

Mayor's Message to the Citizens of Hirakata City (April 3rd, 2020)

Dear the citizens of Hirakata City

First of all, I would like to express my deep sympathy for the citizens who were infected with novel coronavirus. I sincerely hope they will get better as soon as possible.

Since the novel coronavirus outbreak was reported, I have decided to shut down all elementary and junior high schools for a while. I also have requested all citizens to refrain the use of city facilities and community activities. I fully understand that our decisions and requests for novel coronavirus control have inconvenienced all citizens, so far. I would like to thank everyone for understanding and cooperation in our measures to prevent the spread of an infectious disease.

The daily situation is changing with the global spread of the novel coronavirus disease. In Osaka, patients with unknown routes of transmission or clusters are increasing as well as other major cities.

Under these circumstances, we decided to refrain our host or co-host events and to extend the limitation period of using city facilities until May 6th.

We also decided to extend the school shutdown period until May 6th. But, we should care about students' health conditions and academic abilities during the shutdown period. Therefore, we will check them when accepting students on school days that are differently set based on grades and classes. Of course, we will pay full attention to preventing outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease at schools.

In addition, for parents who cannot be at home in daytime, we secure temporary childcare

facilities where children can stay safe. Those facilities accept first to six graders.

To protect yourself from the novel coronavirus infection, I strongly recommend washing your hands and covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing. Furthermore, please avoid the following “Three Cs”; “Closed spaces with poor ventilation”, “Crowded places with many people nearby”, and “Close-contact settings such as close-range conversation”. I hope that everyone cooperates with infectious prevention based on the notion that individual proper actions protect everyone’s health and lives.

To overcome this difficult situation, Hirakata City will make full efforts to carry out effective measures for infectious prevention and to secure enough medical institutions by working with relevant authorities including Osaka Prefectural Government.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hirakata City