

## In Response to the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The world's leaders are focused on curtailing the spread of the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and institutions worldwide are postponing, cancelling, and reorganizing activities to contribute to this effort. Urasenke Headquarters is also taking actions locally in the interest of general public safety.

In Japan, great precautions are being taken to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Based upon the basic policies laid out by the Japanese government in response to COVID-19, Urasenke Headquarters has cancelled, postponed, or scaled-down almost all Urasenke Headquarters-sponsored events, practice sessions (*keiko*), workshops/seminars, etc. in the months of March and April, 2020. Urasenke chapters and youth organizations in Japan have also been advised to consider similar actions, particularly in activities such as large gatherings and tea venues where people would gather together for extended periods of time. This information is posted in detail on the Urasenke Japanese-language homepage (link below). As for future activities, updates will follow as new information becomes available.

If you are in an at-risk area for the spread of COVID-19, we trust you to put safety first. Please duly appraise the situation in your area, and decide whether or not to cancel, postpone, or scale down any tea-related activities.

Urasenke Foundation  
Urasenke Tankokai Federation

For your reference: Iemoto Zabosai has released the following messages, now posted on the Urasenke Japanese-language homepage, referring to the Urasenke Japan-side response to COVID-19.

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Message 1 February 25, 2020

I'm sure that you are greatly concerned about how your activities will be affected. The Sen family also has scheduled a large number of Urasenke sponsored tea gatherings for this spring.

As host/organizer for these activities, I plan to respond as follows:

At *Koicha* venues, I will display utensils as planned, but when serving tea to guests I plan to have *usucha* served in order to avoid the passing of a single bowl of tea among several guests.

I trust that you will use this for your personal reference.

Message 2 February 26, 2020

In response to the new announcements about the Japanese government's basic policies in response to the spread of COVID-19, Urasenke-sponsored events scheduled in March will be conducted in-house (general participation by Tankokai members and the general public will not be permitted).

All domestic workshops and seminars have also been cancelled for the month of March. In addition, I advise caution and restraint when handling your own various tea-related activities.

In view of the current situation, I humbly request your understanding and continuing support.

The Japanese-language page with with links to Coronavirus-related information:  
<http://www.urasenke.or.jp/temp01/index.html>