

(Date) February 28th

(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. Hence, I decided to shut all elementary schools and junior high schools in Hirakata from March 2nd to the end of spring vacation. Furthermore, the child development programmes named "Kodomo Ikiiki Hiroba" will be halted from tomorrow (29th).

We are thinking children's safety and security as one of the first priorities. I would like to ask for your understanding about school shut. For parents who have to leave their children at home without any carers, however, nursery schools, kindergartens, after-school childcare services, and Hirakata Child Development Support Centre are available as usual. Of course, these facilities are paying full attention to infectious prevention when accepting children.

From March, the COVID-19 telephone consultation service system for the citizens of Hirakata will be enhanced by increasing the number of phones. I would like to request washing your hands, gargling your throat, and covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing (even if you cannot buy face masks, washing your hands frequently is very effective to minimise the risk of infections).

We, Hirakata City Hall, are thinking citizens' safety as one of the first priorities. Based on this notion, we are doing our utmost for citizens to live their daily lives as usual. I would be grateful if you understand and help us.

February 28th, 2020

FUSHIMI Takashi

Mayor of Hirakata City

The today's message published at 1p.m. said that Hirakata Child Development Support Centre would be closed from March 2nd. But, the centre will open after March 2nd. We will apologise and correct that.