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

The spread of COVID-19 is continuing now.

The Osaka's original coronavirus warning system called "Osaka model" raised to "Red stage". It asks us not to go out for unnecessary purposes.

Hirakata City has decided to close city facilities such as city libraries, life-long learning centres, and sports facilities from December 7<sup>th</sup> and, to cancel or postpone all of city events.

We would lift these decisions on December15<sup>th</sup>. However, the spread of COVID-19 and the shortage of hospital beds are not over yet. Hence, in the task force meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>, we decided to extend the closure period of the city facilities to the end of December.

Now, Osaka is standing on the edge of a collapse of medical systems.

To avoid it, everyone should strongly think to oneself, "I don't get infected with COVID-19" and "I don't infect it to anyone else".

I hope that you understand our thought and cooperate our anti-COVID-19 activities.

Thank you.

FUSHIMI Takashi Mayor of Hirakata City December 15<sup>th</sup> 2020