Message from the Governor Regarding the New Coronavirus Infection (Feb. 27)

Just now, the 3rd New Coronavirus Countermeasures Headquarters was opened. I have instructed that as a rule, events held by the prefecture in which a large number of participants are expected to attend are to be cancelled or postponed for the next two weeks, until Sunday, March 15.

However, cancelling or postponing events such as graduation ceremonies is expected to have a large impact on the functioning of society. Therefore, in the inevitable case that such events must be held, I have stipulated that in addition to taking strict infection prevention measures, other necessary strategies such as reducing the scale of the event and reconsidering how it will be held.

This judgement was made based on yesterday's announcement from Japan's Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, requesting that national sports and culture-related events in which a large number of participants are expected to attend are to be cancelled or postponed for the next two weeks.

Furthermore, as of now, there are only 4 cases of infection in Saitama Prefecture, as has been previously reported. All 4 infected persons are those who returned from Wuhan City, so no concern is necessary regarding the route of infection or whether they will infect an unspecified large number of people from now on. This being said, Japan has declared that the upcoming two weeks are critical in observing whether the rate of infection spread will speed up or slow down, and therefore we have made this judgement accordingly.

Additionally, I would like to ask business organizations to take national and prefectural control measures into account and provide their kind cooperation, especially in terms of flexible working hours, and judging the individual initiatives of various other business organizations before using them as a point of reference.

Moving forward, Saitama Prefectural Government will work together as a team to proactively prevent and contain the spread of New Coronavirus. I would also like to ask all the citizens of Saitama to remain calm, and keep the concepts of 'I will not infect others' and 'I will not be infected by others' in mind while also following basic infection prevention measures such as meticulously washing and disinfecting your hands and following proper coughing etiquette.