

May 11, 2021

To Gifu University students

Hirokazu Fukui
Vice President (Planning, Academic Affairs, Evaluation and Fund)
Director-General
Organization for Promotion of Higher Education and Student Support

Gifu University Policy on Class Operation and Infection Prevention Measures

As the previous notification, “Gifu University Policy on Class Operation and Infection Prevention Measures” issued on April 27, 2021 stated, in-person classes and research activities at laboratories in some faculties and graduate schools on campus were suspended by Tuesday, May 11, 2021. However, after we confirmed that no major COVID-19 infection cases were observed on campus, the following changes are being made in class operations and extracurricular activities both on and off campus from Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

- 1) **Suspension of in-person classes and research activities at laboratories in some faculties and graduate schools are lifted.**
- 2) **“6. Extracurricular Activities” of Gifu University Guideline for COVID-19 are downgraded from “Level 4” to “Level 3” by announcing the revised details of “Gifu University Guideline for COVID-19 (6. Extracurricular Activities) (as of May 11, 2021, please refer to the attachment file).**

The Gifu Prefectural Government requested Gifu University give instructions to the university students to act thoughtfully given the fact that the mutant variants of COVID-19 are also affecting the young population in a significant way, and the sickbed occupancy rates in hospitals/clinics within the prefecture are steadily rising.

By taking into account the recent rapid spike in the number of Covid patients, please observe the following “New Lifestyle” for your own safety and the safety of other people.

Before everything else, please follow a basic infection prevention protocol (i.e. mask-wearing, use hand sanitizers, avoiding 3C settings, and maintaining health). This basic protocol is also very effective against mutant variants.

1) No nonessential outings

- Please refrain from nonessential outings and travelling during daytime and nighttime.

• Please do not hesitate to cancel every scheduled activity for the day (not coming to the university is included) if you feel unwell (developing a fever, etc.) Please immediately contact the university staffs about your physical conditions.

2) Infection preventive measures during a meal - Exercise your self-control not to join informal gatherings and seminars which accompany drinking and eating sessions

• Please avoid eating with a large number of people both at home and in eating establishments. Minimize the time of drinking and eating. Please do not drink too much and do not speak loudly. Wear a face mask while talking.

• Please exercise self-control not to participate in BBQ parties as these events could cause cluster infections.

• Please exercise self-control not to go to Karaoke bars for the same reason above.

(These are excerpts from a “Letter of Request” sent from the Gifu Prefectural Government to higher educational institutions within the prefecture.

The following are the examples that show how university students in Gifu Prefecture were infected with the COVID-19 viruses. Please read these examples carefully and act thoughtfully to avoid infections.

<Examples of Actions taken by University Students in Gifu>

○ A student was working part-time late into the night every day until “Shorten Business Hour Request” was issued by the government. While serving customers, both the student and customers were not wearing face masks. The eating establishment that the student was working for was poorly ventilated, and the health of workers was not monitored by the employers.

○A student went back to his/her home in Aichi Prefecture in mid-April. The student developed a fever a few days after his/her returning home. The student went to school after his/her fever went down. (The student obtained a permission to go to campus from his/her university, but the student was having a persistent cough.)

○In late April, a student went to Nagoya City with his/her university juniors, and wine and dined with them at two different pubs/bars at night. By that time, “Stricter COVID-19 Measures” were already issued in Nagoya City, and all bars, restaurants, etc. within the city were required to be closed after 8:00p.m. However, they went to pubs/bars after 10:00p.m. and went home by the first train the following morning.

○A student was taking part in extracurricular activity with 40 to 50 members in the morning and in late afternoon six days a week. They were not wearing masks except for a time for meetings.

○Newly enrolled students who belong to the same university club were taking a ride in the

same car, and went to a broiled meat restaurant, a public bathhouse together. During their extracurricular activities, they were not wearing masks and speaking loudly.

As many media outlets were already reporting, the latest mutant variants are very transmissible and even young people with no underlying conditions could become seriously ill. Also, it is reported that even after recovering from illness, many are suffering from lingering aftereffects such as a strong feeling of fatigue, insomnia and loss of hair, etc. We ask that every member of Gifu University consistently take precautions and stay vigilant in the middle of a strong resurgence of the COVID-19 infections.