

Mayor's Message on the 4th declaration of state of emergency

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

With the rise of new COVID-19 cases, the central government has declared the state of emergency to Osaka and other three prefectures in the Tokyo area. The declaration is effective until August 31st. For Osaka, this is the fourth time since the previous declaration was lifted on June 20th.

As a result of the 4th declaration, the Osaka prefectural government is asking restaurants and bars to stop serving any alcohols and to close at 8p.m. Furthermore, mass events should be held under 50% of absorption rate or 5000 spectators and should be finished at 9p.m.

Hirakata also will close city facilities at 8p.m. and employ the same event regulations as the measures by the Osaka prefectural government.

As you know, new corona cases are rapidly increasing without end. In the end of the last month, the number of them was more than 10,000 cases in entire Japan. More than 1000 cases were reported in Osaka.

In the so-called "fifth spike", young generations are mainly infected with COVID-19. In Osaka, 20s and 30s corona patients occupy about half of the total number of the new corona cases. In addition, about 60% of severe corona cases occurred among those aged 30s to 50s. Even if you are young, your infection with COVID-19 may increase the risk of becoming severe or spreading the virus to your family members.

It may be difficult for you to continue to take proper anti-infectious actions because the declaration of the state of emergency has been issued again when summer holidays will come soon. To curb the further spread of COVID-19, once again, I would like to ask you to stop unnecessary and nonurgent outings, and to continue thorough anti-infectious activities such as wearing a face mask and ventilating closed rooms.

I understand that you may be bothered due to the fact that the shortage of vaccines has forced us to change our vaccination schedules. However, more than 70% of the elderly citizens have finished the vaccinations for COVID-19 by the end of July. Furthermore, those aged 50s can apply for them from August. We will make our full efforts to provide enough vaccines to all

generations as soon as possible. If the vaccination schedule for each generation has been confirmed, we will announce it through our official website and SNS at once.

In addition to COVID-19, muggy weather is annoying us every day. Please be careful about heatstroke as well as COVID-19. We are now going through painful days. However, let's overcome them together.

August 3rd, 2021

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hirakata City