

Joint Action Plan
among
the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea,
the National Health Commission
of the People's Republic of China and
the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan
on Preparedness and Response
against Pandemic Influenza and Emerging/Re-emerging Infectious
Diseases of Common Concern

The Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea, the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”),

Based on the Memorandum of Cooperation signed at the ninth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting on December 4th, 2016;

Reaffirming the need for joint efforts by the three countries for pandemic influenza and emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases of common concern (hereinafter referred to as “ERIDCC”) and the importance of international cooperation for rapid and effective responses to minimize damage to the public health and the socio-economic consequences from a possible outbreak,

Have reached the following Joint Action Plan:

1. Contact points

1-1. The Participants designate the following organizations as channels for information sharing and will utilize them as focal points regarding pandemic influenza and ERIDCC

both in ordinary times and in the case of an outbreak:

- Korea: Division of International Cooperation, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Division of Public health Emergency and Bioterrorism, Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- China: Department of International Cooperation, National Health Commission;
- Japan: Tuberculosis and Infectious Disease Control Division/ Office of Global Health Cooperation International Affairs Division, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

1-2. The Participants will establish an audio or video conference network and use other methods such as email to facilitate information sharing.

1-3. The Participants will make every effort to further strengthen collaborative relationships and information sharing with relevant official organizations in order to make sure that their nationals residing in the other two countries have an access to reliable information in the case of an outbreak.

1-4. The Participants will promptly update and share the information whenever the focal point is changed

2. Information and knowledge sharing

2-1. Each Participant will provide the other Participants with as much information as it has on any confirmed and suspected case of human influenza caused by a new subtype or any confirmed or highly suspected case of ERIDCC that occur outside of the three countries.

2-2. If human influenza caused by a new subtype or ERIDCC emerges in one of the three countries, the originating country will provide the following information to the other two countries as swiftly as possible:

- epidemiological characteristics;
- clinical characteristics;
- virological and laboratory characteristics; and
- infectious disease control measures taken to deal with the event.

2-3 The participants will exchange experts and officials to enhance the cooperation of information and knowledge sharing and close communication if necessary.

3. Risk communication

The Participants will take the following measures to effectively provide accurate information to the public in the case of an outbreak of pandemic influenza and EIDCC:

- provide reliable information to the general public in the three countries by posting developments of the outbreak and response measures taken, on the websites of Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Health Commission of China and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare / National Institute of Infectious Disease of Japan
- Consider development of a joint declaration by health ministers of the Participants for a closer trilateral cooperation system
- provide timely, accurate, and transparent information on infectious diseases through public disclosure of timely and accurate information and active communication with domestic and overseas media
- create a mechanism for trilateral high-level emergency rapid communication through the IHR national focal points of Korea, China and Japan.

4. Impartial intervention for early infectious disease control measures

The Participants will work together to ensure that the following measures will be

implemented without regard to nationality:

- the provision of impartial preventive measures including quarantine and isolation for early infectious disease control.

5. Diagnostics, medicine and vaccine development

The Participants will share the available information regarding the status of diagnostics, medicine and vaccine for pandemic influenza and ERIDCC.

6. Expansion of cooperation

The Participants will strive to develop prevention and response measures against pandemic influenza and ERIDCC by doing regular activities such as:

- carrying out joint risk assessment and exercises for preparing against pandemic influenza and ERIDCC occasionally after negotiations among the three countries; and
- conducting international joint table-top exercises including exercises supported by the World Health Organization, seminars and symposia by inviting other Asian countries to expand the scope of cooperation.

7. Condition

7-1. This Joint Action Plan will be carried out in accordance with the respective laws and regulations of the Participants and subject to the availability of personnel, resources and funds of the Participants.

7-2. Any disputes between the Participants that may arise from the interpretation or implementation of this Joint Action Plan will be settled amicably by consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

8. Modifications and Termination

8-1. The cooperation based on this Joint Action Plan will commence on the date of signature by the Participants, and will be in effect for a period of five years. The Participants should review every five years whether to renew this Joint Action Plan.

8-2. This Joint Action Plan may be modified at any time by mutual written consent of the Participants. The cooperation will terminate in case of the occurrence of any special reasons by which the cooperation cannot continue by notifying the other in writing its intent to terminate the cooperation.

Signed in triplicate in Seoul, on the 15th day of December, 2019, in the English language.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA	FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, LABOUR AND WELFARE OF JAPAN
Minister of Health and Welfare	Minister of Health	Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare