

To Parents/Guardians of Children at Beppu Municipal Kindergartens, Elementary and Junior High Schools

Regarding School Life in Response to the COVID-19 Infection

(From 11th May 2021)

Beppu City Board of Education

We would like to ask for the understanding and cooperation of all parents and guardians regarding the school life from 11th May in Beppu City as follows.

Please note that we may change our response based on the latest information. In that case, we will notify you via the school's contact network.

1. Implement basic infection control measures

(1) Eliminate the source of infection

(a) Health observation at home (conducting temperature check every morning and checking for cold symptoms)

- Please observe your child's health at home before coming to school, fill out the "Health Observation Card" and submit it to the school.
- For children with cold symptoms, please refrain from letting them come to school/kindergarten. In such a case, they will be treated as "suspended attendance."
- If a family member living with the child has cold symptoms, the child may be asked to refrain from attending school/kindergarten. Please consult with the school.

(b) Health observation at school

- As part of the school day guidance, we will check the status of the "Health Observation Card" before the children enter the school building or classroom, and measure the body temperature of children who have not taken their temperature at home. Thermometers used will be disinfected after each use. We will monitor the health of the children as needed during classes and breaks, and if they have cold symptoms after coming to school, we will ask them to stay away from other students and ask their parents to pick them up.

(2) Eliminate the route of infection

(a) Thorough hand washing and disinfection

We provide guidance on basic infection control measures such as thorough hand washing with soap (immediately after coming to school, after physical education classes, after playing outside, before and after school lunch, after using the restroom, etc.), use of hand sanitizer, and cough etiquette.

(b) Cleaning with disinfectant

Doorknobs, handrails, switches, etc., which are frequently touched by children, should be cleaned with disinfectant at least once a day.

(3) Increase the child's overall body resistance

- (a) Please make sure that your child gets enough sleep, moderate exercise, and a balanced diet.

2. Respond to the risk of mass infection (avoiding the overlap of 3 Cs: Closed spaces, Close-contact settings, and Crowded places)

(1) Avoid "closure" (thorough ventilation)

Keep the windows open whenever the climate allows. When using air conditioners, open all windows in two directions at the same time at least once every 30 minutes (for a few minutes) to ventilate.

(2) Avoid "crowding" (maintaining physical distance)

The maximum distance between students in the class should be 1 meter, and students should be seated so that they are not facing each other. However, it is possible for them to temporarily sit across from each other for group study. When using special classrooms where students are seated facing each other, such as the science room and home economics room, avoid long hours of group work and conversations at close range.

(3) Responding to "close" situations (wearing masks)

In principle, all students and teachers should wear masks during school activities. (Any color or pattern of mask may be worn.)

However, it is not necessary to wear masks when a sufficient physical distance can be maintained or when it is judged that there is a high possibility of health hazards such as heat stroke. In addition, when preschoolers and students feel that they are having difficulty breathing, they are instructed to take off the mask or temporarily put the mask over one ear to breathe, so that they can respond appropriately on their own judgment.

3. Handling of children who need medical care or have underlying medical conditions

(1) Decision on school attendance

After consultation with the attending physician or school physician, a decision will be made on an individual basis. If a decision is made not to attend school, the child will be placed on "suspension of attendance."

(2) Countermeasures against infectious diseases in school educational activities

Teachers and staff who have contact with children in medical care or with children with basic illnesses should thoroughly check whether or not they have a fever or other cold symptoms, and take further measures to prevent infectious diseases. In addition, for out-of-school activities, we will avoid using places with shared items and places where there is an unspecified number of people in order to reduce the risk of infection

※If there is a family member with an underlying medical condition living in the same household and there is concern, we will take the same measures.

4. Matters related to study guidance (elementary and junior high schools only)

(1) When using shared teaching materials, teaching tools, information equipment, etc., wash and disinfect hands before and after use.

(2) For some practical skills instruction where there is a high possibility of infection, the order of the annual instructional plan should be changed, and other measures should be carefully considered.

5. Club activities (junior high school only)

(1) Club activities will be conducted as normal activities after thorough countermeasures against infectious diseases have been taken.

(2) During club activities, the content and methods of activities will be devised so that the "3 Cs" do not overlap, and students will be required to follow basic infection control measures such as hand washing and cough etiquette.

6. School lunches

(1) Wash hands thoroughly with soap and disinfectant before and after school lunch.

(2) When eating, students are instructed not to sit across from each other and to refrain from talking to each other in order to avoid splashing.

(3) When students are on lunch duty, we will be sure to check for their symptoms of diarrhea, fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, wearing a mask, and ensure that their hands have been cleaned.

7. Prejudice and discrimination against infected persons, persons in close contact with infected persons, etc.

(1) We will give due consideration to prevent prejudice and discrimination by providing guidance for students according to their developmental stages based on appropriate knowledge of the new coronavirus infections.

(2) In particular, guidance will be provided to prevent acts that may lead to prejudice or discrimination against infected persons, persons in close contact with infected persons and their families, medical personnel involved in countermeasures and treatment of COVID-19 infections, and persons involved in maintaining social functions and their families.