

Press Release (This is provisional translation. Please refer to the original text written in Japanese.)

March 25, 2011
Water Supply Division,
Health Service Bureau

To Press and those whom may concern,

Detection of radioactive materials in tap water (9th announcement)
--Fukushima Prefecture --

Today, we obtained the results of radioactive materials survey conducted by the Government's Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters on tap water.

The results of the survey conducted from 22 to 23 March by the Government's Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters on radioactive materials in tap water at 15 points within Fukushima prefecture are made available. No new results exceeding the "Index values for restrictions on the intake of food and beverages" (Reference 2) and "Index values for infants (radioactive iodine)" (Reference 4) were found.

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will continue to acquire the data of radioactive materials in tap water and take appropriate measures based on the data.

Please note that the possibility that the health risk posed by the short period of tap water intake exceeding the index values is extremely low. It is not intended to restrict drinking water (including infants' ingestion of tap water) in case you have no access to alternative drinking water. You can use the tap water for washing hands and bathing at home without any concern.

(Reference 1)

○The water supply utility that continues to inform residents to refrain from drinking tap water, according to the MHLW's request, at the time of its 8th announcement

・Fukushima Prefecture: Iitate-mura Small-Scale Water Supply Utility (in Iitate-mura (village))

○The water supply utilities that continue to refrain from having infants intake tap water, according to the MHLW request, at the time of its 8th announcement. (The requests for all these utilities are ongoing.)

・Fukushima Prefecture: Tsukitate/Date-shi (city) Small-Scale Water Supply Utility (in Date-shi (city)), Koriyama-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (in Koriyama-shi (city)), Minamisoma-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (in Minamisoma-shi (city)), Kawamata-machi (town) Water Supply Utility (Kawamata-machi (town)),

and Iwaki-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (in Iwaki-shi (city)).

- Ibaraki Prefecture: Tokai-mura (village) Water Supply Utility (in Tokai-mura (village)), Suifu District Hokubu (northern area) Small-Scale Water Supply Utility (in Hitachiota-shi (city)), Kita-Ibaraki-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (in Kita-Ibaraki-shi (city)), Hitachi-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (in Hitachi-shi (city)), and Kasama-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (in Kasama-shi (city)).

- Chiba Prefecture: Chiba Prefectural Waterworks Bureau (in Matsudo-shi (city), etc.)

- Tochigi Prefecture: Utsunomiya-shi(city) Water Supply Utility (in Utsunomiya-shi (city))

○The water supply utilities that lifted the restriction of infants' ingestion of tap water because the measured radiation fell below "Index values for infants", by the time of its 8th announcement

- Fukushima Prefecture: Tamura-shi (city) Water Supply Utility

- Tokyo Metropolitan Government: Tokyo Water Supply Utility

(Reference 2)

Index values for restrictions on the intake of food and beverages set out by the Nuclear Safety Commission:

Radioactive iodine in drinking water: 300 Bq (Becquerel)/kg;

Radioactive cesium in drinking water: 200 Bq (Becquerel)/kg

(Note) The concept of the "Index values for restrictions on the intake of food and beverages"

The index values were established by the Nuclear Safety Commission by foodstuff category (drinking water, food, etc.), taking into account such factors as the amount of Japanese foodstuff intake, based on the radiation protection standards recommended by the International Committee on Radiological Protection (ICRP) (Thyroid gland equivalent dose of radioactive iodine is 50 millisieverts (mSv)).

(Reference 3) "Measures to be taken against water supply associated with the accident in the Fukushima No.1 and No.2 nuclear power plants" (No. 1-0319 issued by Water Supply Division, Health Service Bureau, MHLW on March 19, 2011)

○Measures to be taken against tap water in case radiation measured in the tap water exceeds in connection with the nuclear power plant accident: Water Supply Division, Health Service Bureau notified heads of departments in charge of water supply administration in each prefecture and water supply utilities:

- 1) To refrain from drinking tap water exceeding the index values;
- 2) That you can use the tap water for domestic use without any concern;
- 3) That it is not intended to restrict drinking tap water in case you have no access to alternative drinking water; and such.

(Reference 4) "Measures for infants' ingestion of tap water" (No. 1-0321 issued by Water Supply Division, Health Service Bureau, MHLW on March 21, 2011)

○MHLW notified heads of departments in charge of water supply administration in each prefecture and water supply utilities, in case the level of radioactive iodine in tap water exceeds 100 Bq/kg, to refrain from giving infants formula milk dissolved by tap water, having them intake tap water, and so on.

(Reference 5)

Infants here mean babies who take breast feeding or formula milk.

Attachment : Omitted