

Message (#11) from the President on COVID-19: An Agonizing Choice "Haste Makes Waste."

24 August, 2020

Tetsuo Arakawa
President, Osaka City University

An Agonizing Choice "Haste Makes Waste."

Everyone, it's been more than half a year since we have not been able to have a normal university life.

I am really sorry to put you through this. I understand your anxiety very well – how long this situation will last is still unknown.

We have experienced many global disasters like this in the past. Humankind has survived and gotten over them all. Also, scientific technology has advanced dramatically. Within six months you will see the light at the end of the tunnel with treatment methods. Researchers at our university have also been running day and night toward the light.

I believe a wise man would patiently bide his time until that day comes. If you give up and let your guard down, strict restrictions will be placed upon you and it will end up being a detour. Over the next 6 months, let's defeat COVID-19 with a single word, "patience".

You can still enjoy college life with constraints. Club activities have already started. Although limited, face-to-face classes will resume in the second semester.

Coronavirus cannot move by itself. If you respect it and behave properly, it cannot meddle with you. Coronavirus anchors onto our hands and mouths. That's it.

I make it a rule to disinfect my fingers with alcohol even after reading the newspaper. Including hand washing, I practice hand sanitization more than 20 times a day as it is impossible to avoid touching contaminated items. In addition, I carry around a plastic bottle of water to swish some around my mouth and swallow every 15 minutes.

Buy a small container at a 100-yen shop or bring an empty perfume bottle to the Safety and Health Management Office, located on the 1F, Student Support Center. Liquid disinfectant can be "refueled" there. Carry it around to disinfect your fingers when you get on and off the trains or after shopping. Remember to give your thumbs attention too.

