent.
- Isolate a suspected patient immediately and implement counter-infection measures under the guidance of public health centers.

The Government and prefectures will prioritize securing personal protective equipment such as masks for medical institutions that conduct PCR tests and admit patients, and ensure that PCR tests are conducted for medical personnel, workers and inpatients.

The MHLW will take other measures including:

- Systematic surveillance of bed occupancy in hospitals
- Prevention of infection for outpatients and pregnant women
- Provision of medical interpreters for foreigners
- Acceleration of clinical research and treatment to verify the effects of therapeutic agents

(5) Economic and employment measures

Expediently implement necessary and sufficient economic and fiscal policies without pause, taking bold measures to return the Japanese economy to a solid growth trajectory

(6) Other important considerations

- Consideration for the human rights
- Supply of goods and materials necessary for the medical operation
- Collaboration with related organizations (including local governments, the international community, and the research institutions)
- Maintenance of social functions
- Measures after the declaration of a state of emergency

Business operators who are required to continue their business during the period of the state of emergency

1. Maintaining Medical System

- We request the continuation of all business by medical personnel not only for treatment of COVID-19 infections, but also for their duties to deal with other severe diseases.
- The abovementioned businesses by medical personnel include hospitals, pharmacies, and other manufacturing and service industries related to all the supplies and services necessary for treatment of patients including importing, manufacturing and sales of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, blood collection for blood donations, and providing meals to inpatients.

2. Continuing to protect those in need

- We request the continuation of all life support businesses for people who need assistance, especially the elderly and the people with disabilities, including housing and support for them .
- The abovementioned life support businesses include all manufacturing and service industries related to the goods and services necessary for the lives of the elderly and the people with disability, such as management of facilities for nursing care and for people with disability, as well as providing meals to residents of the facilities.

3. Securing stable lives of the people

- We request the continuation of all concerned businesses which provide essential services for those who stay at home to lead minimum necessary lives.
 - (1) Infrastructure operation (electricity, gas, oil, petrochemical, LP gas, water and sewage, telecommunications and data centers, etc.)
 - (2) Food and beverage supply (agriculture, forestry, fishery, importing, manufacturing, processing, distribution, and online shopping of food and beverage, etc.)
 - (3) Supply of daily necessities (importing, manufacturing, processing, distribution and online shopping of household goods, etc.)
 - (4) Canteens, restaurants, coffee shops, home delivery and take-out, retailers of daily necessities (department stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, drugstores, hardware stores etc.)
 - (5) Maintenance of household goods (plumber, electrician, etc.)
 - (6) Services related to daily necessities (hotel and accommodation, public bath, barber shop and hairdressers' salons, laundry, veterinary, etc.)
 - (7) Waste disposal services (collection, transportation, and disposal of waste, etc.)
 - (8) Ceremonial affairs (operators engaged in cremation and post-mortem treatment of bodies)
 - (9) Media (TV, radio, newspapers, internet related business, etc.)
 - (10) Services for individuals (webcast, remote education, facilities and

services related to maintenance of the internet environment, maintenance services of private vehicles, etc.)

4. Maintaining the stability of the society

• With a view to maintaining the stability of the society, we request the continuation of the businesses, at their minimum level, who provide essential services to maintain corporate activities during the period of a state of emergency.

(1) Financial services (banks, credit banks and credit unions, securities, insurance, credit cards, and other settlement services etc.)

(2) Logistics and transportation services (railways, buses, taxis, trucks, maritime transportation and port management, aviation and airport management, postal services, etc.)

(3) Maintenance of manufacturing and service industries necessary for national defense (aircraft, submarines, etc.)

(4) Services necessary to maintain corporate activities and security (maintenance and security of building, etc.)

(5) Social infrastructure necessary for safety and security (management of public goods such as of rivers and roads, public works, waste disposal, hazardous goods management based on respective law, etc.)

(6) Administrative services (police, fire fighting, other administrative services)

(7) Childcare services (daycare centers, etc.)

5. Others

• Among medical and manufacturing industries, we request the continuation of the following business operators in consideration of infection prevention: operators who are difficult to stop production line due to the characteristics of the equipment (such as blast furnaces and semiconductor factories); and operators who produce essentials (including important items in supply chains) for protection of the people who need medical care and support, as well as for maintenance of social infrastructure. We also request the continuation of the business operators who sustain medical care, the lives of the people, and maintenance of the national economy.