

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

A new year 2021 has come.

Unfortunately, the spread of COVID-19 cannot be stopped in entire Japan. The central government declared the state of emergency for the capital area on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Furthermore, Governor of Osaka announced to request the central government to declare the state of emergency due to the fact that Kinki area including Osaka is facing the increase of COVID cases.

In Hirakata, also, a tense situation in which about 30 new cases are confirmed every day is continuing since the beginning of this year. We decided the following measures in the task force meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

First, we extend the period of closing city facilities and that of cancelling or postponing city events from January 11<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. If the declaration of emergency state is issued to Osaka, I will let you know whether the extension period may be changed or not.

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, we would hold a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony to celebrate people who will turn 20 years old. However, we also decided to postpone it in the task force meeting.

I somehow tried to hold the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony that was the only chance to be celebrated as new adult. For the ceremony, I thought to shorten a ceremony time, regulate the number of participants, and implement various anti-infectious measures. However, I'm sorry to have made a tough decision due to this severe situation.

I fully understand that my decision immediately before the ceremony day may have disappointed not only new adults and their parents but also those involved. I sincerely call for your understanding about my decision. In order to hold it by the end of March, we will strengthen our

anti-infectious measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. I will let you know a concrete schedule when we decide to host the ceremony.

I'm very sorry to give inconvenience to everyone. This is the most crucial moment. Let's get over this difficult period together.

January 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

FUSHIMI Takashi  
Mayor of Hirakata City

枚方市長

伏見隆