

September 13th, 2021

A Message from the Governor

- This is a message from IBARAGI Ryuta, governor of Okayama Prefecture.
- I would like to take this moment to show my gratitude to the residents of Okayama Prefecture for their understanding and cooperation with the various strict requests that we had in place for the state of emergency.
- It has been decided that the state of emergency in Okayama Prefecture will be lifted on September 12th, and we will be implementing a quasi-state of emergency from September 13th until the end of the month. Given that, 17 municipalities such as Okayama City will be classified as emergency areas, and emergency measures will be carried out in such areas.
- The main changes include the following:
- First, we are calling for restaurant establishments in all areas of Okayama Prefecture to reduce their business hours to 8PM. Establishments in emergency areas are to halt the offering alcoholic beverages at all hours of the day, and establishments in non-emergency areas are to refrain from offering alcoholic beverages past 7PM.
- Second, we are calling for large scale customer

attracting facilities in emergency areas to reduce their hours of operation to 8PM. For those located in non-emergency areas, there are no laws that demand the shortening of business hours, but we ask that you take measures similar to those in emergency areas.

- Other implementations, such as refraining from unessential outings at all hours of the day, and reducing the amount of staff showing up for work by 70 percent, have more or less remained the same.
- In particular, we ask that Okayama residents continue to avoid visits to their hometowns during holidays and unessential travel to other prefectures.
- At this point in time, we have finally shifted over to a decreasing trend in new cases, but we are still in a situation in which we cannot let our guards down.
- We will be moving into a quasi-state of emergency, but this does not mean that Okayama Prefecture is a safe region. Due to this, the countermeasures that we will be implementing do not differ very much from a case in which the state of emergency is extended for all areas of the prefecture.
- We will be creating inconveniences and placing a burden on the residents and business operators of Okayama Prefecture for an extended amount of time, but we ask for your cooperation and understanding in order to reach a controlled situation as soon as possible.