

Mayor's Message (May 21st 2020)

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

The declaration of emergency state for Osaka, which was issued on April 7th, was finally lifted on May 21st.

I would like to express my gratitude to citizens and business owners who avoided nonessential outings, stopped doing business activities, and reduced 80% of person-to-person contacts during the state of emergency. Furthermore, I also thank all paramedics who worked for a long period at the forefront of medical care despite the fact that they were highly likely to be infected with COVID-19.

The risk of infections in Hirakata is gradually being contained thanks to everyone's cooperation. But, now, we cannot get back to our normal lives like before. The virus still stays around us. In addition, our current regional economy is quite severe.

From now on, we should balance both "long-term anti-infectious policies" and "socio-economic recovery policies".

We also should keep on "new normal" in our lives to avoid the second and third spikes of COVID-19. Once again, I would like to ask you to wash your hands, wear a face mask, and avoid three Cs (Closed spaces, Crowded places, and Close-contact settings).

To restart socio-economic activities, we will carry out our original supporting plans for those who cannot receive financial assistances by the central and prefectural governments despite severe economic conditions.

We will reopen city facilities and will call off school closure for children to start their new school lives as soon as possible. This is a big step to get our normal lives back. Of course, we will pay full attention to anti-infection measures for everyone to safely use city facilities and schools.

"Overcome this difficulty and move forward beyond COVID-19". Together with all Hirakata's members - citizens, business owners, and city staff, I would like to challenge to co-exist with the virus.

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hirakata City
May 21st 2020