

## Measures against Infectious Diseases

### Overview

### Summary of the Law Regarding Infectious Disease Prevention and Medical Care for the Patients

(Approved on Sept. 28, 1998 and enforced on April 1, 1999)

#### Prior administrative measures against outbreak and spread of infectious diseases



- Development and establishment of the surveillance system for infectious diseases
- Promotion of comprehensive nationwide and prefectural measures  
(To facilitate cooperation of related parties, basic guidelines to prevent infectious diseases are prepared and announced by the government, and the prevention plan by the prefectural governments)



- Preparation of guidelines to prevent specific infectious diseases including influenza, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, and tuberculosis. (The government prepares and announces guidelines to investigate causes, prevent outbreak and spread, provide medical care services, promote research and development, and obtain international cooperation for the diseases that especially require comprehensive preventive measures)

#### Types of infectious diseases and medical care system



Type of infectious disease	Key measures	Medical care system	Medical fee payment
New infectious diseases	Hospitalization	Designated medical institutions for specific infectious disease (several in number nationwide designated by the government)	Publicly funded in full (no insurance applied)
Type 1 (Plague, Ebola hemorrhagic fever, South American haemorrhagic fever, etc.)		Designated medical institutions for Type 1 infectious disease [1 hospital in each prefecture designated by prefectural governors]	Medical insurance applied with public funds (for hospitalization)
Type 2 (Avian influenza (H5N1), tuberculosis, SARS, etc.)		Designated medical institutions for Type 2 infectious disease [1 hospital in each secondary medical area designated by prefectural governors]	
Type 3 (Cholera, O-157 infection, etc.)	Work restriction in certain jobs	General medical institutions	Medical insurance applied (partial cost sharing)
Type 4 (Avian influenza (excluding H5N1), West Nile fever, etc.)	Sterilization and other objective measures		
Type 5 (Influenza (excluding avian influenza and novel influenza infection, etc.), AIDS, viral hepatitis (excluding hepatitis E and hepatitis A), etc.)	Identifying the situation of infection and providing such information		
Novel influenza, etc.	Hospitalization	Designated medical institutions for specific/Type 1/Type 2 infectious disease	Medical insurance applied with public funds (for hospitalization)

\* Infectious diseases other than Type 1, 2, or 3 infectious diseases requiring emergency measures are designated as "designated infectious diseases" in Cabinet Order and are treated the same as Type 1, 2, and 3 infectious diseases limited for 1 year in principle.

#### Development of hospitalization procedures respecting patients' human rights



- Work restriction and hospitalization according to the type of infectious disease
- Introduction of a system to recommend hospitalization based on patients' decisions
- Hospitalization up to 72 hours ordered by prefectural governors (directors of health centers)
- Hospitalization every 10 days (30 days for tuberculosis) with hearing opinions of the council for infectious disease examination in health centers
- Reporting complaints on conditions of hospitalization to prefectural governors
- Constitute special cases to make decisions within the 5 days against the request for trial examination of complaints from the patients who are in hospitalization for more than 30 days
- In the event of emergency, the government on its own responsibility shall provide necessary guidance to prefectural governments on hospitalization of patients

#### Development of measures such as sufficient sterilization to prevent infectious diseases from spreading



- Sterilization to prevent Type 1, 2, 3, and 4 infectious diseases and novel influenza from spreading
- Restricting entry to buildings to prevent Type 1 infectious diseases from spreading
- In the event of emergency, the government on its own responsibility shall provide necessary guidance to prefectural governments on sterilization and other measures

Development of countermeasures against animal-originated infectious diseases



- Prohibit the import of and establish an import quarantine system for monkeys
- Prohibit the import of palm civets, bat, African soft-furred rats, prairie dogs, etc.
- Expand the scope of notification obligation by veterinarians to include Type 4 infectious diseases and added echinococcosis of dogs into the Type 4 category (revised in October 2003 and July 2004)
- "Notification System for the Importation of Animals" to require importers of living mammals and birds, and carcasses of rodents to report necessary information to the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (quarantine station) along with a sanitary certificate issued by the government organization of the exporting country.

Development of regulation of possession of pathogens, etc.



- Regulation through enforcement of standards of prohibition, permission, notification, and facilities according to the classification of Type 1, 2, 3, and 4 pathogens, etc.
- Establishment of standards on facilities according to the types of pathogens, etc.
- Development of regulations to prevent outbreak of infectious diseases, selecting persons in charge of handling pathogens, and obligating the owners to report carriage, etc.
- Creating provisions for the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, etc. to supervise such facilities including on-site investigation of facilities for handling pathogens and orders to change methods of sterilization/transfer

Development of measures against novel influenza



- Implement measures including hospitalization and enable to take measures equivalent to those for Type 1 infectious diseases by Cabinet Order
- Request those possibly infected to report health status and abstain from going out
- Disclose information regarding outbreak and measures to be taken
- Progress reports from prefectural governors
- Enhancement of cooperation between prefectural governors and directors of Quarantine Stations