

Concept for Establishment of Stages of Alert

- The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Subcommittee suggested in the “Foreseeable Levels of Infection and Countermeasures” to set levels of infection to four different stages, set indicators for moving between each stage, and establish proper countermeasures to be implemented during each stage.
- The Hokkaido Government has set indicators and proper countermeasures for each stage in order to effectively prevent the spread of infection in Hokkaido, recognizing the importance of taking measures before a rapid increase in the rate of infection. In principle, the above suggestions were used as a baseline, and the actual situation of Hokkaido was also taken into account.
- In principle, these measures will be implemented across all Hokkaido, as infection can occur anywhere. However, taking into account the widely distributed social structure that is unique to Hokkaido, implementation of appropriate countermeasures targeting specific regions or industries will be considered when necessary, based on the spread of infection and the state of the medical care provision system.
- Including the concept behind these stages of alert, we will continue to be transparent with the residents and businesses of Hokkaido, making efforts to reduce the burden on the medical care provision system and prevent the spread of infection. Together with the community, Hokkaido will promote both efforts to prevent the spread of infection and to achieve socio-economic activities.

GOAL

To prevent infection and achieve socioeconomic activities through the following:

- ① Keep the spread of infection to a sufficiently controllable level, and minimize the number of fatalities and serious cases.
- ② Take quick and effective measures to prevent the spread of infection, and reduce the rate of infection as quickly as possible.

STAGES OF ALERT – SITUATION & RESPONSE

| STAGE | SITUATION | RESPONSE | (REF) Japan Gov. Stages |
|-------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | <p>Cases of infection are sporadic, and there is no major burden on the medical care provision system.</p> | <p>Warnings about infection prevention countermeasures, etc., based on spread of infection (When necessary, warnings on a regional (subprefectural) basis)</p> | I |
| 2 | <p>Cases of infection are increasing, and there is an increased burden on the medical care provision system. Due to a cluster outbreak at a high risk location (3 C's), there is a gradual increase in the cases of infection and the number of severe cases. As a result, there is an increased burden on the public health systems, such as public health centers, as well as an accumulated burden on the medical care provision system as they provide both general medical care and medical care for COVID-19.</p> | <p>Request based on Special Measures Article 24 Paragraph 9</p> <p>Request for cooperation in changing individual activity</p> | II |
| 3 | <p>There is further increase in cases of infection and burden on the medical care provision system. Stronger countermeasures are necessary to prevent the spread of infection, as there are multiple cluster outbreaks, etc. and further accumulation of burden on the medical care provision system.</p> | <p>Request based on Special Measures Article 24 Paragraph 9</p> <p>Based on the rate of infection, stronger request for cooperation in changing activity</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Countermeasures are required in order to avoid a major burden on the medical care provision system and rapid increase in cases of infection. Compared to Stage 3, cluster outbreaks are more frequent and the number of infections is increasing rapidly. The burden on the medical care provision system for COVID-19 care has increased, and countermeasures must be taken in order to prevent major issues in the provision of general medical care.</p> | <p>Request based on Special Measures Article 24 Paragraph 9</p> <p>Strong requests for cooperation, such as business closures and or facility use</p> | III |
| 5 | <p>Countermeasures are required in order to avoid an explosive spread of infection and serious malfunction of the medical care provision system. There are large-scale and numerous cluster outbreaks (such as between-hospital clusters), and due to the explosive spread of infection, elderly and high-risk individuals are infected in large numbers, and there begin to be many severe cases and fatalities. Action is required to prevent serious malfunction of the public health system and medical care provision system.</p> | <p>Request based on Special Measures Article 24 Paragraph 9 and Article 45</p> <p>Based on a declaration of state of emergency by Japan, even stronger request for cooperation</p> | IV |

STAGES OF ALERT - INDICATORS

| CATEGORY | | INDICATOR | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--|---------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Burden on Medical Care Provision System | No. of Beds | Occupied Beds | — | 150 beds | 250 beds | 350 beds | 900 beds |
| | | Severe Cases | — | 15 beds | 25 beds | 35 beds | 90 beds |
| | No. of Patients | | — | INCREASE | INCREASE | 796 people <small>(15 per 100,000 people)</small> | 1,327 people <small>(25 per 100,000 people)</small> |
| Monitoring System | Rate of positive PCR tests | | — | INCREASE | INCREASE | 10% | 10% |
| Spread of Infection | Number of new cases reported | | — | 107 ppl/week <small>(2.0 per 100,000 ppl/week)</small> | 133 ppl/week <small>(2.5 per 100,000 ppl/week)</small> | 796 ppl/week <small>(15 per 100,000 ppl/week)</small> | 1,327 ppl/wk <small>(25 per 100,000 ppl/week)</small> |
| | Comparison of last week with week before | | — | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE |
| | Percentage of unlinked cases | | — | 50% | 50% | 50% | 50% |

✘ In principle, if any of the values for the above indicators are exceeded, we will move to the next stage, though comprehensive judgement will be made based on the spread of infection.