To the people of Minamisoma

A Message from the Mayor of Minamisoma, Concerning Adherence to New Lifestyle Patterns

The state of emergency, declared as a special countermeasure against COVID-19, has been lifted as of May 25th. Minamisoma has now been free of any new cases for 33 days, from April 26th through yesterday (May 28th). This is all thanks to your efforts to stop the spread of infection through means such as refraining from outings. I offer my deepest thanks for your perseverance.

Taking into consideration the prefecture’s COVID-19 countermeasures which were revised on May 27th, the city will handle future city-run events and more using the following revised guidelines.

1. **City-Run Events, etc.** [June 1st (Mon) ~ July 31st (Fri)]
   - The city will follow the prefecture’s COVID-19 countermeasures.
   - Regarding the prospective of nation-wide or prefecture-wide travel, as well as the difficulty in gathering participants, events will be cancelled, postponed, or held by alternate means.
   - Unless specifically announced otherwise, events that have already been canceled or postponed will stick to that initial decision.

2. **City-Owned Establishments** [June 1st (Mon) ~ July 31st (Fri)]
   - The city will follow the prefecture’s COVID-19 countermeasures.
   - Indoor/outdoor establishments → open for use
   - Regarding the use of training rooms* that have not been open for use up until this point, they will be reopened sequentially, depending on the level to which each establishment is able to conform to the guidelines set out for each industry. An announcement will be sent out again at that time.
   - Regarding the use of rooms such as karaoke establishments and others where large numbers or people gather to sing, shout, or otherwise forcefully expel air will be allowed to reopened if they are able to follow the guidelines set out for each industry. An announcement will be sent out with a checklist for reopening as soon as it has been prepared.

   *Training rooms at the Haramachi Lifelong Learning Center, the Odaka Cultural Exchange Center, the Minamisoma Public Indoor Pool, the Odaka Physical Education Center, and the Healthcare Center (Yuratto)

Although there will be some limitations that remain in our daily lives, we are aiming for a move toward “new lifestyle patterns.” As a society, we are entering a new stage in which COVID-19 countermeasures and socio-economic activity plans coexist.

While slowly boosting the level of socio-economic activity, if we see a trend in infection spread, strong countermeasures will once again be put into place. Through efforts like this, we are aiming for balance and flexibility.
Minamisoma will also be focusing on the socio-economic situation within the city, and responding with speed. Therefore, we ask everyone for your continuing understanding and support moving forward.

May 29th, 2020, noon

Mayor of Minamisoma Monma Kazuo

**Keeping an Eye on People Living by Themselves**

Amidst the reduction in outings and meeting with others as an effect of COVID-19, the issue of how to support the elderly who are living by themselves and have a tendency to become isolated is growing.

This is especially the case in eastern Japan, after the share experience of the 3/11 disaster in which a large earthquake was followed by a tsunami and the nuclear accident at Tokyo Electric’s Fukushima 1 nuclear power plant. It has become extremely important for neighbors to keep an eye out for each other.

The Regional Comprehensive Support Center has been hard at work in Minamisoma with various operations such as the “Elderly Watch/Advice Support Operation” in order to ensure that those who are living by themselves do not become isolated, and will continue in their efforts.

We ask the residents of the city to reach out to your elderly neighbors and look after them. Furthermore, if you see any signs of someone becoming isolated like those written below, please contact the administrative head of the area, a district welfare officer, the police, or the fire department.

- You haven’t seen them in a while
- They haven’t taken out their garbage recently
- Their laundry has been hanging out for a long time
- Newspapers/mail is piling up
- You don’t see them opening or closing their windows, curtains, or storm shutters
- The lights are left on all day, or never turned off at night

Health and Welfare Bureau, Social Welfare Division 0244 (24) 5243

**Changes to the City Phone Consultation System**

Accompanying the lifting of the state of emergency declaration, the following changes will be made to the city phone consultation system. For those for whom a phone call may prove difficult, such as the hard-of-hearing, you can also get a consultation via FAX.

- Change Day: Monday, June 1st, 2020
- Calling Hours: 8:30am ~ 5:15pm (excluding weekends and holidays)
- Contact Information: Health Promotion Division
  TEL: 0244(23)3680   FAX: 0244(23)4525
A Message of Support from Junior High School Students
To Those Fighting Against COVID-19
Minamisoma Board of Education

Our daily lives have been drastically changed because of COVID-19.
But many people are fighting every day in order to prevent its spread,
from the medical workers,
to the producers and distributors of daily necessities.

From all of Minamisoma’s junior high students to all the people who are working together against COVID-19,
we would like to send a message of gratitude and support.
We will fight with you to overcome this hardship.

Support messages are being displayed on the Board of Education portal site as well as in the lobby of Minamisoma City Hall, the Kashima Ward Office, and the Odaka Ward Office.

Portal site: all messages
City Hall Lobby: students at Haramachi JHS 1 through 4
Kashima Ward Office: Kashima JHS students
Odaka Ward Office: Odaka JHS students

Dear medical workers,
Our country is supported thanks to you. It’s not a job for the faint of heart, filled with fear and uncertainty every day. I’ll do my best to self-isolate in order to reduce this time even a little. I know every day is a battle, but please take care of your own health.

Dear post office workers,
Thank you so much for always delivering our letters and packages, and protecting our lives. Don’t lose to COVID-19, and keep fighting!

Dear farmers,
We look forward when we can all return smiling to the fields together.

Dear supermarket workers,
Thank you for working for our sake in a place where many people gather. Thanks to you, we can eat delicious food. Please take care of yourselves and do your best.
You have our sincere gratitude. Thank you so much.
We will be removing gravel from river bottoms. (Fukushima Prefecture Construction)

Along with the pressing situation surrounding COVID-19 measures, it is also important to put measures against natural disasters into place. After seeing the effects of disasters such as Typhoon 19, and as a measure against increasingly frequent and intense water-related disasters, the prefecture is implementing a river channel dredging project to increase the flowrate of rivers by removing gravel from the bottom of the rivers.

(Example) River channel dredging plans for Nida River near Ogawacho (May 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas Scheduled for River Channel Dredging, 2020 Fiscal Year (Besides Listed Above)</th>
<th>May 2020</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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We apologize for the inconvenience caused by heavy machinery, trucks, etc., and ask for your understanding.

Contact Information: Minamisoma City Construction Bureau, Civil Engineering Division
0244-24-5252