

Mayor's Message (May 11th 2021)

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

On May 7th, we started reservations for the citizens aged 65 or over who have received tickets for coronavirus vaccinations. However, we heard from a lot of citizens various complaints such as “the reservation lines were always busy” and “the special webpage for the vaccinations was difficult to understand”. To resolve them, we strengthened our reservation system by increasing the number of lines and operators. As Mayor of Hirakata City, however, I would like to express my apology to have caused those confusions.

In addition, I am also very sorry that we need more time to respond to enquiries about the vaccinations because a lot of citizens contact us at one time. I know that many citizens cannot book the vaccinations at this moment and understand that those citizens must be worrying about “what to do next”. I would like to explain more details of our vaccination schedule.

This reservation was for about 80 thousand doses provided from May 17th to the end of June. We have accepted reservations for about 50 thousand doses through our internet reservation system and call centre. Now, the reservations have been temporarily closed since the applications have reached the number of reservations we planned. The next vaccinations will be resumed on July 1st. The reservation for the next vaccinations will be accepted from June 3rd.

To decide how many citizens can book the vaccinations next time, we need to consider the number of vaccines distributed by the central government and the Osaka prefectural government, and the number of doctors and healthcare personnel who can cooperate for our vaccinations. We will work together with Hirakata's medical institutes to immunise as many citizens as possible. We will inform you about the next vaccination schedule in the June issue of “Koho Hirakata” (delivered to every house from the end of May) and through our city website.

Enough COVID-19 vaccines are provided in the months ahead. If new vaccines arrive at Hirakata, we will promptly announce how many citizens can receive the vaccinations. We are making full efforts to finish all vaccinations for those aged 65 or over by the end of July. Even if the plan is behind the schedule, you can receive the vaccination. Even if you could not apply for the reservation, or even if you could reserve only one dose, every citizen can receive the vaccinations. I sincerely appreciate your being patient. For the next reservation, I will improve our reservation system that annoyed you this time.

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hirakata City