

To the citizens of Yamagata Prefecture, (a message from Yoshimura Mieko, Governor of Yamagata Prefecture, March 28th 2020)

The new coronavirus (COVID-19) is now affecting many regions worldwide and, within Japan as well, we have reached a situation where the number of infected people whose paths we cannot trace, especially in urban areas such as Tokyo and Osaka, is rapidly increasing.

Under these circumstances, to prevent the spread of infection in Yamagata Prefecture, the opening ceremony of the Prefectural Culture and Arts Center, which was planned for 29th March, has been postponed. In addition, the Prefectural Library, the Bunshokan, and other Prefectural facilities frequented by many people, have been closed until further notice.

For the time being, whilst the virus is spreading within Japan, I advise all citizens of Yamagata Prefecture to refrain from travelling outside of the Prefecture (and back in) unless it is absolutely necessary. Within the prefecture, no infected cases have been identified as of yet. However, please still refrain from any non-essential, non-urgent trips outside of Yamagata, and enjoy your time here inside the prefecture.

In order to overcome these difficult times, it is essential that we work together, so I ask for your understanding and cooperation.

At the moment, as it is job transfer season and also the beginning of the new academic year, in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus in urban areas, please do the following:

1. Avoid poorly-ventilated enclosed spaces, enclosed spaces with lots of people, and having conversations in close proximity to other people
2. Be especially mindful of your behavior if you are young, and unlikely to develop visible symptoms
3. Avoid any non-essential, non-urgent outings to crowded places
4. Avoid participating in any events or social activities as much as possible

We expect the situation regarding the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) to be changing day by day and minute by minute from now on. As a prefecture, we will be monitoring our approach closely and it may change often, so thank you in advance for your cooperation.

