

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

March 24, 2011
Water Supply Division,
Health Service Bureau

To Press and those whom may concern,

Detection of radioactive materials in tap water (7th announcement)

--Ibaraki Prefecture --

Today, we obtained the results of radioactive materials survey conducted by Ibaraki Prefecture, etc. on tap water. Based on the results, we requested anew that Kita-Ibaraki-shi (city), Hitachi-shi (city), and Kasama-shi (city) inform residents to refrain from having infants intake tap water.

1. The survey results of Ibaraki Prefecture

The results of the survey conducted from 23 to 24 March by Ibaraki Prefecture on radioactive materials in tap water at 15 points within the prefecture (Attachment 1) and by Kasama-shi (city)/Ibaraki Prefecture at 4 places within the city (Attachment 2) are made available. The new findings exceeding the “Index values for infants (radioactive iodine)” (Reference 4) are as follows.

Municipality	Sampling date	Water Treatment Plant	Radioactive iodine (Bq/kg)	Index values for infants (Bq/kg)
Kita-Ibaraki-shi (city)	March 23	--	116.1	100
Hitachi-shi (city)		Moriyama Water Treatment Plant	150	
		Juo Water Treatment Plant	298	
Kasama-shi (city)		Hinumagawa Water Treatment Plant	170	

※No results exceeding the “Index values for restrictions on the intake of food and beverages” were found. (Reference 2).

2. Our response to the results

After receiving the survey results, the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) today requested anew that the Kita-Ibaraki-shi (city) Water Supply Utility, the Hitachi-shi (city) Water Supply Utility, and the

Kasama-shi (city) Water Supply Utility inform residents using their water supplies to refrain from having infants intake tap water (including giving infants formula milk dissolved by tap water, etc.).

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 utilities that continue to inform residents to refrain from drinking tap water, according to the MHLW's request made by 19:00 today

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

○The water supply utilities that continue to refrain from having infants drink tap water, according to the MHLW request made by 19:00 today (The request for all these utilities is ongoing.)

• Fukushima Prefecture: Tsukitate/Date-shi (city) Small-Scale Water Supply Utility (Date-shi (city)), Koriyama-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Koriyama-shi (city)), Tamura-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Tamura-shi (city)), Minamisoma-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Minamisoma-shi (city)), Kawamata-machi (town) Water Supply Utility (Kawamata-machi (town)), and Iwaki-shi (city) Water Supply Utility (Iwaki-shi (city)).

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

• Chiba Prefecture: Chiba Prefectural Waterworks Bureau (Matsudo-shi (city))

(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 1: Omitted

Attachment 2: Omitted