

Special Feature 3: Police Efforts in Combating COVID-19 (pp. 37–42)

1. COVID-19 Response System

In order to cope with the spread of COVID-19, the NPA has established the COVID-19 Task Force headed by its Commissioner General, and works together with associate organizations to respond to the pandemic, based on the Action Plans for Measures against Novel Influenza of the National Public Safety Commission and the National Police Agency (formulated in October 2013, revised in April 2019).

2. Efforts after the Spread of COVID-19

(1) Vigilance and Security at the Points of Entry

In line with the reinforcement of COVID-19-related quarantine, the NPA shares information and cooperates closely with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and other associate organizations.

Related prefectural police forces have been cooperating for the smooth implementation of quarantine, while conducting vigilance and security activities at points of entry such as airports to prevent problems and prepare for contingencies.



Vigilance activities at airport

(2) Crackdown on Related Crimes and Provision of Crime Prevention Information

Based on the Basic Action Policy on COVID-19, the police work together with associate organizations to obtain information and crackdown on crimes that exploit the pandemic-induced confusion.

(3) Response to Governors' Stay-home Requests

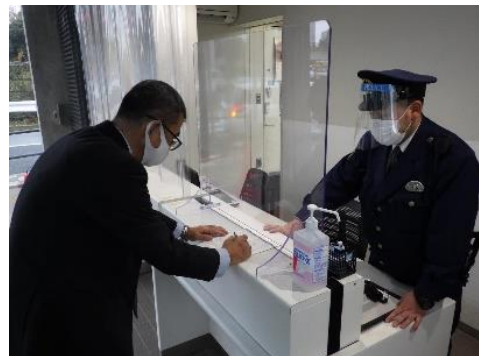
In response to the prefectural governors' stay-home requests, the police have taken the necessary measures such as the reinforcement of patrols in downtown to prevent problems.

(4) Temporary Measures in Police Administrative Procedures

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the police have introduced temporary measures to extend the driving permission and the renewal period for drivers who may face difficulties in renewing their driving licenses by the expiration date, and to extend the instruction period for those who intend to acquire driving licenses.

(5) Prevention of the Spread of COVID-19

The police require all officers and other staff to wash and sanitize their hands and practice cough etiquette, while improving their working environments by installing clear plastic shields.



Police officer wearing protective equipment to serve residents

3. Enhancement of Usability for Citizens to Meet Social and Economic Changes

○ Streamlining and Advancement of Police Information Management Systems for Enhanced Usability for Citizens

The NPA has been working to streamline and advance the usability of systems by integrating the systems of the NPA and those of the prefectural police forces in order to develop a new synergistic system, which shall enable administrative procedures to be carried out online, while substantially reducing the costs for streamlining the administrative procedures as well as those for developing and maintaining the police information management system.

○ Digital Driving Licenses

The NPA is considering the integration of driving licenses and Individual Number Cards, which will start from the end of FY2024. Due to this integration, the driving license procedures will become convenient for people, providing them with a “one-stop shop” where they can change their address, promptly renew their driving licenses outside of their place of residence, and access online training for the renewal of driving licenses.



Integration of driving license and Individual Number Card (Example)



Online training (Example)

○ Online Administrative Procedures

Since June 2021, the NPA has started the trial operation of the Police Administrative Procedure Website to enable several application procedures to be carried out by email. Many citizens requested that these procedures be put online.

Meanwhile, the NPA is developing a new system which shall enable the completion of more procedures online. In order to develop a system to provide usability to people, the NPA is also reviewing the procedures themselves by eliminating unnecessary attachments.



Input screen of Police Administrative Procedure Site (image)



Application flow for Police Administrative Procedure Website (Example)