

March 31st, 2020

ATTENTION ALL

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 is still on the rise in Tokyo, and the modes of viral transmission are still unclear in many cases. The Governor of Tokyo has announced that the situation in Tokyo has developed into a critical condition and requested for residents to avoid going out, to refrain from dining with others, and to work from home.

The town of Karuizawa, which is located at the east entrance of the Nagano prefecture, is visited by 8.4 million tourists annually. In addition, the town is home to 16,000 summer residences. Last weekend, many people from metropolitan areas, including Tokyo, arrived at Karuizawa.

As of March 29th, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nagano prefecture is 8, and no resident in the town have been tested positive for the virus; however, what happening in Tokyo is not someone else's problem but it can happen in any place. I hope that residents of this town, visitors of summer homes, and tourists alike will share in this sense of crisis and the urgency to save lives at all costs.

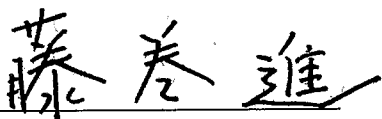
The fact that the COVID-19 transmission routes remain unknown means that some people show no symptoms even if infected. As such, it is difficult to recognise who is infected.

Therefore, I have a great favour to ask of all of you.

Considering the current situation, please refrain from non-essential outings for the time being. Among public buildings, the Nakakaruizawa Library and the Health and Welfare Center "Komorebinosato" have already been closed, and all indoor sports facilities in the Karuizawa Kazakoshi Park will be closed from April 1st onwards. I would also like to ask the caretakers of frequented areas in the town, such as supermarkets, shopping plazas and convenience stores, to take infectious disease control measures. I hope that you will all comply with these wishes and cooperate collectively during this difficult time.

Tokyo is facing the crisis now. This is a crucial moment for us, too. We must work together to prevent Karuizawa from advancing to a lockdown situation.

Let's unite together to overcome this difficulty. I sincerely ask for understanding and cooperation from all of you.



Susumu Fujimaki, Mayor