

# **A Proposal Regarding COVID-19-Related Issues**

## **Steps Toward “Back to Normal”**

September 13, 2021

# COVID-19 Countermeasures: Steps Toward “Back to Normal”

## Step 1-1. Promote vaccinations for young people

- (1) Promoting vaccination at junior and senior high schools in addition to current initiatives at universities
- (2) Examining the safety and feasibility of vaccination for ages 6 and above, and if approved, promoting vaccination at elementary schools
- (3) Allow companies to take the initiative to provide urgently required vaccinations to local residents around their bases of operations
- (4) Promoting initiatives targeting young people through cooperation between the government and private sector
- (5) Introducing incentive measures from both the government and the private sector
- (6) Encouraging companies to promote vaccinations

## Step 1-2. Implement other necessary measures

- (1) Early detection of infected persons and strict quarantine measures
  - Expansion and strengthening of PCR testing and Antigen testing resources
  - Easier access to approved antigen detection kits
- (2) Securing sufficient supply of vaccines for third and subsequent doses and building a framework for third dose vaccinations
  - Reviewing the implementation of the first and second dose vaccinations, thereby establishing a system based on best practices in the public and private sectors

## Step 2. Measures for resumption of economic activities

- (1) Reviewing the status of COVID-19 under the Infectious Diseases Control Law
  - Holders of a vaccination certificate or proof of a negative COVID-19 test to be deemed equivalent to those with seasonal influenza.
- (2) Utilization of vaccination certificates or proof of negative test (Next page for details)
  - Implement based on the policy adopted by the COVID-19 Task Force on September 9, taking into account the circumstances and input of the business community
- (3) Support for business
  - Allow deduction of corporate income tax on measures required for the resumption of economic activities (Proposed in August 2020)

## Other

### Ultra-acceleration of drug approvals

- Establish a system that eliminates the need for domestic clinical trial data and allows applications and approvals based on data submitted to authorities outside Japan.

\*As this was accomplished with HIV drug approvals, possible to implement without requiring legislative changes.

# Specific requests regarding the use of vaccination certificates

## Specifications of the vaccination and testing package

- To maximize user-friendliness, the use (which includes the use of non-official recording apps, etc.) of vaccination records and stickers (not limited to originals but also including photos taken with smartphones) issued at the time of vaccination by municipalities or at workplaces should be considered.
- Putting in place a mechanism for minimizing costs such as operational and financial burden in the private sector.
- Proactive use of private sector's expertise when planning public sector events (e.g., reservation systems, etc.).
- Implementation of open API with vaccination certificate function as well as countermeasures against congestion when linking APIs.

## Entertainment, events, live sports, etc.

- Regarding the enforcement of rules which limit or restrict capacity at venues, individuals who possess either a vaccination certificate or proof of a negative COVID-19 test should be **considered exempt from restrictions in all areas and regions**, including those which have announced emergency measures.

## Travel and Transportation

- The government should clearly indicate and thoroughly inform the public that individuals who possess a vaccination certificate or proof of a negative COVID-19 test **are permitted to move freely across prefectural borders**.
- **Provide benefits and discounts** to the certificate holders by utilizing the vaccination and testing package. **(Necessary support measures to be considered.)**

## Restaurants

※Wedding venues and other facilities which offer food and beverages should also follow these recommendations. Restrictions on business hours, alcoholic beverages, capacity, and time limits per customer should be abolished or eased.

- **For restaurants that have received third-party certification, restrictions on business hours, alcoholic beverages, etc. should be abolished or eased.**
- As an additional measure, **the restriction of the number of people who can eat together should be abolished or eased** through use of the vaccine-testing package.
- Taking advantage of the vaccine-testing package, **benefits and discounts should be offered** to the above-mentioned certificate holders. **(Necessary support measures to be considered.)**

## Business activities

- Companies may **promote "Back to Office" initiatives**, with a focus on staff who possess a vaccination certificate or proof of a negative COVID-19 test, at the company's discretion.

## Resumption of normal international travel

- **Overseas vaccination records and domestic records should both be considered valid.**
- **14 days of self-quarantine should not be required** for those who have been vaccinated.
- Harmonization of vaccination certificates.