

Request from the Mayor to the Residents of Rikuzentakata

The state of emergency that was declared for all of Japan due to the nationwide spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has been lifted for 39 prefectures, including Iwate Prefecture. Within the City of Rikuzentakata, along with the thorough countermeasures taken against the Coronavirus disease for sightseeing spots and public facilities, we have also provided individual economic support for those who need it, such as businessmen/vendors or single-parent households within the city. We have implemented a variety of schemes so as to protect the lives and livelihoods of our residents, so as to leave no one behind.

Likewise, we understand that all of you have been constantly cooperating with us to help prevent the spread of infection, by refraining from travelling to other prefectures and going out unnecessarily. However, along with the lifting of the state of emergency, we must still be fully alert and take precautions in case we become careless and a second wave hits. While taking into consideration the adoption of new lifestyles and the new economic cycle within the city to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus disease, in order for us fully control the risk of infection to restore our daily lives back to normal, we once again request that everyone abides by the following:

- 1) To continuously take basic precautions within workplaces, schools and households, etc. by completely avoiding the “Three Cs” (“closed spaces” with poor ventilation, “crowded places” with many people nearby, “close-contact settings” such as close-range conversations), practicing social distancing, wearing masks, and practicing good hygiene such as washing your hands thoroughly.
- 2) To avoid traveling to any of the 8 prefectures still in a state of emergency, namely Tokyo, Hokkaido, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Chiba, Kanagawa and Saitama. If you have no choice but to travel to any of these 8 prefectures, make sure you cooperate fully with us in terms of monitoring your health and preventing the spread of the Coronavirus disease after you return.
- 3) To avoid direct contact with vendors, manufacturers or businessmen who came from any of these 8 prefectures.
- 4) To only shop within the city by making use of takeout or delivery services, etc. However, if you have to buy certain items that cannot be found here, please shop within the Kesen region so as to support the local economy.
- 5) Groundless fake news or rumors that spread along with the rise of Coronavirus cases are being investigated. We do need to take sufficient preventive measures, but please do not discriminate against others because of their birthplace, race or background.

May 15, 2020

Mayor of Rikuzentakata

Futoshi Toba