

Mayor's Message (January 14th 2021)

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

Today, the central government has issued the declaration of emergency state to seven prefectures including Osaka. The spread of COVID-19 cannot be stopped in entire Japan. Therefore, the central government decided to issue the declaration not only to the capital area but also to other areas. It will remain in effect until February 7th.

Osaka Prefectural Government also raised "Red Stage" that means the state of emergency from "Stage 1" to "Stage 2" based on the prefecture's original novel corona warning standard called "Osaka Model". The prefectural government made a prefectural anti-coronavirus plan implemented between January 14th and February 7th.

The plan strongly asks people in Osaka to refrain to go somewhere for unnecessary purposes.

Before, the prefectural government requested restaurants, pubs, and entertainment facilities in Osaka City to shorten their opening hours. The request covers entire Osaka from today. Therefore, we decided to ask them to stop serving any alcohols at 7pm and to close at 8pm.

We also decided to announce our new policies to citizens, and extend the period of closing city facilities and that of cancelling or postponing city events until the end of the declaration of emergency state (February 7th). In addition, we will make an effort to reduce the number of city staff who work at city offices by up to 70% and will recommend to them working from home.

The purpose of the declaration is to prevent overwhelming hospitals. The spread of COVID-19 does not stop even after the new year. In Hirakata, the number of new COVID cases is recording double-digit increase every day. So far, more than 1000 citizens were infected. In Osaka, hospital beds are nearly occupied as serious cases increase. If this situation continues for a while, a lot of serious patients may not be saved.

I'm sorry to give inconvenience to everyone. Please understand this situation and, during the state of emergency, refrain to go somewhere for unnecessary reasons.

Let's get over this daunting period together.

January 14th 2021

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hirakata City