

Urgent Important Notice

May 1, 2009

Yoshimi Takai, Dean, Kobe University School of Medicine

Kazuro Sugimura, President, Kobe University Hospital

Sohichi Arakawa, Chief, Division of Infection Control, Kobe University Hospital

To all of the employees and students at Kobe University School of Medicine and Kobe University Hospital

Novel Influenza virus (Influenza A, H1N1) infection has spread rapidly from Mexico to other nations in the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) raised the current level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 4 to phase 5 out of 6, warning imminent potential flu pandemic. Kobe University recommends that all the employees and students restrain themselves from traveling to the areas with endemic, especially Mexico and USA. In addition, Kobe University strongly advises all the employees and students for their daily precaution at home, work or travel to prevent infection, such as avoiding crowded areas. Please check the website of Kobe University to keep up with latest recommendations and information regarding influenza A (H1N1) outbreak. If our employees and students are ill with fever and cough during this holiday week, please contact Division of Infection Control and Division of Infectious Diseases Therapeutics at Kobe University Hospital.

Addendum

If you unavoidably travel overseas, please pay attention to the following advices.

- 1) Restrain yourself from going to the crowded areas unnecessarily,
- 2) Use surgical masks when you go to the crowded areas to avoid infection with cough or sneeze.
- 3) Wash your hands with soap and water, frequently, and gargle your throat.
- 4) If you are ill with fever and cough at the time when you return from abroad, declare your illness to the officials of the health consultation room through the Customs and Quarantine.
- 5) After you return from abroad, take your temperature twice a day in the morning and evening based on the health questionnaire that will be delivered from the Division of Infection Control, University Hospital. If you are ill with fever, cough, sore throat, nasal discharge or breathing difficulty, please consult the officials at your local Public Health Centers or the Division of Infection Control at Kobe University Hospital (or doctors at the Division of Infectious Disease Therapeutics).

Other Informations

24-hour health crisis line provided by Hygo Prefecture: TEL 078-367-2766

Kobe Fever Consultation Center (phone reception 9:00-21:00) TEL 078 - 335 -2151

Home Page, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in Japanese) <http://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/>

Home Page, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (in Japanese)

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/>

Home Page, Kobe City (in Japanese) <http://www.city.kobe.lg.jp/>