

April 24, 2020

Saitama City Mayor's Message

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

As of April 22, there are 112 confirmed cases of coronavirus infected patients in Saitama City and the number continues to rise. 2 weeks has passed since the state of emergency was declared. We have received many concerns from our residents regarding financial stimulus and loans for businesses, and our current situation in our medical facilities.

First, we have made an announcement regarding the financial support for the local economy. Due to the vast amount of applications for the temporary unsecured interest free with zero guarantee charge loans for small to midsize companies, we increased the total amount to 40 billion yen, however, we have reached the cap and applications are closed now.

We will also consider other financial measures if further support is needed.

Next, to strengthen our medical system, we agree with our city's medical association to open new PCR test centers.

From April 15, patients with mild symptoms have been relocated to the APA Hotel in Saitama-Shintoshin. We have dispatched public servants as operating staff to reduce the burden in our medical facilities.

I know everybody is feeling anxious during these unprecedented times, I ask those patients not to leave the hotel until you are recovered in order to free up hospital beds for those who need it. I thank you for your cooperation.

Once again, with the increased number of infected patients, I sincerely thank our medical staffs and everybody for your support.

I ask residents to take care of yourselves and cooperate to prevent further spread of coronavirus and protect lives in our community.