

Tokyo area will enter quasi-emergency for 3 weeks from Friday

By Sophie Jackman
Bloomberg

The greater Tokyo region and other parts of Japan are set to come under a state of quasi-emergency for three weeks starting Friday as the government tries to rein in a surge of COVID-19.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said a final decision will be made Wednesday for the 13 prefectures including Tokyo. The measure, set to end Feb. 13, will allow the local government to request limits on gathering and hospitality operations. Tokyo and neighboring areas are discussing restrictions on serving alcohol, asking restaurants and bars to shorten opening hours and requiring testing of all participants at large events, broadcaster NHK reported Tuesday.

Tokyo, which recorded 5,185 cases on Tuesday – a jump from around 30 just a month ago – plans to raise the coronavirus warning level to level 2, up from level 1 on the national 5-level scale, TV Asahi reported, citing an unidentified person.

The government is stepping up efforts to contain the spread as the nationwide daily case count surpassed the record from August last year, with more than 27,000 cases on Tuesday, according to NHK. The quasi-emergency COVID measures are already in place in three prefectures in Japan – Okinawa, Yamaguchi and Hiroshima – until the end of the month.



TESTING SITE: Commuters wait for traffic signals to change in front of a COVID-19 testing site in Tokyo on Tuesday.
Soichiro Koriyama/Bloomberg

People with proof of vaccination or a negative test will no longer be able to bypass limits on group dining or attending large events, according to local reports. The government plans to suspend this exemption as it sees the omicron variant spreading even among those who have been vaccinated twice.

The moves come as Japan's rollout of booster shots starts to get off the ground, beginning with medical workers. COVID vaccination has largely been entrusted to local governments, which distribute vouchers to residents for redemption at local clinics. This was supplemented last year by mass vaccination sites in major urban areas. A site in central Tokyo operated by the Self-Defense Forces will reopen on Jan. 31, NHK reported Tuesday.

Hong Kong to kill 2K hamsters after positive tests for coronavirus

HONG KONG (The Washington Post) – Hong Kong has asked pet shops and owners to hand over close to 2,000 hamsters for culling by authorities, after 11 of the small rodents tested positive for the coronavirus in a pet shop. The territory has also suspended the import of small animals.

Authorities announced the decision Tuesday after the city's health experts found two groups of hamsters, which originated in the Netherlands and arrived in Hong Kong on Dec. 22 and Jan. 7, to be "high-risk" for carrying the novel coronavirus. The hamsters turned over by pet owners will be killed to "cut the transmission chain," health officials said.

"Evidence shows that the hamsters are infected with the COVID-19 virus. It is impossible to quarantine and observe each of them and their incubation period could be long," said Leung Siu-fai, the director of Hong Kong's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

The role of pets in coronavirus transmission has been studied and debated since the start of the pandemic, but for the most part, infection appears to be a one-way street, with animals catching the virus from their owners and generally recovering quickly.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called the risk of animals spreading the virus to people "low" but noted that it "can spread from people to animals during close contact." The exception appears to be minks, with cases of humans being infected by them.

Indonesia passes law to move capital to Borneo

JAKARTA (Reuters) – Parliament on Tuesday approved a bill to relocate Indonesia's capital from Jakarta to a site deep within the jungle of Kalimantan on Borneo island, the most significant advancement of an idea the country's leaders have been toying with for years.

The new state capital law, which provides a legal framework for President Joko Widodo's ambitious \$32 billion mega project, stipulates how development of the capital will be funded and governed.

"The new capital has a central function and is a symbol of the identity of the nation, as well as a new center of economic gravity," Planning Minister Suharso Monoarfa told parliament after the bill was passed into law.

The initial relocation will start from between 2022 and 2024, with roads and ports prioritized to enable access, with some projects operating as public-private partnerships, the finance ministry said.

Plans to move the government

away from Jakarta, a megacity of 10 million people that suffers from chronic congestion, floods and air pollution, have been floated by multiple presidents, but none have made it this far.

Jokowi, as the president is known, first announced his plan in 2019, but progress was delayed by COVID-19.

The new city has a name chosen by him – Nusantara, a Javanese term for the Indonesian archipelago – but no timeframe has yet been set for finalization of the project, and Jakarta will remain the capital until a presidential decree is issued to formalize the change.

Nusantara would follow in the footsteps of new capitals in other countries, notably Brazil and Myanmar.

It will strengthen supply chains and place Indonesia "in a more strategic position in world trade routes, investment flows and technological innovation," the government said in a statement.

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPARTAMENTON SALUT PUBLIKO YAN SETISION SUSAT

EMS Commission & EMS for Children Advisory Committee Regular Virtual Board Meeting

Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 10:00AM.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/99986440713?pwd=MDIzUWZibStWmQ4K2J4bjEvTjhmUT09>
Meeting ID: 999 8644 0713 Passcode: 858995

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Call to order
- II. Confirmation of Publication
- III. Roll call
- IV. Approval of agenda/minutes
- V. HPLO website
- VI. Administrator's Report
- VII. Legal Counsel Report
- VIII. Committee Reports
- IX. Old Business
 - (a) Agency Reports (USNH, GMHA, GCC, GDOE, DPHSS, DPW, EMSC, EMD)
 - (b) EMS lifesaving award
 - (c) EMT of the year
 - (d) Paramedic Program Update
- X. New Business
 - (a) EMS Conference Agenda
 - (b) EMS Week Activities for May 15-22, 2022
 - (c) EMS for Children Day Activities for May 17, 2022
 - (d) Recertification: Joseph Jay Quitgwa-EMT, Justine C. Munoz-EMT, John Q. Reyes-EMT, Jesse F. Reyes-EMT, Vincent R.B. Toves-EMT
- XI. Announcements
- XII. Adjournment

To view the names of the applicants being considered, go to:
<https://guamhpl.org/emsc>

To view the LIVE Streaming link:
<https://facebook.com/HPLGuam>

For more information, please contact the Board office at (671) 735-7404/10 thru 12. Persons needing telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact (671) 475-8339.

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GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPARTAMENTON SALUT PUBLIKO YAN SETISION SUSAT

The Guam Board of Barbering and Cosmetology Regular Virtual Board Meeting

Monday, January 24, 2022 at 9:00AM (ChST)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/98190601114?pwd=VlFNOUwERTFQZzZ2NOY0NrQl92ekVsdz09>
Meeting ID: 981 9060 1114 Passcode: 129697

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Confirmation of Publication
- III. Roll call
- IV. Elections
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Approval of Minutes
- VII. HPLO Administrative Report
- VIII. Treasurer Report
- IX. Old Business
 - (a) Rules and Regulations – On-Going
 - (b) Complaints
 - (1) GBBC-CO-2021-0001 – Date Received: 07/02/2021 (A. Taitano)
 - (2) GBBC-CO-2021-0002 – Date Received: 07/08/2021 (A. Taitano)
 - (3) GBBC-CO-2021-0003 – Date Received: 07/19/2021 (A. Taitano)
 - (4) GBBC-CO-2021-0004 – Date Received: 07/20/2021 (A. Taitano)
 - (5) GBBC-CO-2021-0005 – Date Received: 08/19/2021 (A. Taitano)
- X. New Business
 - (a) Applications for Establishment
 - (b) Applications for Examination
 - (c) Applications for Apprenticeship
 - (d) Applications for Reciprocity
 - (e) Applications for Re-Examination
- XI. Other Business
- XII. Announcements
- XIII. Adjournment

To view the names of the applicants being considered, go to:
<https://guambarberingandcosmetology.org>

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