

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

December 21, 2011
Water Supply Division,
Health Service Bureau

To Press and those whom may concern,

Detection of radioactive materials in tap water (234th announcement)
--Fukushima Prefecture --

This is an announcement that we have obtained the results of radioactive materials survey conducted by the Government's Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters on tap water.

1. The results of the survey

The results of the survey conducted by the Government's Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters on radioactive materials in tap water collected by December 21 within Fukushima prefecture are shown in Attachment 1 (98 data). No results exceeding the "Index values for infants (radioactive iodine)" (Reference 4) were found in this survey.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will continue to obtain data on tap water and take appropriate measures based on it.

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) There has been no change in the status of restriction on tap water intake by users or infants implemented by water supply utilities (Attachment 2).

(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)/year).

(Reference 3) “Measures to be taken against water supply associated with the accident in the TEPCO’s 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)

The results of surveys conducted on radioactive materials in tap water supplied by domestic well water supply facilities (including spring water) in Fukushima prefecture are shown in Attachment 1. They are referred to as “domestic well water supply facilities” under the column, “water supply utilities”.

(Reference 6)

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

Attachment 1: Omitted

Attachment 2: The status of restriction on tap water intake by users or infants implemented by water supply utilities

<Timeline>

Infants			
Date	Prefecture	Water supply utility, etc.	Notes
3/21	Fukushima	Iitate-mura (village) Small-Scale Water Supply Utility (Iitate-mura (village))	Cancelled on 5/10
3/22	Fukushima	Date-shi (city)/Tsukitate Small-Scale Water Supply Utility (Date-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/26
		Kawamata-machi (town) Water Supply Utility (Kawamata-machi (town))	Cancelled on 3/25
		Koriyama-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Koriyama-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/25
		Minamisoma-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Minamisoma-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/30
		Tamura-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Tamura-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/23
3/23	Fukushima	Iwaki-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Iwaki-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/31
	Ibaraki	Tokai-mura (village) Water Supply Utility (Tokai-mura (village))	Cancelled on 3/26
		Suifu district Hokubu (northern area) Small-Scale Water Supply Utility (Hitachi-ota-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/26
	Chiba	Chiba Prefecture Water Supply Utility (Chiba Nogiku-no-sato Water Treatment Plant and Kuriyama Water Treatment Plant)	Cancelled on 3/25
		Kitachiba-Koiki Bulk Water Supply Utility	Cancelled on 3/26
Tokyo	Tokyo Water Supply Utility (23 wards and 5 cities)	Cancelled on 3/24	
3/24	Ibaraki	Kita-Ibaraki-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Kita-Ibaraki-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/27
		Hitachi-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Hitachi-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/26
		Kasama-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Kasama-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/27
3/25	Tochigi	Utsunomiya-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Utsunomiya-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/25
		Nogi-machi (town) Water Supply Utility (Nogi-machi (town))	Cancelled on 3/26
	Ibaraki	Ibaraki-Ken-Nan Water Supply Utility (Toride-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/26
		Koga-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Koga-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/25
3/26	Fukushima	Tamura-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Tamura-shi (city))	Cancelled on 3/28
	Chiba	Chiba Prefecture Water Supply Utility (Kashiwai Water Treatment Plant (East side facility))	Cancelled on 3/27
		Inba-gun (county) Bulk Water Supply Utility	Cancelled on 3/27
3/27	Fukushima	Date-shi (city)/Tsukitate Small-Scale Water Supply Utility (Date-shi (city))	Cancelled on 4/1

General public			
Date	Prefecture	Water supply utility, etc.	Notes
3/21	Fukushima	Iitate-mura (village) Small-Scale Water Supply Utility (Iitate-mura (village))	Cancelled on 4/1

※"Infants" refer to informing that infants refrain from intaking tap water (including giving infants formula milk dissolved by tap water, etc.); "General public" means informing residents to refrain from drinking tap water. In addition, "Start" and "Cancel" refer to the "beginning" and "cancellation" of the public announcement of relevant information (public relations), respectively.

※The table was created based on information confirmed by the MHLW by the time of issuance of this announcement.