

Regarding the 26th case of COVID-19 in Shimane Prefecture (as of July 24th)

To all citizens of Shimane Prefecture,

The following includes information gathered since July 22nd (Wed) about the travel history, etc. of Case #26.

1. Patient travel history from 2 days prior to start of symptoms (July 20th)
 - Patient is confirmed to have been “at home, with no outdoor travel” on July 18th (Sat) and 19th (Sun).
 - On the 20th (Mon) in the morning, the patient was at their workplace, and did not come into close contact with anyone except for Unnan City Hall staff.
 - On the 20th (Mon) in the afternoon, the patient had a meeting in Unnan City with someone from outside their workplace. At the meeting place, all participants wore a mask and practiced social distancing. Infection prevention measures such as opening windows were also practiced.
On July 24th (Fri), all meeting participants received PCR tests; all results were negative.
 - On July 21st (Tue), the patient did not go to work, and received a medical examination at a medical institution.
All staff at the medical institution who interacted with the patient received PCR tests; all results were negative.
 - The patient was wearing a mask while at work, in meetings, and receiving medical examination at the medical institution.
2. Patient travel history from 14 days prior to start of symptoms
 - During this time, the patient did not use any facilities for an extended time where an unspecified large number of people may have been present, nor did the patient come into close contact with an unspecified large number of people. For this reason, it has been determined that there is no specific travel history that needs to be disclosed.
 - During this time, while in the prefecture the patient had multiple instances of contact with people from Tokyo as well as with residents of Shimane, for official business purposes. In addition, the patient had a one-day business trip to Hiroshima Prefecture.
The people mentioned above who had specific contact with the patient have been identified. The residents of Shimane have been individually contacted to receive PCR testing. For the people residing outside of the prefecture, the Shimane Prefectural Government has contacted the relevant local governments to ask for their cooperation.
3. Organizational Strengthening of Unnan Health Center
 - To improve services, on July 22nd (Wed) 5 specialists (public health nurses, etc.) and 3 administrative staff (total 8 additional staff) were dispatched to the Unnan Health Center. We will work to further strengthen investigation operations, such as with the dispatch of additional staff.
 - As the prefectural government, we are doing our utmost to coordinate with related institutions in order to prevent the spread of infection.

4. A Request to Citizens of Shimane Prefecture

- We continue to ask that citizens act in a calm manner, based on information supplied by the Shimane Prefectural Government.
- If people try to identify the patients or spread false rumors, there is a fear that such action will discourage people from providing information to health centers, as well as discourage people from coming forward in case they experience symptoms. On the contrary, such action could lead to widespread infection among citizens of Shimane Prefecture.
- In addition, the prefectural government is encouraging large-scale PCR testing not only for people in close contact with infected individuals, but also for people with short-term contact, as well as people who are concerned about the possibility of infection. Therefore, we ask that you refrain from excessive behavior toward individuals (or related people such as their family) based on the sole fact that they have received PCR testing. Excessive behavior includes asking them to not attend work, daycare, school, etc.
I once again ask that all citizens act in a calm manner based upon correct information and sound judgement.

24 July 2020

Maruyama Tatsuya
Governor of Shimane Prefecture