

## Mayor's Message (November 27<sup>th</sup> 2020)

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

The number of new coronavirus cases began rising again from the end of October and broke previous records in many prefectures. This situation shows that the spread of COVID-19 is not under control. Hirakata is not exceptional, too.

Thanks to researches by the central government, we have been able to know when coronavirus is easy to spread among us. The following five situations rise the risk of coronavirus infection.

One is "when you participate in social gatherings and parties". In those cases, the risk of coronavirus infection becomes high by speaking in a loud voice and sharing a glass cup and chopsticks with other participants.

Second is "when many people eat and drink at the same place for a long time." If eating and drinking for a long time or in a close distance for client entertainment, or if visiting some pubs in one night, the risk of COVID-19 rises.

Third is "when you speak to others without a face mask." If not wearing it while speaking to others, the risk becomes high. You also should be careful to wearing the face mask on a car or a bus.

COVID-19 cases were reported in daytime Karaoke bars where customers did not wear face masks.

Forth is "a communal living situation in a small room." For example, students were infected with COVID-19 in their dormitories. You should be careful when staying in a room for a long time.

Fifth is "when you move to another room." When leaving from a work place for break time, the risk of COVID-19 rises due to a release from work pressure and an environmental change. For example, COVID-19 cases were confirmed in staff lounges, smoking rooms, and changing rooms.

In this season, you may have a lot of opportunities to eat and drink with many friends and colleagues for Christmas or new year parties.

To avoid any more outbreaks of COVID-19, please pay your full attention to these five situations. We also should concern about the spread of the flu as winter comes. Again, I would like to ask you to continue anti-infectious activities such as wearing a face mask, washing your hands, and frequently ventilating rooms.

“We can overcome it. Let’s move forward beyond COVID-19.”

FUSHIMI Takashi  
Mayor of Hirakata City  
November 27<sup>th</sup> 2020