



For Immediate Press Release

Updates on Global Influenza A (H1N1) for Travelers to Japan

Singapore, 04 June, 2009 – According to sources released by the Ministry of Health in Japan, the flu outbreak situation in Japan has shown significant improvement with most of the schools in affected regions such as Osaka, Hyogo and Kyoto reopened now.

Latest reports from Singaporean visitors who had returned from recent trips to Japan verified that life in Japan remained as normal as the local Japanese went about their daily routines.

The Health Ministry from The Osaka Prefecture confirmed on 03 June, 2009 that the 157 cases affected so far have fully recovered.

The Mayor of Kobe City Mr Tatuso Yada has officially declared on 28 May, 2009 that Kobe is a safe place at least for the present and welcomes anyone to visit Kobe, where it saw Japan's first H1N1 case on May 15, 2009. As of 03 June, 2009, of the 109 cases affected, all have completely recovered except for 1 who is recuperating at home.

<http://www.city.kobe.lg.jp/foreign/english/index.html>

To eliminate travelers' concerns over the flu situation, the Ministry of Health in Japan is providing medical assistance as follows:

Upon arrival at the airport

1. Those who are found to have been infected with H1N1 may be issued a quarantine order upon arrival at the airport. Travelers will be sent to the quarantine center for further medical assessment. The stay at the quarantine center would be fully paid for by the relevant city's medical authorities in Japan.

During the visit in Japan

1. As in usual circumstances, during the visit in Japan, travelers who fall ill and seek medical help at any of the local city clinics have to bear their medical fees for the medical treatment received.
2. However, if upon the medical treatment and the traveler has been found to have or suspected to be having the H1N1 virus will need to be quarantined. The stay at the quarantine center will be fully paid for by the relevant city medical authorities in Japan incurred throughout the quarantine period until the traveler recovers.



The following medical centers offer consultation and information in English and other foreign languages should travelers need while traveling in Japan.

AMDA International Medical Information Center Tokyo

Tokyo 03-5258-8088

Operating hours: Daily 9:00-18:00

Languages spoken:

English, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, Thai, Daily 9:00-18:00

Portuguese: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00-17:00

Filipino: Wednesdays 13:00-17:00

Tokyo Metropolitan Health & Medical Information Center

Tokyo 03-5285-8181

Operating hours: 9:00-22:00

Language spoken: English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Thai

AMDA International Medical Information Center Osaka

Osaka 06-4395-0555

Operating hours: Daily 9:00-18:00

Language spoken: English, Spanish, Daily 9:00-18:00

Portuguese, Monday 10:30-14:30

Consultation and Information on influenza (The Osaka Prefectural Government)

Osaka 06-6943-8530

Consultation hours: Daily 9:00-17:45

<http://www.pref.osaka.jp/chiiki/kenkou/influ/foreignlang.pdf>

Consultation and Information on influenza (The Kobe City)

Kobe 078-335-2151 or 080-6115-9901 (non Japanese speakers)

Consultation hours: 9:00-17:00

http://www.city.kobe.lg.jp/safety/health/infection/img/pr_en_mado.pdf

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Mayor's Message (May 28, 2009)

The prevalence of swine influenza in Kobe City appears to have eased at present.

Let us grow as a city after this influenza scare to ensure the safety and security of our daily lives is restored to normality.

The local economy of Kobe City, as well as the livelihood of its citizens was significantly affected as a result of swine influenza, not to mention the serious damage caused by rumors. I would like us to work together towards overcoming this state of affairs. Let us work together to show the world that Kobe is even more vivacious than before by bringing people together through events such as the Kobe Festival, by opening public facilities free of charge and other such initiatives.

As swine influenza is similar to that of seasonal influenza strains and can be dealt with in the usual manner as part of everyday life, there is no need to overreact. Accordingly, I would like to officially declare to the nation that Kobe is a safe place at least for the present and I cordially welcome anyone to visit our city.

As it has been recognized that measures for the prevention of swine influenza should mirror those taken during epidemic of seasonal influenza, life for the general populace should return to normal. However, as with seasonal influenza, pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses should take extra precautions with their health.

We plan to continue our vigilance with the early detection and treatment of those who are infected to prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus.

Furthermore, based of the lessons learned from this experience, we plan to create a Kobe model early detection and regional cooperation system. On top of this, we ask that all citizens make it a habit to practice basic hygiene as a basic preventative measure from infection and wash their hands and gargle regularly. We are also recommending that citizens have a stock of masks, hygiene products and foodstuffs.

To create an even safer, more secure, more cheerful and healthier KOBE, I hereby resolve to move forward confidently together with the citizens of the City.

Tatsuo Yada
Mayor of Kobe