

-A message given by Governor Tasso during the 16th meeting of the Iwate Prefecture  
COVID-19 Countermeasures HQ (June 8th)-

First, I would like to once again express my respect and gratitude to all residents who have taken strict measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, and who have also remained calm under this stressful situation.

Starting from June 1<sup>st</sup>, while we maintain all residents to avoid non-essential and non-urgent travel to Hokkaido, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa Prefectures, we have relaxed our request to self-restrain non-essential outings. The national government also continues to address the nation to find the balance between preventing the spread of the infection and maintaining our social economy.

The prefectural government, in cooperation with municipalities and related organizations, will support residents in implementing preventative measures in their daily lives, workplaces, and places of learning. Furthermore, with the addition of the second supplementary budget of the national government, we have decided to submit a comprehensive plan for the budget to the Prefectural Assembly to support the daily lives of residents, improve the healthcare system, and support the recovery of regional economic activities, among others.

As for tourism activities, we have relaunched a promotion for residents starting June 1<sup>st</sup> to help revitalize affected local businesses and boost tourism in the prefecture called the “Let’s eat and stay in Iwate” campaign. In addition, should the proposed supplementary budget successfully pass, we will work with municipalities to offer discounts for various accommodation facilities. Once we have encouraged tourism activities throughout the prefecture, we will go on to promote tourism activities between prefectures from June 19<sup>th</sup>.

If we are especially mindful in our preventive measures against the coronavirus, we can begin to see the return of various social and economic daily activities; therefore, please continue to take thorough preventive measures appropriate to each individual situation and implement new lifestyle activities in your daily life, workplaces, and places of learning.

We kindly ask every individual to continue with basic preventative measures such as avoiding the “3 Cs”, keeping up proper hand washing, wearing masks, and following coughing etiquette so that we can achieve our goal for a joyful Iwate, the Home of Hope.