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Greetings from Japan to all our friends and partners.

Like many countries in the region, a state of emergency was declared in Tokyo and several other prefectures on 7 April, and soon after expanded nationwide. But after a fall in COVID-19 cases, restrictions were relaxed in early May and followed with the lifting of the state of emergency on 25 May, allowing all businesses to resume operations. Throughout the state of emergency, Japan did not impose the kinds of lockdown seen in Europe, but rather encouraged companies to allow employees to work remotely, and bars, restaurants and other small business to close or restrict opening hours.

Until the end of June, international flights remain restricted and all arrivals are requested to undergo a 14-day quarantine at a designated location. This is expected to be reviewed and adjusted at the end of the month. Domestic travel and the use of the bullet trains in long distance journeys has begun to see an increase, while domestic flights are expected to resume in July. Some restaurants and departments in Tokyo are still voluntarily restraining their business hours, while most venues ask visitors to use hand sanitizer placed at the entrance, wear face masks and practice social distancing.

In support of Japan's medical professionals, the Destination Asia Japan team assisted nationwide efforts by making personal protective equipment (PPE) out of plastic bags, tape, and any other surplus office materials we could find. Our product team made over 30 pieces of protective clothing which were donated to the Bogofuku Shien Project in Kesenuma, Miyagi Prefecture, to be distributed to hospitals in need.

As the situation continues to improve, we will share more details on our latest products and new ways to experience the fascinating culture of Japan.

Take care and we look forward to welcoming you again soon.