

(Date) March 2nd, 2020

(Mayor's Message)

Dear the Citizens of Hirakata City

I inform you about our new measures against COVID-19.

The number of people being coronavirus-positive is increasing in entire Japan. It is also confirmed that coronavirus infections affect Osaka. As announced on February 28th, we decided to shut all elementary schools and junior high schools in Hirakata from today to March 24th.

In addition, even if you have booked in advance, I would like to ask you to refrain using city indoor facilities such as life-long learning centres and sporting facilities for a while. The city facility booking service is now being halted. The city library services are also stopped except necessary ones. For more details, please contact each city facility.

The reason why city facilities are closed for a while is that we think everyone's safety and security as one of the first priorities. I know that these decisions will give you inconvenience. I would like to request your understanding and cooperation about our decisions.

Now, the COVID-19 telephone consultation service system is being enhanced by increasing the number of phones. I would like to ask you to wash your hands, gargle your throat, and cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing (even if you cannot buy face masks, washing your hands is very effective to minimise the risk of infections).

We, Hirakata City Hall, are thinking citizens' safety as one of the first priorities and are doing our utmost in order that our anti-COVID-19 measures do not affect citizens' daily lives. Again, I would like to ask for your understanding and cooperation about our anti-COVID-19 policies. Daily products such as toilet rolls are in out-of-stock at many shops due to the fact that a lot of customers stockpile them. I also would like to ask you to take proper actions based on precise information given by the central government, the prefectural government, and the municipal government.

March 2nd

FUSHIMI Takashi

Mayor of Hirakata City