

Mayor's Message (May 15th)

Hello. I'm FUSHIMI Takashi, Mayor of Hirakata City.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation for our preventive measures of novel coronavirus outbreak.

The central government decided to extend the declaration of state of emergency over novel coronavirus infections to May 31st. It can be said that the situation remains to be on a knife-edge. On the other hand, many prefectures have gradually restarted socio-economical activities thanks to the lifting of state of emergency yesterday (May 14th).

In Osaka, the prefectural government made three conditions to ease the requests for closing businesses. Those conditions were achieved for seven consecutive days from May 8th that was the scheduled date for the commencement of investigation. Consequently, the prefectural government decided to ease part of the requests on May 14th. The new rules for business activities will be in effect tomorrow (May 16th).

Since May 9th, new patients with COVID-19 are not confirmed in Hirakata thanks to everyone's efforts. The spread of infection is gradually being contained in Hirakata. But, we do not know when it occurs again. Therefore, it is necessary to continue our current activities for the prevention of infection diseases.

I would like to ask you to continue infectious prevention activities such as washing your hands, wearing a face mask, avoiding the three Cs (Closed spaces, Crowded places, and Close-contact settings), and keeping social distancing.

I understand that many citizens are worrying about daily lives due to the fact that they are requested to refrain various activities for a long period. Our first priority is to support citizens and business operators who are not covered by central government's and prefectural government's financial support schemes, particularly those who are facing severe economic situations. We will carry out original financial support programmes for families with small children. For further information about those financial support programmes, please have a look at our website.

Hirakata's city schools were reopened with staggered attendance after carrying out anti-infection measures for school. Now, the city schools are making efforts to increase chances to study by sequentially introducing online education systems that provide learning contents and Q&A interaction service between teachers and students.

We will carefully listen to citizens' voices to provide proper supports they need. We also will do our utmost to overcome this difficult situation and get back to secure and normal lives as soon as possible.