

Regarding enforcement of Eyo in Reiwa 3 (2021)

Saidaiji Eyo supporting committee
Chairman, Minoru OMORI

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us all to make difficult decisions regarding business meetings, family reunions, conferences, and other events. Under these circumstances, we here at the Saidaiji Eyo supporting committee, ask ourselves sincerely how Saidaiji Eyo can proceed.

Designated an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Asset, the ancestry and significance of Saidaiji Eyo can be traced back almost 1,000 years. During the Heian Period (794-1185), when plague was causing death and disease, Kyoto lost one third of its population. During the Muromachi period (1336-1573), when the main hall of Saidaiji temple burned down, the main hall was then relocated from a related temple and Eyo was established. Since that time, Eyo has continued uninterrupted for over 500 years. The origin of the word “Eyo” is from 一陽来復 “Ichiyo Raifuku”, which means to withstand the harsh cold winter and to reach the warmth of spring. In other words, we pray for good luck after continuous bad things.

In discussions with the chief priest and committee members, we have reached the conclusion that we need to pray of Eyo now. These prayers will be for fertility, world peace and elimination of plague. However, taking preventive measures along with guideline against infection is our responsibility and we were seeking the way not to lose essence of Eyo.

With all this in mind, due to concerns over the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) and in consideration of the health and safety of participants and staff members, we have decided to cancel the programs below:

- Boys Hadaka Matsuri, Women’s Prayer, Dedication dances, Fireworks, Food vendors
- Entrance to Saidaiji Temple will be barred between 20:30-23:00.
- Eyo participants will be authorised staff only.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and kindly ask for your understanding.

Best Regards
合掌 Gassho