

January 7th, 2022

A Message from the Governor

- This is a message from IBARAGI Ryuta, governor of Okayama Prefecture.
- Due to the Omicron variant, over the course of two days, a continuing increase of new cases in neighboring prefectures is happening at above twice the previous speed.
- Even within Okayama Prefecture, confirmed Omicron cases are continuing to increase, and there is already a high possibility that such infections within the city have spread out considerably, putting us face to face with a possible sixth wave of COVID-19.
- I believe there are many who are scheduled to attend coming of age ceremonies and dinner parties and others who plan to travel. In order to prevent further spread of infections, I would like the residents of Okayama Prefecture to follow the three initiatives listed below:
- First, I would like for the many individuals attending coming of age ceremonies and other events with many participants to only attend such events if they have gotten vaccinated and have taken an examination beforehand. Please avoid the Three C's and conduct yourselves in a manner that will not infect others or lead to you being infected by others.
- Second, even with the existence of the Omicron variant, the same basic prevention measures that we have implemented up until now are still effective. I ask that you continue to thoroughly implement basic prevention measures such as wearing a mask, washing one's hands and ventilating. In particular, please be sure to refrain from removing your mask in front of others.
- Finally, from January 8th to January 31st, those who live in Okayama Prefecture and have no symptoms but feel that they may have been infected or have been in a high-risk environment are able to take a free antigen test.
- Considering the threatening infection speed of the Omicron variant, it is predicted that we may have no choice but to call for a re-issuing of quasi state of emergency measures. I ask that the residents of Okayama Prefecture continue to cooperate with the prevention measures in place so that we do not reach such a situation.