Official Warning about the Strain on Gifu's Medical Services In order to avoid an unprecedented crisis during the New Year's period (Excerpt)

29th November 2022 Gifu Prefectural Taskforce for Preventing the Spread of COVID-19

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has proved unstoppable. The number of new cases exceeds 2000 (weekly average), and is increasing faster than the national average.

In line with this, the hospital bed occupancy rate is more than 40%, and is still rising. In addition, infections among healthcare workers are spreading, and restrictions on admissions and discharges from general wards and emergency care (outside of COVID-19 care), are increasing. We have reached a situation where renewed pressure on the healthcare system is imminent.

If this situation continues into the New Year's period, it could lead to an unprecedented explosion of infections as people gather to celebrate. This could lead to a situation where meeting up with those you want to see is not possible.

Taking into account the current situation, we have released this "Official Warning about the Strain on Gifu's Medical Services", and we hereby request your cooperation with the strengthening of preventative measures listed below.

We ask that all prefectural residents ensure that these requests are

thoroughly implemented, including basic infection prevention measures.

We ask all prefectural residents to cooperate with the following measures

- Get vaccinated promptly.
- Fully abide by basic infection prevention measures.
- Avoid crowded places and places with a high risk of infection, and refrain from actions that could lead to an increased spread of infection.
- Carefully consider whether to dine in large groups.
- Carefully consider whether to attend big events.