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## **JAPAN LOOKS TO LIFT CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY IN SOME AREAS AHEAD OF MAY 31 DEADLINE**

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The Japan Times (10 May 2020)

Economy minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said on Sunday the government is looking to lift the state of emergency in "many of 34 prefectures" that are not among those hit hardest hit by the coronavirus before the nationwide extension ends on May 31.

"Lifting the state of emergency in many of 34 prefectures that exclude those under specific cautions will likely come in sight as many prefectures have been seeing no fresh infections lately," Nishimura said in a debate on NHK.

Nishimura, who is in charge of the government's overall coronavirus response, said a declining trend in the weekly number of new infections and the number of new cases on a per capita basis will be among evaluation criteria for the lifting.

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