

## **Mayor's Announcement Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations (February 4, 2021)**

Today I would like to inform all citizens about the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine - which has been widely reported in the national news recently. The vaccination is viewed as the key defining factor for preventing the coronavirus. Currently, in our city, we are working to the best of our ability to acquire the vaccine for our citizens as soon as possible.

The novel coronavirus vaccination is known to be effective at preventing symptoms including onset fever, coughing, and in cases where the individual has the virus, it prevents the worsening in severity. In countries where the vaccination is already being distributed, notably the U.K and the U.S. - the vaccination is proven to be clearly effective at preventing the onset and worsening of the virus. We are also beginning to see that the vaccination is effective on the new strains of the virus.

Once the vaccination becomes distributed - and many people are able to get vaccinated, this will lower the number of deaths, help those who are suffering, and medical institutions that are currently being overwhelmed. The vaccine is viewed as the key to prevent the breakdown of medical institutions.

The vaccine will create an environment in your body that will mimic having the virus. The area of inoculation may experience some swollenness or pain, you may also have side effects including onset fever and headache. Cases that require treatment, or permanent damage from vaccinations are extremely rare - but this is not 100% guaranteed, so we will provide a relief system for drug-induced sufferings.

We will not enforce getting vaccinated, but we will provide everyone with accurate information - and the individual can receive the vaccination only in the case that they

give formal consent. We would like everyone to understand the proper information regarding the vaccine and have as many people as possible get vaccinated to help put their efforts into stopping the spread of the virus.

Currently, our country is trying to acquire a vaccine that requires 2 inoculation sessions for every citizen, but because this will result in an immense number of vaccines - it is expected to be supplied gradually. Priority will be given to high-risk patients and those who are medical care workers. This includes the following people in order of priority:

1. Physicians, nurses, firefighters, and other medical care workers
2. Elderly patients 65 and older
3. Those with an underlying health condition and work in care facilities with elderly patients.
4. Everyone else excluding those mentioned above.

Currently, we are debating whether to prioritize those who are pregnant and whether the vaccination is safe and effective for children. We will consider these things based on new information that may be provided. We are also considering whether to create a mass vaccination site in our city or have citizens individually visit their healthcare provider to receive their vaccination. Vaccinations are planned to be decided based on a reservation-only system - but once we finalize details we will inform you of our decision.

Lastly, the vaccine is something that will protect everyone's health and prevent the breakdown of medical institutions. It is something that we have high expectations for - as part of prevention measures for the novel coronavirus. However, a vaccine is not

the end solution for everything. Just because the vaccines start to be distributed, if each individual neglects preventative measures - this will result in the spread of the virus again. Even after inoculations of the vaccine begin - please do not stop taking preventative measures. Continue to take the same measures for just a little longer.

We ask that each and every one of you think of your stance, and take actions in the best interest of everyone to help prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. Let's overcome this together.

Mayor of Yabu City, Hirose Sakae

February 4, 2021