

## Message from Chief of COVID-19 Response Headquarters (Mayor of Morioka) [Updated July 30]

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, Morioka (Iwate) has confirmed its first case of COVID-19. Let me start by expressing my sincere hope for a speedy recovery for the infected patient.

As a city, we are urgently implementing prevention measures such as rapid PCR tests on the patient's closest contacts. I assume that citizens are feeling anxious about COVID-19 pandemic, however, please follow the accurate information and act calmly based on the orders.

COVID-19 related prejudice or discriminatory attitudes towards the patient, his family, the healthcare professionals and staff are intolerable. I would like to ask each one of you to behave sensibly as a Morioka citizen.

Ever since the request to refrain from travelling across prefectural boundaries was lifted on June 19, people have started outing again which seem to have triggered the increase of COVID-19 pandemics in not only Kanto area but all over Japan. In response, please reconsider the necessity of travelling between prefectures, especially if you are planning to visit a highly infected area. Once again, I would like to emphasize the importance of the new norms and basic measures - "social distancing", "wearing a face mask" and "washing hands" should remain practiced.

If you have any suspicious symptoms such as a fever, cough and malaise, please contact “COVID-19 Call center” or “Morioka City Returnees and Potential Contacts Call Center” immediately for a consultation.

“Go To travel campaign” launched by the Japanese government has started from July 22. Considering that obon is just around the corner, it is expected that there will be an increase in the number of travelers across the country.

As for tourist related facilities and restaurants as well as other industries, please once again, make sure to strictly follow the prevention measure guideline for each industries.

I hope that the outbreak of the first COVID-19 case will not despair the citizens and will not put a brake on the recent economic recovery. We continue to carry on with the current economic revitalization plan and with COVID-19 prevention measures. I would like to ask each one of you for your kind cooperation.

July 30, 2020

Tanifuji Hiroaki

Morioka Health Crisis Response Headquarters (COVID-19)

Chief of Headquarters (Morioka City Mayor)