

Mayor Kiyomoto's Message

May 8th, 2020

Hello, this is Hideyasu Kiyomoto, the Mayor of Himeji City.

First of all, to all of our healthcare workers, grocery store workers, transportation staff, and all other frontline workers, on behalf of all the citizens of Himeji, I would like to express deep appreciation to all of you.

Thank you for your continued hard work.

As you are probably aware, the Japanese government has extended the State of Emergency until May 31st, and has asked 13 prefectures, including Hyogo Prefecture, to reduce people's face-to-face contact by 80%.

Cooperating with the national and prefectural governments, we have decided to take the following measures:

Himeji Castle, museums, libraries, gymnasiums, and all other public facilities will be closed until May 31st.

All the events scheduled to take place in May and June are to be cancelled or postponed until further notice.

All of the municipal schools and kindergartens will be closed until May 31st.

Hoikuen and Nintei Kodomoen, day cares and certified child centers, will continue to accept children only in special circumstances, for example if their parents are medical staff or work in other sectors that are necessary to maintain social functions.

Large playground equipment and parking areas of all the public parks are closed.

Starting from June, the basic charge of the water bill will be waived for six months.

Since May 4th we have been accepting online applications for the ¥100,000 virus-relief handout in order to ensure prompt delivery of the funds.

Finally, I want to send a strong message to protect the health of your loved ones and your community.

Stay home, and refrain from going outdoors for nonessential reasons.

If you absolutely need to go out, avoid closed spaces with poor ventilation where large groups of people cluster and communicate in close contact.

This challenging time still continues, but we will soon overcome these difficulties by working together.

Thank you very much for your continued cooperation.