

To all citizens of Yamagata City and people who work in Yamagata City

A special request

At this time, COVID-19 is spreading globally. In this country also, on April 7th a State of Emergency was declared for seven prefectures and subsequently expanded to include the whole country including Yamagata Prefecture. As of April 18th, in Yamagata Prefecture the number of people confirmed as COVID-19 positive had reached 60 cases. Were infections to continue to increase at this rate, the collapse of medical institutions in this prefecture cannot be ruled out. We are facing an unprecedented crisis.

Ahead of the Golden Week long holiday period, we must make a special request to you.

We expect that many of you will have family members living outside Yamagata Prefecture and that you are eagerly awaiting a chance to see them again.

However, this current virus has a particular feature where many infected people develop no noticeable symptoms. There have been many reported cases of healthy young people infected with COVID-19 unwittingly spreading the virus. Even among COVID-19 cases detected in Yamagata Prefecture, transmission by people living in Tokyo and Sendai who then return home to family and friends has occurred. Those family and friends have subsequently spread infection to their respective workplaces.

We implore you, taking into account the current situation, please discuss cancelling homecoming visits by family and friends during this coming long holiday period. (Pregnant women excepted.)

It pains us to make this kind of request, however these measures are taken to protect the lives of all those we hold dear to us. Further, we aim to resolve this crisis in the shortest time possible. We must support all our businesses through these financially disastrous times and set about the important task of economic recovery. Your understanding of this situation is critically important and well appreciated.

Finally, we request that over this period you stay at home except for absolutely necessary tasks and that you avoid going out for non-essential and non-urgent purposes.

In times like these we hope that you all take the very best care of yourselves.

Governor of Yamagata Prefecture, YOSHIMURA Mieko

Mayor of Yamagata City, SATO Takahiro