

## Mayor's Message (December 28<sup>th</sup> 2020)

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

In 2020, we faced an unprecedented situation by novel coronavirus and had to drastically change what we thought as normal.

2020 comes to an end in a few days.

However, we will not be able to optimistically welcome the new year due to the fact that the spread of infection will continue and that hospital beds will be nearly occupied by COVID-19 patients. In Hirakata, coronavirus cases were confirmed at facilities for elderlies who are easy to get severe symptoms and educational facilities such as a school and a nursery.

Hence, we concluded that all citizens should refrain to go out for unnecessary purposes. In the task force on December 25<sup>th</sup>, we decided to re-extend the period of closing city facilities and that of cancelling or postponing city events from the end of December to January 11<sup>th</sup> 2021.

I am sorry that our decision may give you inconvenience even in the new year. I would like to ask you to understand our measures for COVID-19.

If the number of new coronavirus cases continues to increase, our medical institutions may face the worst situation called "overwhelming hospitals" in which patients with other diseases are not allowed to see a doctor.

To protect our medical system, we should strongly think to ourselves; "I don't infect COVID-19 to anyone else". Again, I would like to ask you to wear a face mask and wash your hands. In addition, it is important to avoid meeting others and to stay at home during this year-end and new year period.

For the peaceful and joyful new year, I would like to ask your continuous cooperation to our anti-coronavirus policies.

December 28<sup>th</sup> 2020

FUSHIMI Takashi

Mayor of Hirakata City

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