

## ***Basic Response Policy***

1 May 2009

[Provisional Translation]

The government shall spare no effort in its response to the incidence of influenza A (H1N1) and has decided to take the following measures, recognising that this incidence represents a critical issue in national crisis management.

1. Engage in close international cooperation; make the greatest possible efforts to gather information on the state of disease contraction in other countries, the state of responses being taken by WHO and by other countries, and characteristics of the influenza A (H1N1) virus; provide the public with timely and pertinent information; and respond appropriately to inquiries at consultation windows of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local authorities, etc.
  
2. Implement the following measures at the water's-edge (front-line measures) considering the degree of infection in each country, with the aim of providing assistance to Japanese nationals overseas and of preventing to the greatest possible extent the entry of the virus into Japan:
  - (1) Issue infection risk information on Mexico and other foreign countries where cases of infection have arisen;
  - (2) Provide information to Japanese nationals in Mexico and other foreign countries where cases of infection have arisen; reinforce assistance to Japanese nationals overseas, such as the provision of Tamiflu in the event stocks at local medical institutions are depleted;
  - (3) Promote various measures to assist with the return of Japanese nationals from Mexico and other foreign countries where cases of infection have arisen;
  - (4) Reinforce quarantine and immigration procedures, reinforce public communication activities at airports;
  - (5) Conduct visa examinations with additional rigour, as necessary, concerning persons entering Japan from Mexico and other foreign countries where cases of infection have arisen;
  - (6) Reinforce the quarantine and retention of infected persons and persons who may be infected who have entered Japan from Mexico and other foreign countries where cases of infection cases have arisen; reinforce security at airports, etc.

3. Obtain the virus strain quickly, establish examination procedures, analyse the virulence, and produce a vaccine for influenza A (H1N1).
4. Ensure that the following measures are made fully reliable as a precaution against cases of infection arising in Japan, given that there has been notification of persons suspected of having contracted influenza A (H1N1):
  - (1) Provide accurate and pertinent information to all concerned in the health and medical fields and all others concerned;
  - (2) Rapidly expand the capacity of high-fever outpatient departments (*hatsunetsu gairai*) at medical facilities;
  - (3) Strengthen domestic surveillance;
  - (4) Provide prompt and on-target medical care to persons suspected of having influenza A (H1N1);
  - (5) Confirm with public utilities supplying electricity, gas, water, food and daily necessities, etc that their systems of supply are ready to meet potential changes in demand and provide them with precautionary advice as necessary.
5. Should cases of infection be confirmed in Japan, the following measures shall be taken in a flexible and agile manner in addition to those listed in point 4 above, in accordance with the characteristics of the virus and the degree of risk of the infection spreading:
  - (1) Undertake proactive and exhaustive epidemiological studies;
  - (2) Implement exhaustive measures to prevent the spread of infection in those geographical areas etc where infected persons or persons who have had close contact with infected persons have been:
    - Call on the public when going outside consistently to wear masks, gargle, wash their hands, practice good etiquette when coughing, etc;
    - Call on the public to refrain from going outside for non-essential and non-urgent matters;
    - Call for staggered commuting times and commuting by bicycle, on foot, etc;
    - Call for restraint on holding gatherings, sports events, etc;
    - Call for the temporary closure of schools, child-care facilities, etc as necessary;
    - Call on businesses to scale back on non-essential, non-urgent business operations;

- (3) Ensure the smooth distribution and appropriate use of anti-influenza virus medications, etc;
- (4) Protect medical personnel, initial response personnel, etc.

(ends)