

(COVID-19)

About Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Press Conference

March 19, 2020

Press Conference held by Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, KATO Katsunobu, Tuesday, March 19, 2020, 10:13 a.m. Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

※Please click the "subtitles" in the video button, and you click the "Settings" afterwards, and choose English among "Subtitles/cc" to see English subtitles.

[Past Ministerial Conference](#)

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation within and outside the country

As of 12:00, Mar. 23, 1,089 cases have been confirmed.

○Confirmed cases in Japan

	PCR tested positive	With no symptoms					With symptoms								Under confirmation of the symptom	PCR tested
		With no symptoms	Already discharged from hospital	Need inpatient treatment	Currently in hospital	Waiting for hospitalization	Already discharged from hospital	Need inpatient treatment	Mild to moderate symptoms	Hospitalized with a ventilator or intensive care unit	Under confirmation	Waiting for hospitalization	Death			
Domestic cases (excluding returnees by chartered flights)	1,057*1 (+42)	110 (+5)	34 (+1)	74 (+3)	69 (+3)	5	944 (+37)	236 (+12)	669 (+21)	423 (+23)	54 (-3)	187 (+4)	5 (-3)	41 (+5)	3	18,322 (+96)
Abroad	17				11	1	5		5	5						1,189

Quarantine	(+1)	12	0	12	(+1)	(-1)	(+1)	0	(+1)	(+1)	0	0	0	0	0	(+16)
Returnees by chartered flights (Identified by quarantine policy)	15	4	4	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	829
Total	1,089 (+43)	126 (+5)	38 (+1)	86 (+3)	80 (+4)	6 (-1)	960 (+38)	247 (+12)	674 (+22)	428 (+24)	54 (-3)	187 (+4)	5 (-3)	41 (+5)	3	20,340 (+112)

Hospitalization and discharge

○Confirmed cases in Japan

Hospitalization and discharge

As of 18:00, Mar. 22

【Domestic cases】

PCR tested positive	Already discharged from hospital	Currently in hospital	Death
	1 0 8 9 (+ 4 3)	2 8 5 (+ 1 3) From severe to moderate/mild symptoms 1 9	7 6 3 (+ 2 5)

【Cases at the Cruise ship】

PCR tested positive (in hospital in Japan)	Already discharged from hospital	Currently in hospital	Death
	6 7 2	5 8 7 (+ 1 3) From severe to moderate/mild symptoms 3 0	7 7 (- 1 3)

【Total】

PCR tested positive (in hospital in Japan)	Already discharged from hospital	Currently in hospital	Death
	1 7 6 1 (+ 4 3)	8 7 2 (+ 2 6) From severe to moderate/mild symptoms 4 5(+1)	8 4 0 (+ 1 2)

The number in parentheses indicates the change from the previous day.

The situation of occurrence of patients with COVID-19 (map)

This shows the number of the novel coronavirus infectious cases reported in Japan on a map by prefecture. Date is confirmed date. The number of patients on charter flight and cruise ship is not included.

<https://mhlw-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/0c5d0502bbb54f9a8dddebca003631b8>

According to official government reports from other counties, as of 12:00, Mar. 23, 324,823 infectious cases and 14,461 deaths were confirmed.

○Confirmed cases outside Japan

Country / Region	Confirmed Cases	Deaths

China*	81,093	3,270
Hong Kong	317	4
Macau	21	0
Japan	1,089	41
South Korea	8,961	111
Taiwan	169	2
Singapore	455	2
Nepal	2	0
Thailand	599	1
Vietnam	113	0
Malaysia	1,306	10
Australia	1,098	7
US	32,644	411
Canada	1,430	20
France	16,018	674
Germany	18,610	55
Cambodia	84	0
Sri Lanka	82	0
United Arab Emirates	153	2
Finland	626	1
Philippines	380	25
India	376	7
Italy	59,138	5,476
UK	5,683	281
Russia	367	0
Sweden	1,906	21
Spain	28,572	1,720
Belgium	3,401	75
Egypt	294	10
Iran	21,638	1,685
Israel	945	1
Lebanon	248	4
Kuwait	188	0
Bahrain	332	2
Oman	55	0
Afghanistan	24	0

Afganistan	34	0
Iraq	233	20
Algeria	201	17
Austria	3,244	16
Switzerland	6,216	60
Croatia	254	1
Brazil	1,209	18
Georgia	54	0
Pakistan	730	3
North Macedonia	114	0
Greece	624	15
Norway	2,132	7
Romania	433	1
Kingdom of Denmark	1,512	13
Republic of Estonia	326	0
Kingdom of the Netherlands	4,204	179
Republic of San Marino	160	20
Lithuania	131	1
Nigeria	27	0
Iceland	568	1
Azerbaijan	65	1
Belarus	76	0
New Zealand	66	0
Mexico	251	2
Qatar	481	0
Luxembourg	798	8
Monaco	11	0
Ecuador	532	7
Ireland	785	3
Czech Republic	1,047	0
Armenia	190	0
Dominican Republic	202	3
Republic of Indonesia	514	48
Principality of Andorra	113	0
Portuguese Republic	1,600	14
Republic of Latvia	139	0

Republic of Senegal	56	0
Saudi Arabia	511	0
Jordan	99	0
Argentina	225	4
Chile	632	1
Ukraine	47	3
Morocco	104	3
Tunisia	75	3
Hungary	131	4
Liechtenstein	37	0
Poland	563	7
Slovenia	414	1
Palestine	52	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	93	1
Republic of South Africa	240	0
Gibraltar	10	0
Bhutan	2	0
Cameroon	40	0
Togo	16	0
Serbia	188	1
Slovakia	178	1
Vatican	1	0
Colombia	231	0
Peru	318	5
Costa Rica	117	2
Malta	90	0
Paraguay	22	1
Bangladesh	27	2
Moldova	94	1
Bulgaria	185	3
Maldives	13	0
Brunei	88	0
Cyprus	95	1
Albania	89	2
Burkina Faso	75	4

Channel Islands	1	0
Mongolia	10	0
Panama	245	3
Bolivia	24	0
Honduras	26	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	30	1
Jamaica	16	1
Republic of Turkey	947	21
Ivory Coast	14	0
Guyana	7	1
Guernsey	1	0
Jersey	12	0
Cayman Islands	3	1
Cuba	21	1
Trinidad and Tobago	50	0
Sudan	2	1
Guinea	2	0
Ethiopia	11	0
Kenya	15	0
Guatemala	17	1
Venezuela	70	0
Gabon	5	1
Ghana	21	1
Antigua and Barbuda	1	0
Kazakhstan	57	0
Uruguay	135	0
Aruba	5	0
Namibia	3	0
Seychelles	7	0
Saint Lucia	2	0
Rwanda	17	0
Eswatini	4	0
Curacao	3	0
Suriname	5	0
Mauritania	2	0

Kosovo	2	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3	0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	0
Central African Republic	3	0
Uzbekistan	43	0
Equatorial Guinea	6	0
Puerto rico	21	0
Liberia	3	0
Tanzania	12	0
Greenland	2	0
Somalia	1	0
Benin	2	0
Bahamas	4	0
Montenegro	16	0
Barbados	14	0
Kyrgyz Republic	14	0
Zambia	3	0
Djibouti	1	0
Gambia	1	0
Mauritius	18	1
Fiji	2	0
El Salvador	3	0
Chad	1	0
Nicaragua	2	0
Montserrat	1	1
Madagascar	3	0
Haiti	2	0
Angola	2	0
Niger	2	0
Papua New Guinea	1	0
Zimbabwe	3	0
Cabo Verde	3	0
Eritrea	1	0
East Timor	1	0
Isle of Man	2	0

Uganda	1	0
New Caledonia	4	0
Eritrea	1	0
Other	712	8
Total	325,535	14,469

※ China: New definition in use to diagnose since February 13 (Clinically diagnosed cases are now included in Hubei)

Government measures

1. The Basic Policies

On February 25, “Basic Policies for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control” decided by the Headquarters for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control. This policy summarizes the measures that are currently being taken and the perspectives of possible future measures to be taken to respond to future development.

[Basic Policies for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control](#)[151KB]

[\(Summary Version\) Basic Policies for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control](#)[103KB]

【Press Conference】 Basic Policies for Prevention and Control of the Novel Coronavirus

On March 2, Government Officials and Experts held a press conference on the case of the coronavirus at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Conducted by:

SAHARA Yasuyuki Senior Assistant Minister for Global Health, Minister’s Secretariat, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

SUZUKI Tadaki M.D., Ph.D. Director, Department of Pathology, National Institute of Infectious Diseases

OSUMI Yo Deputy Director-General/ Deputy Assistant Minister, Consular Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

KAMOSHIDA Naoaki Assistant Press Secretary/ Director, International Press Division, Minister’s Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

INATSU Toshinobu Immigration Services Agency/ Deputy Director, Border Management Division

NODA Hiroyuki M.D., Ph.D. Councilor, Coordination Office of Measures on Emerging Infectious Diseases Office for Pandemic Influenza and Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response, Cabinet Secretariat

Please refer to the YouTube video as follows;

YouTube video:[Basic Policies for Prevention and Control of the Novel Coronavirus](#)

2. Understanding the situation of infection

By notification by physicians under the Infections Diseases Control Law, grasp suspected disease carrier and conduct examination if it is deemed necessary by physicians.

If carrier is confirmed, conduct active epidemiological investigation based on the law and identify those who have been in close contact with the infected person.

For those who have been in close contact with infected person, the measures for preventing from spreading infection are being conducted by requesting to monitor own health condition and to refrain from leaving residence, etc..

We decided to apply medical insurance to the PCR test (on March 6). This makes it possible for medical institutions to request directory to private laboratories without going through public health centers, and further utilization of the examination capabilities of private laboratories will be achieved.

【Press Conference】 The case of the coronavirus

March 17,2020

On March 17, Government Officials held a press conference on the case of the coronavirus at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Please refer to the YouTube video as follows:

YouTube video:[Part1,Part2,Part3](#)

March 10,2020

YouTube video:[Part1,Part2,Part3](#)

On March 10, Government Officials held a press conference on the case of the coronavirus at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Please refer to the YouTube video and figures used in their explanation as follows;

YouTube video:[Part1,Part2,Part3](#)

Figure 1:  [COVID-19 Clusters in Japan](#)  [463KB]

Figure 2:  [Overview of the Act on Special Measures](#)  [416KB]

Figure 3:  [PCR Testing system](#)  [431KB]

Figure 4:  [Screenshot_COVID19Map_MHLW](#)  [1,848KB]

Figure 5:  [Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act](#)  [120KB]

3. Measures for preventing outbreaks

In Japan, sporadic cases of small numbers of patients have been observed.

At this stage, the spread of infection can be prevented by tracing the route of transmission, especially for close contacts.

The important thing is to minimize the spread of infection in the country by preventing one cluster of patients from creating another cluster.

Please refer to the handout below;

[Preventing Outbreaks of the Novel Coronavirus](#) [148KB]

Expert Meeting on the Novel Coronavirus Disease Control "Views on the Novel Coronavirus Disease Control" (As of March 9)

The Expert Meeting on the Novel Coronavirus Disease Control released "Views on the Novel Coronavirus Disease Control" summarizing the results of the study based on the analysis of the Cluster Response Team of MHLW.

In the Views, Japanese situation as of today (March 9) is not moving toward an explosive spread of infections, and appears to be somewhat holding steady. In addition, regarding measures in Hokkaido, it is difficult to estimate the effect about at least two weeks after the declaration of state of emergency in Hokkaido, and thereafter, the analysis of the effects of this measures is scheduled to be announced around March 19.

["Views on the Novel Coronavirus Disease Control" \(As of March 9\)](#) [217KB]

Expert Meeting on the Novel Coronavirus Disease Control : Analysis of the Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Recommendations (Exerpt) (As of March 19)

["Views Expert Meeting on the Novel Coronavirus Disease Control \(As of March 19\) "\(PDF\)](#)

4. Border Control Measures

In order to prevent 2019-nCoV from entering Japan via foreign aircraft and ships and take necessary measures related to aircraft, etc., in the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare classifies 2019-nCoV infection as "Type of infectious disease of Quarantine law article 34". This means that government is able to take measures such as inquiry and medical consultation for people entering Japan from abroad, isolation and detention of patients, disinfection for aircrafts, etc.

Based on the epidemic of this infection in other countries, as a border control measure in Japan, for arriving flights and ships from some countries, take measures to reduce the risk of domestic secondary infections by interviewing for all passengers using questionnaires, calling for self-reports by displaying posters, distributing health cards.

In the meantime, foreigners who have stayed in some areas of some countries within 14 days will be refused entering Japan under the

In the meantime, foreigners who have stayed in some areas of some countries within 14 days will be refused entering Japan under the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, with or without symptoms, unless there are special circumstances.

Anyone who has boarded an airplane or ships arriving from China or republic of Korea and not be isolated or stopped is required to stay 14days at a location designated by the quarantine station chief and not to use public transportation in Japan. (from March 9)

[To the people arriving in Japan from China and republic of Korea.](#)

[Notice by quarantine station to the persons entering Japan](#)[440KB]

[Q&A](#)

5. The Cruise ship

All passengers and crews disembarked from the Cruise ship "Diamond Princess" on March 1st.

※ As of 18:00, Mar. 22

	PCR tested positive ※ [With no symptoms]	Already discharged from hospital	Hospitalized with a ventilator or intensive care unit	Death
Cases at the Cruise ship (Identified by quarantine policy) (3,711)	712 【331】	587 (+13)	12	8

The number in parentheses indicates the change from the previous day.

The infection control measures taken at the Cruise ship "Diamond Princess" (provisional translation)

[The infection control measures taken at the Cruise ship "Diamond Princess" \(provisional translation\)](#)

[PDF](#) [PDF](#) [29KB]

【Press Conference】 Expert Meeting on the Novel Coronavirus Disease Control

On February 24, Experts held a press conference on the case of the novel coronavirus at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Conducted by:

Members of Expert Meeting on the Novel Coronavirus Disease

- OMI Shigeru, M.D., Ph.D., President, Japan Community Health care Organization
- OHMAGARI Norio, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Disease Control & Prevention Center, National Center for Global Health and Medicine
- KITA Yosuke, Senior Coordinator for Global Health Cooperation, International Affairs Division, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Please refer to the YouTube video clips and figures used in their explanation as follows;

YouTube video clips: [Part1](#), [Part2](#), [Part3](#), [Part4](#), [Part5](#), [Part6](#), [Part7](#)

Figure: [PDF](#) [Number of new symptomatic coronavirus infection cases and fever reports, by date of onset, Cruise Ship DP, as of February 23, 2020](#) [68KB]

Press Conference: Situation of the COVID-19 in the Cruise Ship "Diamond Princess"

Press Conference on the Situation of the novel Coronavirus Disease in the Cruise Ship off the coast of Yokohama was held in the MOFA Press Conference Room from 20:40 to 21:40 on Friday 21 February 2020.

Professor, SUZUKI Motoi, M.D., MSc., PHDC, Ph.D., of Infectious Disease Surveillance Center, National Institute of Infectious Disease and Professor, NISHIURA Hiroshi, M.D., Ph.D., DTM&H, of Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Hokkaido University explained the situation based on their analysis using the data obtained on the cruise ship.

Please refer to the YouTube video clips and figures used in their explanation as follows;

YouTube video clips: [Part1](#), [Part2](#), [Part3](#), [Part4](#)

Figure 1: [PDF](#) [Changes in the number of new coronavirus infection cases and fever reports on the cruise ship \(as of February 19\)](#) [68KB]

[Figure 1: !\[\]\(cead67df4d82d6c83effe4f8699a7d8f_img.jpg\) Number of COVID-19 cases with symptoms among the passengers on the Cruise ship \(by close contact status, as of 02/19/2020\)](#)  [374KB]

Figure 2: [PDF !\[\]\(1d3a1175dd4902218e694b9c098adb83_img.jpg\) Number of COVID-19 cases with symptoms among the passengers on the Cruise ship \(by close contact status, as of 02/19/2020\)](#)  [412KB]

Figure 3: [PDF !\[\]\(c507f772dba2b921f86777f01218e570_img.jpg\) Number of predicted infections from one patient, by generation \(Reproduction rate\)](#)  [182KB]

Message to the people in Japan

1.Characteristics of new coronavirus infections ascertained at present (As of February 25)

<The routes of transmission>

The routes of transmission are generally through droplets and contacts. It is not thought to be caused by airborne infections.

In addition, under certain circumstances, such as when talking to many people at a short distance in confined spaces, there is the risk of spreading the infection even without coughing or sneezing.

<About infectivity>

Infectivity varies from case to case. There have been suspected cases which spread the infection to many people. Meanwhile, there are many cases where the virus did not transmit to those surrounding the infected person.

< Common symptoms and risk of developing severe>

Often, fevers or respiratory symptoms may persist for around one week, and many patients complain of strong fatigue. It has been reported that the period of hospitalization tends to be longer than that of seasonal influenza.

Those infected often present only mild symptoms, which will heal in many cases. The severity of the novel coronavirus disease is not as great as infectious diseases with extremely high mortality rates, but it does have the higher risk than seasonal influenza. The risks of developing severe symptoms are particularly high among the elderly and patients with underlying diseases.

2.Prevention Measures and Guide of Consultation

It is important to wash your hands frequently and to cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or with the crook of your arm if a tissue is unavailable, when coughing or sneezing. To protect yourself and others from the virus, just as you do for the common cold or the flu. We strongly recommend everyday preventive actions to help keep the virus from spreading.

If you have any of the following symptoms, please consult with the consultation center for people with potential exposure to COVID-19:

- You have had cold symptoms or a fever of 37.5°C or over for four days or more.

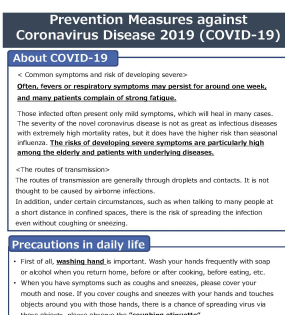
(including when you need to continue to take an antipyretic)

- You have a strong feeling of weariness (fatigue) or shortness of breath (difficulty breathing).

* Please also consult with the consultation center if you are a senior citizen or have an underlying disease, and you have had the symptoms mentioned above for about two days.

If the consultation center suspects that you have been infected with the virus, it will introduce you to a medical institution where medical services for people with potential exposure to COVID-19 are available. Please visit the medical institution, wearing a facemask, and refrain from using public transportation.

※ [Prevention Measures COVID-19](#) (February 25, 2020 version) [464KB]



Prevention Measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

About COVID-19

- Common symptoms and risk of developing severe
 - Often, fevers or respiratory symptoms may persist for around one week, and many patients complain of strong fatigue.
 - Those infected often present only mild symptoms, which will heal in many cases. The severity of the novel coronavirus disease is not as great as infectious diseases with extremely high mortality rates, but it does have the higher risk than seasonal influenza. The risks of developing severe symptoms are particularly high among the elderly and patients with underlying diseases.
- The routes of transmission
 - The routes of transmission are generally through droplets and contacts. It is not thought to be caused by airborne infections.
 - In addition, under certain circumstances, such as when talking to many people at a short distance in confined spaces, there is the risk of spreading the infection even without coughing or sneezing.

Precautions in daily life

- First of all, **washing hand** is important. Wash your hands frequently with soap or alcohol when you return home, before or after cooking, before eating, etc.
- When you have symptoms such as coughs and sneezes, please cover your mouth and nose. If you cover coughs and sneezes with your hands and touches objects around you with those hands, there is a chance of spreading virus via those objects, please observe the **"coughing etiquette"**.

• Seniors and persons with chronic diseases are advised to take extra precautions and avoid visiting packed places or using public transportation as much as possible.
• Do not go to office or school, especially if you have symptoms such as fever.
• If you have cold symptoms such as fever, measure and record fever everyday.

- ※ [Eight-point list of precautions to take at home](#) [549KB]
- ※ [Measures against infectious diseases](#)[994KB]
- ※ [Washing Hands](#)[910KB]
- ※ [Coughing Manners](#)[951KB]

3.Q & A on 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

[Q & A on 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#) as of March 14, 2020

Reference

The CNN published at 11:00 (Japan time) on March 6

[The CNN published at 11:00 \(Japan time\) on March 6](#)

Call centers for foreign tourists

[Tourists from other countries may seek help on https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/hotline/](https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/hotline/)

Medical institutions offering assistance in foreign languages

You can find the medical institutions offering assistance in foreign languages on the following website. Click here [Medical institutions offering assistance in foreign languages](#)

WHO

[Pneumonia with unknown causes in China](#)

[WHO statement on the outbreak of pneumonia in Wuhan city, China](#)

[New coronavirus –South Korea](#)

[New coronavirus in China](#)

[International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on novel coronavirus in China](#)

National Institute of Infectious Diseases

[Human-to-human transmission of a new coronavirus](#)

[Details on coronavirus and information about pneumonia linked to a new coronavirus reported in Wuhan city, Hubei Province of the People's Republic of China](#)

Others

[National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China](#)

[Wuhan Municipal Health Commission](#)

[Guangdong Province Health Commission](#)

[Taiwan Centers for Disease Control - CDC](#)

[First Travel-related Case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Detected in United States](#)

- ▶ [PDFファイルを見るためには、Adobe Readerというソフトが必要です。Adobe Readerは無料で配布されていますので、こちらからダウンロードしてください。](#)



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