

Mayor's Message (May 12th 2021)

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

The central government has decided to extend the period of the declaration of emergency state from May 11th to May 31st. Consequently, Osaka prefectural government is asking all prefectural people to refrain unnecessary and nonurgent outings and to stop moving beyond prefectural borders not until May 11th but until May 31st. Hirakata also has decided to shut down city facilities and to cancel city events until May 31st. I deeply understand that our decisions may give you inconvenience. I sincerely appreciate your understanding about them.

The declaration of state of emergency was issued two weeks ago. The number of new corona cases in Osaka remains to be high. Many hospitals are facing severe situations to accept new corona patients. The occupancy rate of hospital bed for fatal symptoms continues to exceed 100%. Consequently, hospitals' capacity is always overwhelmed. Even if you suffer from severe symptoms, a hospital bed may not be available soon. Furthermore, even if you get a serious injury or illness except coronavirus symptoms, any hospitals may not be able to accept you. The risk of overwhelming hospitals is around the corner.

One of the reasons of the current coronavirus outbreak is the spread of highly infectious variants. They are increasing the number of new cases in which a COVID positive family member infects other members. A speed of becoming severe is also very fast. So far, we thought that young generations were rarely infected with COVID-19. However, the variants have strong infectabilities among people in their 20s and 30s. In particular, the number of severe patients in their 40s and 50s is becoming higher than before.

To care growing corona patients who are enforced to receive medical care at their homes, Hirakata Health Centre cooperates with Osaka prefectural government to build an emergency medical care system to accept the patients whose symptoms have become fatal at their homes. The centre is also asking for medical assistance as a home doctor to The Hirakata Medical Association and The Hirakata Hospital Association. The Hirakata Neyagawa Firefighting Union organises a special unit that heads to a patient's house if it is difficult to find an emergency hospital immediately. We are carrying out various measures for housebound patients.

The rapid increase of new corona patients causes various chain reactions that badly affect us.

One of important keys to lifting the declaration of state of emergency is how many new corona cases we can reduce. To achieve this, once again, I would like to ask you to have attentive awareness and to take anti-coronavirus actions not to infect others or not to be infected with COVID-19. I also would like to ask for your continuous cooperation to call off the declaration on May 31st.

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hirakata City