

Mayor's Message (August 6th 2020)

Hello everyone. I am FUSHIMI Takashi, Mayor of Hirakata City.

Now, new patients with COVID-19 are increasing not only in Tokyo and Osaka but also throughout Japan. In Hirakata, more than 50 citizens were confirmed COVID-19 positive last month. It can be said that Hirakata is facing the increase of coronavirus patients again.

The recent tendency is that coronavirus is spreading to young people in their 20s. However, there is concern that middle to elderly people, particularly old people who are at high risk for severe symptoms may get infected from young people with COVID-19.

If coronavirus widely spreads without taking any anti-virus actions, infected citizens may not be able to receive proper medical care. Hence, anti-virus measures are urgent. On the other hand, we also should carry out various policies not to stop economic activities.

Today (August 6th), the 6th supplementary budget for COVID-19 measures was approved by the emergency city assembly. These are the details of the supplementary budget. There are 15 plans such as setting up "Local Outpatient and Testing Centre", refunding part of a fee for a nursery school, and purchasing antiseptic solution for city schools and after-school rooms. The total spending is about 2.6 billion yen.

I would like to introduce one of them. This is the plan that gives 3000-yen vouchers to all citizens in Hirakata. The voucher is available at shops and restaurants in Hirakata. When the infectious disease enters the phase of shrinking, we will quickly carry out this plan.

This voucher plan is, of course, one of economic stimulus policies. But, it is also one of infectious prevention policies. The reason is that the voucher can be used only at shops and restaurants with Osaka's infectious prevention stickers. If the number of stickered shops and restaurants increases in Hirakata more and more, it means that our anti-infectious measures are going well. Consequently, a lot of citizens can visit and use the shops and restaurants with safety.

I would like to ask for using stickered shops and restaurants. I also would like business owners to join in our voucher plan in order that citizens can use various shops and restaurants in Hirakata. Thank you for your cooperation.

Let's cooperate for making Hirakata strong against COVID-19. We get over this situation. Let's move forward beyond coronavirus.

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hirakata City
August 6th 2020