

## Mayor's Message Concerning the New Strain of Influenza

May 17, 2009

Today (May 17) new cases of H1N1 influenza were confirmed in neighboring cities as a result of inspection by Infection Disease Surveillance Center. In Itami city several patients who might be infected by the new strain of influenza were confirmed, too.

Itami city are making our best efforts to prevent the spread of infection and to maintain the social and economic function in cooperation with related organizations

We held countermeasures headquarters meetings against the new strain of influenza and decided to implement the following measures from May 18 to May 22 (currently scheduled).

1. Municipal kindergartens, elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools, schools for children with physical or mental disabilities will be closed. We request that private kindergartens and colleges in our city stop holding classes.
2. Municipal nursery schools, nursing care facilities where the elderly visit regularly including Day Service and Day care, and nursing care facilities for the handicapped will be closed. We request that private nursery schools stop holding classes.
3. We will cancel or put off our events. We also request that private bodies suspend their events, or at least remind people who have symptoms such as a cough to wear masks.
4. Municipal facilities are closed in principle. Private facilities are also requested to suspend operations.
5. We have established a new consultation window.
6. Itami City office is opened. We will continue our normal business operations.

I would like to ask that citizens and entrepreneurs behave in a calm with careful attention to the information offered by the national, prefectural, and municipal governments and behave in a calm. Please understand and cooperate with the following measures:

- The symptoms of the H1N1 flu are similar to seasonal influenza. We ask that our citizens remain calm. Medicines such as Tamiflu are effective.
- Please wash your hands and faces, gargle, cover your mouth when coughing, facial cleansing and wear a mask daily in order to prevent infection.
- Please refrain from going out for unnecessary or non-urgent matters and avoid visiting crowded places as much as possible. Please take full preventive measures, including wearing a mask, when using public transportation (e.g. the train, etc).
- If you have developed symptoms similar to the new strain of influenza, such as a fever and/or a cough, please telephone immediately our consultation window for people who have a fever at Hatsunetsu Soudan Center (TEL072-777-4111). The Center will introduce you to special medical institutions for outpatients. Please refrain from visiting medical institutions directly.
- Public Health Center will conduct health investigations by phone to the persons who have possibility of the new strain of influenza. We may ask them to refrain from going outdoors if necessary. Your understanding and cooperation will be highly appreciated.

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