

(Date) February 19th

(Mayor's Message)

Dear the Citizens of Hirakata City

I inform you about novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that was first reported from Wuhan, China.

The number of people being coronavirus positive is increasing in entire Japan. To minimise the outbreak of coronavirus infection, we have set up "Hirakata Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters" that shares information with relevant organisations such as fire authorities and police and associates with medical institutions.

We have started the COVID-19 telephone consultation service for Hirakata's citizens. In addition, from February 4th, we open "Kikokusha Sesshokusha Sodan Centre" that is the coronavirus consultation centre for people who have returned from overseas countries or who may have closely contacted with persons tested coronavirus positive. If you suspect you are infected with the novel coronavirus due to fever and respiratory symptoms, please contact the coronavirus consultation centre.

We decided to cancel or postpone city hosting or co-hosting events where more than 100 people were expected to gather. Based on this decision, all city events scheduled until March 31st will be cancelled or postponed. We also consider putting off events where less than 100 people gather. I would like to ask for your understanding and cooperation about our infectious prevention measures.

I also hope that companies and organisations in Hirakata will fully understand our decision. I appreciate if they help us to the extent possible.

We will inform you about the latest anti-coronavirus measures on our website.

To prevent our daily lives from infections, washing your hands is very effective. I would like to ask you to continue daily antivirus activities such as washing hands and covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. In particular, older adults and people who have chronic diseases are at high risk for developing more serious symptoms due to the novel coronavirus. Therefore, in addition to daily antivirus activities mentioned above, it is necessary to keep distance from places where a lot of people gather. If you have cold symptoms

such as fever, you should not go to school or work but stay at home. You should also monitor your condition by recording your temperature.

We are carrying out anti-coronavirus measures to protect citizens' daily lives. I request to take proper actions based on precise information given by the central government, the prefectural government, and the municipal government.

February 19th, 2020

FUSHIMI Takashi

Mayor of Hirakata City