

Preventing the new coronavirus outbreak (2.18.2020)

More and more new cases of novel coronavirus infection have been reported in Japan and the virus is said to be highly contagious. Among those infected, elderly and those with pre-existing conditions have seen more cases of developing severe symptoms.

At the moment, services and trainings at temples will be held as scheduled. However, please keep in mind the following important points when considering your participation in temple activities so that you can take proper actions and exercise caution.

A. [For those individuals described below, please refrain from visiting temples even if you do not have any symptoms.]

Practitioners who are elderly, have underlying conditions, or have concerns about their health, such as those who are currently pregnant.

B. [For those individuals described below, please refrain from visiting temples without hesitation.]

- Those who have cold-like symptoms such as fever, stomachache, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, long-lasting fatigue and sluggishness, and those with family member(s) having such symptoms.
- Those who took a temperature before leaving home to temple activities including a home meeting, and found out that they have a fever.

C. [Please exercise caution so as to prevent getting or spreading viruses.]

In your daily life and while visiting temples, please take extra caution to maintain good health by washing your hands carefully and frequently, gargling frequently, getting enough sleep, taking proper nutrition and so on. Let us exercise caution to prevent getting infected while maintaining good health. Also, when coughing, please cover your mouth with a face mask, a hand towel, or an elbow instead of your hand to prevent spreading of germs.

D. [Additional Notes]

If you visited or stayed in areas that saw concentrated outbreak of the new coronavirus, please refrain from visiting temples for at least 2 weeks.

In addition, if you had a close contact with those who visited those areas, or if you have symptoms or circumstances that could make you suspect a possibility of the infection, please also refrain from visiting temples. There are many confirmed cases of infection even without any symptoms so please be extra careful.

While refraining from visiting temples, you may not be able to receive sesshin for a certain period of time, your Eza card may expire, or you may have some concerns about Chiryu Gakuin attendance. You may also have difficulty in submitting homa and spiritual consolation requests, or making *okangi* offerings on a regular basis. For those situations, please wait for further announcements from the temple office.

Exercise caution in order to prevent getting infected as well as getting others infected: Your exercising caution will protect you and your family and will give peace and safe environment to those around you. Keeping that in mind, let us exercise caution with the spirit of upholding the dharma. For your information, Japan Shinnyo-en organization has first convened its “special meeting for infectious disease prevention” in January to discuss crisis response measures and has since held this meeting continuously. They will continue with this meeting to gather the latest information as well as to come up with the countermeasures. Information from Shinnyo-en will be updated frequently, so please stay tuned and read the latest information carefully.

You may see some temple office staff and division spiritual guides wearing facemasks to prevent the spread of infections. Thank you for your understanding and support.