

Response to the new strain of influenza (H1N1 influenza)

June 3, 2009

To all the citizens

Chief of Itami city headquarters meetings for countermeasures
Mayor of Itami Yasuyuki Fujiwara

Today (June 3) Hyogo Prefectural Government held the 15th headquarters meeting for countermeasures against the new strain of influenza and Governor of Hyogo Prefecture announced “Hyogo Declaration of Safety” as the next page.

Since the first domestic case of H1N1 influenza was confirmed, Itami city have made our best efforts to prevent the spread of infection, to minimize the impact on our citizens' life and maintain the social and economic function in cooperation with related organizations.

As a result, there was no new case reported after the third patient was confirmed in our city on May 23. In addition, all the patients have already recovered.

Hyogo Prefectural Government proposed the view that in the future, the possibility of sporadic occurrence of infection will remain; however, we are in a situation where the possibility of a mass occurrence of infection has nearly disappeared. We assure that all the citizens and entrepreneurs can return to the life in the usual way. We thank you all for your cooperation and calm response. We will continue to work on finding answers about how to respond to the anticipated reoccurrence this fall or later in cooperation with related organizations based on the experiences learned thus far.

We will close our consultation window as of today. Please contact the window below for inquires about the new strain of influenza. (Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 17:30)

- Inquires about health
Section of Health and Welfare, at Health Care Center (Tel 072-784-8034)
- Inquires about the whole response of Itami city to the new strain of influenza
Office of emergency Management, Itami City Office (Tel 072-784-8166)

Hyogo Prefectural Government continues to open the comprehensive consultation window for people who have a fever.

・ Hatsunetsu Soudan Center (Tel 072-777-4111) established by Hyogo Prefecture, Itami Health & Welfare Offices

・ Disease Control & Prevention Policy Office, Hyogo Prefectural Government (Tel 078-362-3226)

These two windows are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The staff is Japanese speaking, so please get assistance from someone who speaks Japanese.

* The numbers of windows in English at Itami City Office : TEL 072-784-8148 FAX 072-780-3519
(Peace and International Affairs Section)

<<A message from the Governor of Hyogo concerning the new strain of influenza>>

June 3, 2009

Hyogo Declaration of Safety

The present situation in Hyogo: Your chance of getting infected with H1N1 influenza is negligible.

Since the first domestic case of H1N1 influenza was confirmed in Hyogo, we have implemented a wide range of measures for preventing its spread, including the temporary closure of schools, with the understanding and cooperation of our citizens.

As a result, new cases reported after May 27 have been limited to high school students and their family members, and the route of infection has almost been determined. In addition, except for the high school students and staff, all patients have already recovered including the latest case, a company employee who developed symptoms on May 26.

Furthermore, H1N1 influenza shares many common features with seasonal influenza. The symptoms are relatively mild and most of the infected have made early recoveries. This means that no special response is required for H1N1 influenza, excluding those with underlying health conditions.

In the future, the possibility of sporadic occurrences of infection will remain; however, we are in a situation where the possibility of a mass occurrence of infection has nearly disappeared.

Hyogo Declaration of Safety

I hereby declare that Hyogo is almost free from H1N1 influenza, and I want to reassure everyone that it is safe to live and work normally in this region.

Maintenance of medical system

We are making continuous efforts to prevent the spread of H1N1 influenza by maintaining the medical system. Fever clinics and telephone consultation windows for people who have fevers will remain open.

In addition, based on the experiences and lessons learned thus far, we will establish a third-party panel in order to examine the issues surrounding H1N1 influenza and to find answers about how to respond to the anticipated reoccurrence this fall or later. We will also build a surveillance system, a community-based network for early detection, in order to take prompt and appropriate action during a reoccurrence. With these measures, we are making complete preparations for H1N1 influenza and ensuring the safety of our citizens.

To everyone in the nation: Please visit Hyogo.

Since the confirmation of the first case of H1N1 influenza in Hyogo, many business trips, school excursions, and sightseeing trips to Hyogo have been canceled or postponed. Also, there have been some cases where visitations by Hyogo citizens have been suspended. Given the current state of H1N1 influenza in Hyogo, I would like everyone to understand that it is safe to come to our region. Please visit Hyogo without worry.

To Hyogo citizens: Let us unite to recover a 'vigorous Hyogo.'

I would like to ask the citizens of Hyogo to correctly understand the information about H1N1 influenza and to work together to revitalize our region.

Toshizo Ido

Governor of Hyogo Prefecture