

**【Responding to a declaration of emergency】**

Hello, I'm OMORI Masao, Mayor of Okayama.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Japanese government has expanded the target of scope of "a declaration of emergency" to every region of the country in terms of suppressing a spread of infection in local areas, especially keeping the movement of people to a minimum heading into the Golden Week holidays.

In response to the fact that Okayama City has also become a target area, we discussed the correspondence at the 11<sup>th</sup> Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup>, and decided on the following: The policy of continuing classes at municipal elementary and junior high schools, which was determined at the headquarters meeting on 16<sup>th</sup>, was revoked and we decided to close them from April 21<sup>st</sup> through May 6<sup>th</sup>. At the same time, we also made a decision to close kindergartens and provide childcare for those who needed them. Furthermore, nursery schools and certified child centers were decided to be opened because there were a considerable number of people who needed childcare, although they were requested to refrain from visiting schools. As for after-school children's clubs, we decided to call on to stay home as much as possible based on the declaration of emergency, although the opening hours was extended as a response to closing of municipal elementary schools.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the President of the Okayama Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the President of the Okayama Societies of Commerce and Industry explained us in detail the situation of Okayama's economically distressed. We will continue to try to grasp the economic situation and discuss the economic measures and adopt them as soon as possible.

In response to this declaration of emergency, please refrain from going out in your daily lives, not to mention nonessential and non-urgent outings to other prefectures. In addition, again shun thoroughly the "Three Cs" which are closed spaces, crowded places and close-contact settings as we has requested so

far. Also, the declaration of emergency does not restrict the purchase daily necessities and the going out to a hospital but the lifeline such as the counter services of the city hall, the water and sewer services, and the collection of garbage will be continued. Please take a calm response so as not to buy up daily use items.

In Okayama City, based on the unprecedented situation of the emergency declaration, we will tackle to maintain our daily lives while making prevention of the spread of infection as a top priority. We request for all citizens to take further actions to raise awareness of the crisis in order to protect yourself and person you love from infection.