

## Mayoral Message 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Due to further spread of the COVID-19 Virus, the government has declared state of emergency in all prefectures. Also, Ishikawa Prefecture has been declared a prefecture requiring extra caution due to high numbers of confirmed cases of the virus.

As I am sure you are all aware, as of today the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, there have been 14 total confirmed cases of the virus in Hakusan City of which one has unfortunately lost their life. I would like to offer my sincerest condolences. The current situation in Hakusan City is severe, and we are seeing a rise of casualties where the route of infection cannot be determined.

I would like to take this opportunity, to once again ask all citizens of Hakusan City for their cooperation in preventing the further spread of the COVID-19 Virus.

Firstly, I would like you to strongly endeavor to avoid any situations where the “Three Cs” which are “Closed spaces”, “Crowded places” and “Close-contact settings” overlap. It is said that badly ventilated spaces, crowded areas and talking in close proximity increase the possibility of infection. Regarding the holding of conferences and events, I would like to strongly urge restraint or postponement unless of utmost need across all sectors.

Furthermore, I ask you to continue restraining from unnecessarily leaving your homes and thoroughly practice regular hand washing and safe coughing etiquette.

Public facilities throughout the city are all closed until 6<sup>th</sup> of May. I realize this may cause inconvenience, however, please understand that is a necessary precaution to protect the lives of our citizens. Hakusan City will do our utmost in preventing the spread of the infection and dealing with any situations that arise. The continuous efforts of each individual citizen to prevent the spread of the infection is the most important factor in protecting those around us. This means protecting those who are precious to us as well as the society we live in. I humbly ask for your continued understanding and cooperation.