

Mayor's Message

-On Hirakata's Response to COVID-19 in the Year-end and New-year Period-

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

2021 will end in a few days. This year, we had to do nothing but address COVID-19 the same as last year. I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported our anti-corona measures, so far.

The number of new corona cases decreased after the fifth spike of COVID-19 in this summer. Consequently, our daily lives started to stabilise bit by bit. However, in December, the surge of a new variant, named Omicron, concerns us. It has stronger infectability than the Delta variant. In Japan, it is confirmed that some corona patients were infected with the Omicron variant through community-transmission. We are expecting the increase of Omicron cases from now.

We confirmed that the Omicron variant hits Hirakata. Hence, we will expand the range of the people who receive corona tests. To provide everyone with smooth services even in the year-end and new-year period, furthermore, Hirakata Health Centre will secure enough staff and work closely with other concerned organisations.

To reduce a risk of becoming severe symptoms, from December, Hirakata has started to give a third dose of COVID-19 to those who want to undergo vaccinations as soon as possible. We are now sending inoculation tickets to them in order. In addition, the national government has decided the shortage of vaccination interval (8 months). Consequently, healthcare workers, care home residents, and the elderlies aged 65 or more have been allowed to get vaccines without waiting for 8 months. The schedule for the third dose in the January issue of the city monthly magazine "Koho Hirakata" is printed before the new vaccination rule is announced. For the latest schedule, therefore, please have a look at our city website.

In the year-end and new-year period, you may go somewhere and enjoy chatting with your family or friends a lot. Those actions are likely to increase infectious risks of COVID-19. Particularly, you need to pay attention to highly infectious corona variants. I would like to ask for your cooperation to basic anti-corona actions such as refraining large gatherings, wearing a face mask, periodic ventilation, and washing your hands. If you feel sick, or if you may be infected with COVID-19, please contact "Hirakata Novel Coronavirus Consultation Centre"

(Phone 072-841-1326, Caution: The available language is only Japanese).

To make the coming year 2022 great for everyone, under our motto “We can overcome it. Let’s move forward beyond COVID-19”, we will do our utmost together.

December 28th, 2021

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hirakata City