

# About Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Pandemic Influenza

## – Phase 4 Onwards –

### Introduction

There are strong concerns about the emergence of the next pandemic influenza, considering the recent worldwide outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian flu (H5N1) and sporadic occurrence of human infections. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that, as of March 20, 2007, there have been 281 patients of highly pathogenic avian flu (H5N1) in twelve countries since November 2003, 169 of which have died.

The Government of Japan presented the Influenza Virus (H5N1) Guidelines – Phase 3 – in June 2006. These Guidelines include thirteen guidelines for pandemic influenza preparedness in Phase 4 onwards. These Guidelines include 1) Quarantine Guidelines, which presents frontline measures to prevent the intrusion of virus from outside Japan; 2) Surveillance Guidelines, which aims to identify the cases of pandemic influenza that have intruded into Japan; 3) Proactive Epidemiological Research Guidelines and 4) Strategic Guidelines for Early Response, both focused on response in early stages of outbreak in Japan; 5) Guidelines for Medical Response, 6) Guidelines for Infection Prevention at Medical Facilities, 7) Guidelines for Diagnostic Check at Medical Institutions, 8) Guidelines for Vaccination and 9) Guidelines for Antiviral Drugs, which provides medical guidelines to retain medical services for citizens and minimize the expansion of damage by the outbreak of pandemic influenza.

Further, these Guidelines also provide 10) Guidelines for Infection Prevention for Individuals, General Households, Local Communities and Municipalities, 11) Guidelines for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness at Business Entities and Establishments, and 12) Guidelines for Information Provision and Sharing, because it is important in pandemic influenza preparedness that individual citizens, business entities and others have sufficient knowledge and awareness, and take appropriate countermeasures on their own. If a large number of citizens unfortunately die from infection, their bodies must be treated with due respect and precaution. From this viewpoint, 13) Guidelines for Smooth Implementation of Burial and Cremation are included in these Guidelines. Comprehensive response integrating such frontline countermeasures, public health measures, medical response and social preparedness, is expected to slow down the spread of infection as far as possible, and by constraining the peak occurrence of infection, retain medical services and social functions in order to minimize damage by outbreak.

These Guidelines are based on the latest findings collected so far, and are subject to continuous review and updating as necessary. The Government of Japan expects that these Guidelines will contribute to its pandemic influenza preparedness measures.

**Establish Headquarters for Countermeasures Against Pandemic Influenza**

**Frontline measures: Preventing invasion from outside Japan**

**Bolster inspection of immigrants [2] Inspection and Quarantine Guidelines**

Passengers with symptoms ... Detain at medical institutions designated for patients with infectious diseases  
 Passengers without symptoms ... Screen using questionnaire & thermography  
 → Passengers suspected of close contact with symptomatic passengers ... Detain at normal medical institutions  
 → Other passengers ... Provide instructions for preventing infection (i.e. remain indoors, report health status, wear masks)

**Response from Medical Community**

Early identification: Prompt treatment

Establish a reporting system for suspected cases  
**[3] Surveillance Guideline**

Early response: Identification and containment

Investigate extent of contact patient had with others  
**[4] Proactive Epidemiological Research Guideline**

Prevent onset of infection using Tamiflu combined with non-drug protective measures  
**[5] Strategic Early Response Guideline**

Medical response: Control before spread

Establish “High-fever outpatient departments” in medical institutions and keep patients in isolation  
**[6] Medical Response Guideline**

Inspect all patients at medical institutions  
**[8] Laboratory Guidelines for Pandemic Influenza Diagnosis at Medical Institutions**

Take measures to prevent nosocomial infections  
**[7] Guidelines for Infection Prevention at Medical Facilities**

**[9] Guideline for Vaccination**

**[10] Guideline for Antiviral Drugs**

**Response from Social Community**

Societal response: Prevent spread of infection

Response of corporations, etc.  
**[11] Guidelines for Business Entities and Establishments**

Response of households, etc.  
**[12] Guidelines for Individuals, General Households, and Local Communities and Municipalities**

Risk communication  
**[13] Guidelines for Information Provision and Sharing**

When deaths occur

Appropriate handling of bodies of dead patients  
**[14] Guidelines for Burials and Cremation**

Establishment of Pandemic Influenza Experts Advisory Committee

