

April 16, 2020

## Saitama City Mayor's Message

Hello everyone. I am SHIMIZU Hayato, the mayor of Saitama City.

It is the 10<sup>th</sup> day since the state of emergency was declared. According to the data released by the national government, the pedestrian traffic around Omiya station were 56 percent less on April 15 compared to before the spread of infection of the new coronavirus. I thank you all sincerely for your cooperation.

The national government suggested an 80 percent reduction of person-to-person contact is required in order to curve the spread of the coronavirus. I ask you for your cooperation to take a further step to refrain from going into public.

The number of people infected in our city has increased from 23 people to 38 people, i.e. by 1.7 folds, compared to the week when the state of emergency was declared and the number of patients continues to increase.

In response to the spread of the coronavirus, we have increased 20 staff in our municipal health centers and additionally purchasing PCR testing machines making our testing capacity of up to 60 cases per day.

In addition, another 50 hospital beds had been secured for infected patients. We continue to work with medical institutes to enhance our medical system to protect the lives of our residents.

Meanwhile, we have developed temporary unsecured interest free with zero guarantee charge loans for small to midsize companies affected by the coronavirus to support the local economy. The total loan amount is 5 billion yen, and it will provide continuous support until the national lending system starts.

I apologize for any inconvenience, but together we will win this pandemic.