

Message (#9) from the President on COVID-19: "This summer, if We are too Careless the Second Wave of COVID-19 may be Worse!"

21 July, 2020
(Updated on 27 July)

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This summer, if We are too Careless the Second Wave of COVID-19 may be Worse!

I believed COVID-19 would weaken when summer came. How naive! How far will this thing betray our expectations? First off, I had no idea how much damage this thing would cause. More than 10 million people have been infected and more than 500,000 have died worldwide. And there is no sign of it stopping. Japan is no exception. If we are too careless, the second wave will surely come and be larger than the first.

But there is hope. Research on testing, prevention, and treatment is steadily progressing, and the antibody test developed at this university has been selected as a leading candidate in the country. Based on this research, we are working on the development of preventive and therapeutic drugs with a team from the Nobel Prize scholar Shinya Yamanaka. The world is also competing to solve it. There is light at the end of the tunnel. For now, keep calm, continue the new lifestyle you learned during the first wave, and welcome our bright future with a smile!

★Prevention basics:

We have been cautious against contracting airborne infections, but we tend to not practice such caution when touching infectious surfaces where the virus adheres (where droplets fall or where an infected person touches).

1. Masks, hand washing (and face washing if possible), and gargling is encouraged: do it the right way.
2. Keep a 2 meter distance from people (social distance)
3. Avoid areas with the 3 "C"s (close, cramped, closed)

★Points on a recent spread of infections:

Infections of young people in nightlife districts are spreading.

1. **Refrain from attending banquets and drinking parties of 5 or more people.**
2. Do not eat food from a shared plate or drink from a shared cup.
3. Use stores that have taken measures to prevent infections (Storefronts with a sticker attached declaring proper measurements have been taken and/or with an "Osaka Corona Tracking System" QR code attached).

★Points on going out:

1. Refrain from traveling or taking business trips to infected areas such as Tokyo.
2. Try the mountains or the ocean, or choose a place indoors that is well-ventilated and has restrictions on the number of people allowed entry.
3. Avoid crowded trains and other modes of transportation that have the 3 "C"s. Travel by car if possible.
4. Avoid group trips such as training camps and seminar trips.
5. Don't hesitate to cancel any plans if you feel unwell.
6. Carry a thermometer, masks, and an alcohol disinfectant while traveling.