

To Prevent the Spread of New Coronavirus Infections

Oshu City Mayor

The number of new coronavirus infections continues to increase nationwide with the 8th wave.

Within the jurisdiction of the Oshu Public Health Center, the number of new infections in a single day reached a record high of 284 on December 20, with clusters occurring at multiple facilities for the elderly.

Medical institutions in the prefecture have been forced to restrict general medical care, such as suspending the admission of inpatients and postponing less urgent surgeries, due to an increase in the number of patients and a series of absences from medical staff due to infections, etc. The reality is that we are in a situation where lives that can be saved cannot be saved. It has been recognized that we are at the equivalent of level 4 (medical dysfunction) according to prefectural standards, especially in the southern part of the prefecture.

Furthermore, on December 14, the prefecture reported that the flu season had begun for the first time in three years, raising concerns about a simultaneous epidemic.

In order to avoid further strain on the medical system, all citizens are requested to thoroughly implement basic infection control measures such as wearing appropriate masks, washing hands, and ensuring adequate ventilation even in cold weather. In addition, I would ask for your cooperation in the following three

points.

First, we ask that those who are at low risk of becoming seriously ill and have mild symptoms perform self-examinations, take over-the-counter medicines, and recuperate at home in order to prevent a convergence of examinations and consultations at medical institutions.

Second, please stock up on over-the-counter medicines such as antigen test kits and antipyretics, as well as groceries and daily necessities for about a week in preparation for infection.

Third, if you feel unwell and need to visit a medical institution, please call in advance and try to see a doctor during the daytime on weekdays as much as possible.

The city is performing vaccinations against the BA.5 strain. We would like to ask not only the elderly who are at high risk of developing severe symptoms, but also young people who have refrained from getting vaccinated, to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

In addition, we continue to provide vaccinations to infants (6 months to 4 years old) and children (5 to 11 years old), so please consider getting them vaccinated.

4 January 2023

Jun KURANARI, Mayor, Oshu City