

Mayor's Message (April 12th 2021)

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

Osaka is facing a severe situation in which the "hospital bed occupancy rate for severe corona patients" is exceeding 70% since the number of Osaka's new corona cases has been higher than that of Tokyo on March 30th. Hence, Osaka Prefectural Government declared the "Emergency State of Osaka's Medical Care" and asked all people of Osaka to refrain unnecessary and unharried outings.

Furthermore, the prefectural government cancelled the Tokyo Olympic Paralympic torch relay event in which runners relayed the torch in Osaka's 18 cities and towns on April 13th and 14th. Hirakata also made a plan in which 14 participants run through Hirakata Shuku (post station) and Hirakata City Bus Terminal, and scheduled a torch relay event on April 13th. We were going to carry out those events under enough anti-virus measures in order to encourage all Hirakata's citizens who were enforced to live in severe situations. I'm very sorry for the cancellation. I'm also sorry to disappoint torch relay runners, citizens who looked forward to cheering the runners on a street or in the event, and those who were committed to our events.

The characteristics of the Hirakata's current corona situation are that the infectious speed is faster than the third spike and that the infectious rate of young generations is higher than January in which the elderly people largely occupied new corona cases. Between March 29th and April 4th, the number of Hirakata's new corona cases was 109. It was double of the previous week. 35 % of the total (39 cases out of 109 cases) was occupied by 20s. It is very important to trace each infectious route. However, the number of untraceable cases was 61 cases that exceeded half of the total. It is a higher rate than ever before.

The Hirakata Health Centre is carrying out not only epidemiological researches to perceive all infectious routes but also health checks and consultations until the patients do not need any medical cares. The number of the patients was 48 on March 23rd. However, two weeks later, on April 8th, it increased fourfold (203 patients).

Again, I would like to ask for continuing basic anti-infectious activities such as wearing a face mask, washing your hands, and keeping a physical distance with others. To stop the further spread of COVID-19, I also would like to ask for refraining unnecessary and unhurried outings.

In the end, tickets for COVID-19 vaccinations are being sent to the citizens aged 65 or over from April 5th. You may have already received the ticket. The number of vaccines Hiramata will be able to receive in April is for about 1000 people. Therefore, we would like to prioritise the vaccinations for care home residents. We would like to ask for your understanding. We are planning to start the reservation for vaccinations, group vaccinations at Hiramata Civic Hall, and individual vaccinations at hospitals and clinics from May. Please be patient and wait for your turn.

Although the fourth spike of COVID-19 is faster and severer than before, we, all city hall staff, will continue to make full efforts to protect our citizens' lives.

April 12th 2021

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hiramata City