

Mayor's Message (June 1st, 2021)

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

The declaration of state of emergency, which has been issued to Osaka due to the 4th spike of COVID-19 on April 25th, has been extended until June 20th. We also extend the closure period of city facilities and the cancelation of city events from May 31st to June 20th.

Since the declaration is issued 5weeks ago, Hirakata has faced the most rapid increase of new corona cases we've ever experienced. Now, the number of new corona patients is decreasing. However, the hospital bed occupancy rate for severe corona cases is still high in Osaka. The prefecture's hospitals also remain to be pushed to crisis point by COVID-19. Again, I would like to ask you to take thorough anti-infectious actions and to refrain unnecessary and nonurgent outings.

In Hirakata, vaccinations for those aged 65 or over were started from May 17th. Our vaccination services are going well thanks to medical staff and others who cooperate with them. Now, the total of daily vaccinations is about 2,200. This is exceeding our number target (2,100). We will increase our present three vaccination sites to six so that much more citizens can receive the vaccinations.

However, I know that there are a lot of citizens who cannot book the vaccinations despite the fact that they want to be vaccinated as soon as possible. On June 3rd, we will start the bookings for vaccinations beginning from July. To accept as many citizens as possible, we are now strengthening our booking systems by increasing telephone lines of the vaccination call centre and by opening the booking support desk that helps citizens to book their vaccinations through our special website. We secure enough vaccines for citizens who book the vaccinations. However, we expect that "all telephone lines will be always busy". We recommend using our online booking system through your mobile or home internet. In addition, there may be citizens who do not have mobiles and computers around you. If so, we would like to call for your help for those to book their vaccinations. Or, if you do not know how to apply for the vaccination using your mobile, please read Page 3 of this month's city monthly magazine – "Koho Hirakata (June issue)". The page introduces how to do it. You can also watch how to book the vaccinations on Hirakata's official YouTube channel.

Enough vaccines will be provided to Hirakata. You can absolutely receive the vaccination. Please apply for it without panicking.

We will make full efforts to immunise all citizens as soon as possible. To do so, I would like to ask for your understandings and cooperation for our anti-infectious activities and vaccination policy.

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hirakata City