

## A Notice on the Strengthening of Swine Flu Measures

Today, the first domestic case of the swine flu was confirmed in Kobe City. This means that there is a high chance now the swine flu will spread to the regional level.

In response to these latest developments, we are strengthening the consultation services available at the “Hatsu Netsu Centers” that have been established in all the prefectural health centers, and in the prefectural health crisis management office (See attached list). I would like to assure you that the prefectural government is putting all its effort into protecting the health and safety of all Mie citizens by working in cooperation with local governments, medical institutions and relevant organizations.

Thus far, the swine flu appears to be very similar to the seasonal flu symptom-wise, and responds effectively to flu medications such as Tamiflu and Relenza. Most people who were infected upon seeking treatment right away are now recovering. However, there have been reports that after contracting the swine flu, people with a chronic disease or who are pregnant failed to recover and instead their condition grew worse. This is why it is important to work together to limit the spread of this outbreak. Currently, measures that are normally taken to prevent the spread of the seasonal flu seem to be effective against the swine flu as well.

I urge all citizens to take preventive measures such as washing your hands, gargling, wearing masks, following “coughing etiquette”, and avoiding crowded places. Also, if you find yourself with flu-like symptoms such as a high fever, please call the “Hatsu Netsu Center” first and follow their advice.

I also ask that you remain calm and monitor the latest information regarding the swine flu that comes from both the prefectural and national government.

Thank you.

Governor of Mie Prefecture  
Akihiko Noro

May 16, 2009

“Hatsu Netsu” Flu Medical Advice Centre

Prefectural Health Management Crisis Office Hotline

Available 24 Hours/7 Days A Week Including Holidays

Tel: 059-224-2339 Fax: 059-224-2344

Local Healthcare Center Hotline: 8:30-17:15 7 Days a Week, including Holidays

Kuwana Healthcare Centre tel. 0 5 9 4 - 2 4 - 3 6 2 5

Suzuka Healthcare Centre tel. 0 5 9 - 3 8 2 - 8 6 7 1

Tsu Healthcare Centre tel. 0 5 9 - 2 2 3 - 5 1 8 5

Matsusaka Healthcare Centre tel. 0 5 9 8 - 5 0 - 0 5 3 1

Ise Healthcare Centre tel. 0 5 9 6 - 2 7 - 5 1 4 8

Iga Healthcare Centre tel. 0 5 9 5 - 2 4 - 8 0 4 5

Owase Healthcare Centre tel. 0 5 9 7 - 2 3 - 3 4 5 4

Kumano Healthcare Centre tel. 0 5 9 7 - 8 9 - 6 1 1 5

8:30-17:15 (7 days a week including bank holidays)

Yokkaichi Healthcare Center 8:30-21:00 7 Days a Week, including Holidays

Tel: 059-352-0594

Service is provided in Japanese only, so please have someone call on your behalf if you will have trouble communicating with the staff.