

## Request from the Mayor to the Residents of Rikuzentakata

Due to the nationwide spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the state of emergency declared for the 7 prefectures has been extended to all 47 prefectures in Japan, including Iwate Prefecture. Within the City of Rikuzentakata, we have been taking measures in line with this declaration by distributing masks and disinfectants to places such as medical facilities, nursing homes and schools, as well as temporarily closing down certain public facilities and sightseeing spots.

9 years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake, but after residents have come this far together to rebuild the city, and recovery and reconstruction finally progressed considerably, the city is once again affected tremendously by the spread of the Coronavirus disease.

The city will take appropriate measures in a timely manner so that no one is left behind. During a period of time such as this, we emphasize on the importance of speed, especially in terms of supporting businesses that suffer from a huge drop in sales. While examining the countermeasures taken by the prefecture and the national government to help the economy, we will also look into other countermeasures that are necessary, and continue to stay alert while dealing with this situation in order to protect the lives and livelihoods of our residents.

We have requested that residents cooperate with us to help prevent the spread of infection. Taking into consideration the impact that the Coronavirus disease will make on the economy within our city, we request that everyone abides by the following:

- 1) To avoid the “Three Cs”, namely “closed spaces” with poor ventilation, “crowded places” with many people nearby, and “close-contact settings” such as close-range conversations.
- 2) To avoid inter-prefectural movement. If you have no choice but to move or travel to another prefecture, make sure you stay indoors for 2 weeks to monitor your health and to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus disease.
- 3) To avoid direct contact with vendors, manufacturers or businessmen who came from outside of Iwate Prefecture.
- 4) To avoid going out unnecessarily unless it is essential to daily life.
- 5) To only shop within the city or, if you have to buy certain items that cannot be found here, to shop within the Kesen region so as to support the local economy.
- 6) To not be swayed by groundless fake news or rumors that will spread along with the rise of Coronavirus cases. We do need to take sufficient preventive measures, but please do not discriminate against others because of their birthplace, race or background.

April 17, 2020

Mayor of Rikuzentakata

Futoshi Toba