

Mayor's E-newsletter from the City of Okayama No. 133

April 23, 2021

“Call for citizens, especially young people, to take extra precautions against the spread of COVID-19”

Hello Citizens, this is OMORI Masao, Mayor of Okayama City.

In Okayama City, the number of novel coronavirus infections started to increase in March, and has been on the rise throughout April. We have found a rise in the number of variant cases, which are believed to spread easily. We all are in a tough situation.

- a total of 1,742 confirmed cases until April 22 with cumulative 28 clusters
- 90 confirmed cases in February, 167 in March and 308 in April with 4 cluster cases (as of the 22nd)
- Of those who tested positive, 25 % were variant cases in March, up to 71 % in April (according to preliminary data as of April 18)

■The coronavirus is hitting young people hard.

An increasing trend of infections in the city since mid-March shows that especially young people have been affected, and that eating and drinking increases your risk of exposure to the new coronavirus regardless of the number of people.

- People in their 10s to 30s account for nearly 60% of confirmed cases
- Compared to the third wave of infection, which peaked during the year-end and New Year holidays, the number of infected people, especially those in their late teens and early 20s, has increased dramatically.

The young generation is more likely to be involved in communal living, sports activities, and other situations that could increase infection risk. While spending time with your peers without symptoms or with mild illness, you may spread the infection to your beloved family and friends without even realizing it.

For this reason, I would like to ask you young people to act cautiously with the intention of containing the infection through your own actions.

■Make sure to follow standard precautions against infections

Golden Week holidays will begin next week amid fears of a nationwide surge in COVID-19 cases. You are asked to refrain from traveling to and from high-risk areas as much as possible.

In order to prevent infections, including variants, it is still effective to take the same measures that have been taken so far, such as avoiding the 3Cs, wearing masks and washing hands.

Once again, I would like to remind you all to check your health condition on a daily basis and to take basic precautions against infections, as well as to pay special attention to the "5 situations" where the risk of infection increases, which will protect yourself, your family and friends.

Please visit the website "5 situations" that increase the risk of infection, <https://corona.go.jp/proposal/> prepared by the Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Japan.