

Things to keep in mind when going to year-end/New Year parties/festivals

As the year 2020 is coming to a close, looks like COVID-19 is not going to go away anytime soon. We should continue to take what have now become all-too-familiar precautions against the virus.

- Have the courage not to go out to dinner or a party when you are under the weather.
- Stay away from closed places with poor ventilation, crowded places with many people nearby, or close-contact settings such as close-range conversations will likely occur, and most of all, where COVID-19 spread preventive actions are not in place.
- When you've decided to go out to a party/dinner, make sure to take the usual precautions: keep a physical distance of at least one meter, disinfect your fingers and hands with alcohol disinfectant, wear a mask, and keep your voice down.
- Here are some of the typical don'ts regarding drinking alcohol.
 - Drink alcohol a lot at a bar, on the street, or deep into the night.
 - Get drunk and go to an event.
- For this year-end & the New Year period, perhaps it is a good idea to stay home and enjoy the holiday season with your family. You could have fun at events online.
- We are at Level 4 (the highest alert level) here in Gunma from Dec. 19, 2020 to January 8, 2021. You are requested to stay home except to go to work, school, doctor, or grocery and other essential shopping.