

Mayor's Message to the Citizens of Hirakata City (April 7th)

Dear the Citizens of Hirakata City

Today (April 7th), the central government has declared the state of emergency over the novel coronavirus infectious disease based on the Act on Special Measures against Pandemic Influenza. The declaration that covers seven prefectures including Tokyo and Osaka will be in effect until the end of consecutive holidays of May (May 6th).

As of April 7th, thirteen people in Hirakata were infected with the novel coronavirus. Particularly, seven of them were diagnosed as coronavirus positive in April. This shows the number of patients with the novel coronavirus is increasing in Hirakata.

In entire Osaka, about five hundred patients were confirmed coronavirus positive. Now, the number of patients whose infectious routes are unknown is increasing. To tackle such a circumstance, Osaka Prefectural Government is making full efforts to secure hotels that accept patients whose symptoms are relatively mild. The prefectural government is also requesting hospitals to secure up to 1000 beds including ones in use. However, it is quite hard to secure enough medical institutions under limited medical staff and equipment such as ventilators.

If the number of patients with the novel coronavirus goes beyond that of secured beds due to continuous infectious outbreaks, many medical institutions may not be able to accept new patients with serious symptoms. In other words, if the current situation continues, a collapse of the medical system may happen. To curb it, we should contain the infectious outbreaks. Now, we are standing at a crossroads whether the collapse of medical system occurs or not.

What I want to ask you first is to refrain from going out for unnecessary purposes regardless of weekday or holiday. In particular, amusement places, night clubs, and bars are at the high risk of infection. I strongly request you to refrain from visiting those places.

Of course, necessary activities such as going to work, shopping at grocery stores, and seeing a doctor are not restricted. Please act with a calm mind and do not stockpile foods and daily items unnecessarily.

I think that you are afraid if your family and you may be infected with the novel coronavirus or if you may spread the virus to your friends and co-workers. To get back our normal

daily lives as soon as possible, I would like to ask for your cooperation in infection prevention such as staying at home, washing your hands, and covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing.

To protect you and your lives, Hirakata City works with other authorities including Osaka Prefectural Government and quickly carries out measures and support programmes against the novel coronavirus.

Although circumstances are changing day by day, we will provide necessary information to you through our website and SNS. Again, I would like to ask for your understanding and cooperation in our anti-infection activities.

FUSHIMI Takashi

Mayor of Hirakata City

April 7th, 2020