

Second and Third Cases of COVID-19 in Yatsushiro Health Administrative Area Confirmed, Message from Mayor

On July 28th, Kumamoto Prefecture announced that 2 individuals in the Yatsushiro health administrative area had been confirmed to have COVID-19. First of all, I would like to pray for their swift recovery.

The infected are a teacher at one of our city's elementary schools and the teacher's mother. Due to concerns of singling persons out and for their privacy, the name of the elementary school will not be released.

Concerning the school where the infected teacher works, from today the school will be closed for a period of time. School staff will follow orders by the Yatsushiro health administration to work towards opening the school again with proper preventative measures.

I believe all Yatsushiro citizens may be shocked by this news, but I ask for your calm cooperation in order to not spread baseless rumors nor private information of the infected individuals and their families.

Currently the whole country is experiencing a rise in COVID-19 cases. On July 27th Kumamoto Prefecture Governor Ikuo Kabashima ordered a sudden press conference and urged the public to avoid the Three Cs (closed spaces, crowded places, close-contact settings), avoid traveling to places where infections are rapidly increasing, and to reduce unnecessary and non-emergency travel outside of Kumamoto Prefecture.

In order to prevent further spread of COVID-19, I urge all Yatsushiro citizens to continue practicing cough etiquette, to frequently wash their hands, and to follow the "New Normal" advisories.

Yatsushiro will continue to cooperate with relevant organizations to provide you with easy to understand and accurate information. We hope that it can ease your worries, little as it may be. And as related to the city's disaster relief efforts, and the status of evacuation shelters, we will continue to follow practices that prevent spread of COVID-19. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

July 28th, 2020

Yatsushiro City Mayor, Hiroo Nakamura