

(provisional translation)

This Basic Policy is a tentative version.
Based on the situation, It might be
revised if it is necessary.

-Basic Policy on vaccination – Against the Pandemic Influenza(A/H1H1)

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan

1st October 2009

Features of the pandemic influenza (A/H1N1)

○ A/H1N1 flu has many similarities with the seasonal influenza.

- ① Highly contagious, but most of the patients recover under mild conditions.
- ② Antivirus drugs (TAMIFUL, LIRENZA) are effective.

○ However,

- ① Those with underlying diseases (diabetes, asthma and so on) and pregnant women are more at risk from becoming serious ill with A/H1N1 flu.
- ② Most people do not have immunity against A/H1N1 flu, infection may broadly spread among people.

Objectives of vaccination

The influenza vaccines are:

- expected to be effective to some extent to prevent the severity of the symptoms.
- not guaranteed to prevent infections.



Objectives of vaccination are:

- ① to minimize the possibility of death and serious cases.
- ② to avoid confusion of medical service caused by outbreak of patients and keep a necessary medical system.

Note: Vaccination does not aim to prevent infections.

Priority for vaccination

Target Populations			
Priority Groups	① Health care workers who directly treat flu-patients (including ambulance officers)	1 million persons	
	②	Pregnant women	1 million persons
		High risk persons who have chronic diseases	9 million persons
	③ Children between 1 year old and the age of the 3 rd grade of primary school	10 million children	
	④	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guardians of infants under age 1 Guardians of the persons who are categorized in group ①~③ but cannot take a vaccination due to their physical reasons 	2 million persons
others	Children of the school ages between the 4 th grade of primary school and the 3 rd grade of senior high school	10 million persons	
	Elderly people aged over 65 years old (excluding the persons who have primary illness)	21 million persons	

54 million persons



Vaccination to others, who are not listed above, is to be decided based on vaccination to the priority groups.

Reserving the necessary amount of vaccines

○ It is expected that the necessary amount of the domestic and imported vaccines for 77 million people (2 inoculations per person) will be reserved by 31 March 2010.

Domestic Vaccines

- Inoculation is expected to start from the week of 19 October 2009.
- Vaccines for 27 million people will be reserved by 31 March 2010.

Imported Vaccines

- The import will begin around the end of December or next January.
- Vaccines for 50 million people will be reserved by 31 March 2010.

※ Necessary legislative proceedings will promptly be made to reserve imported vaccines.

Reference : Number of inoculations

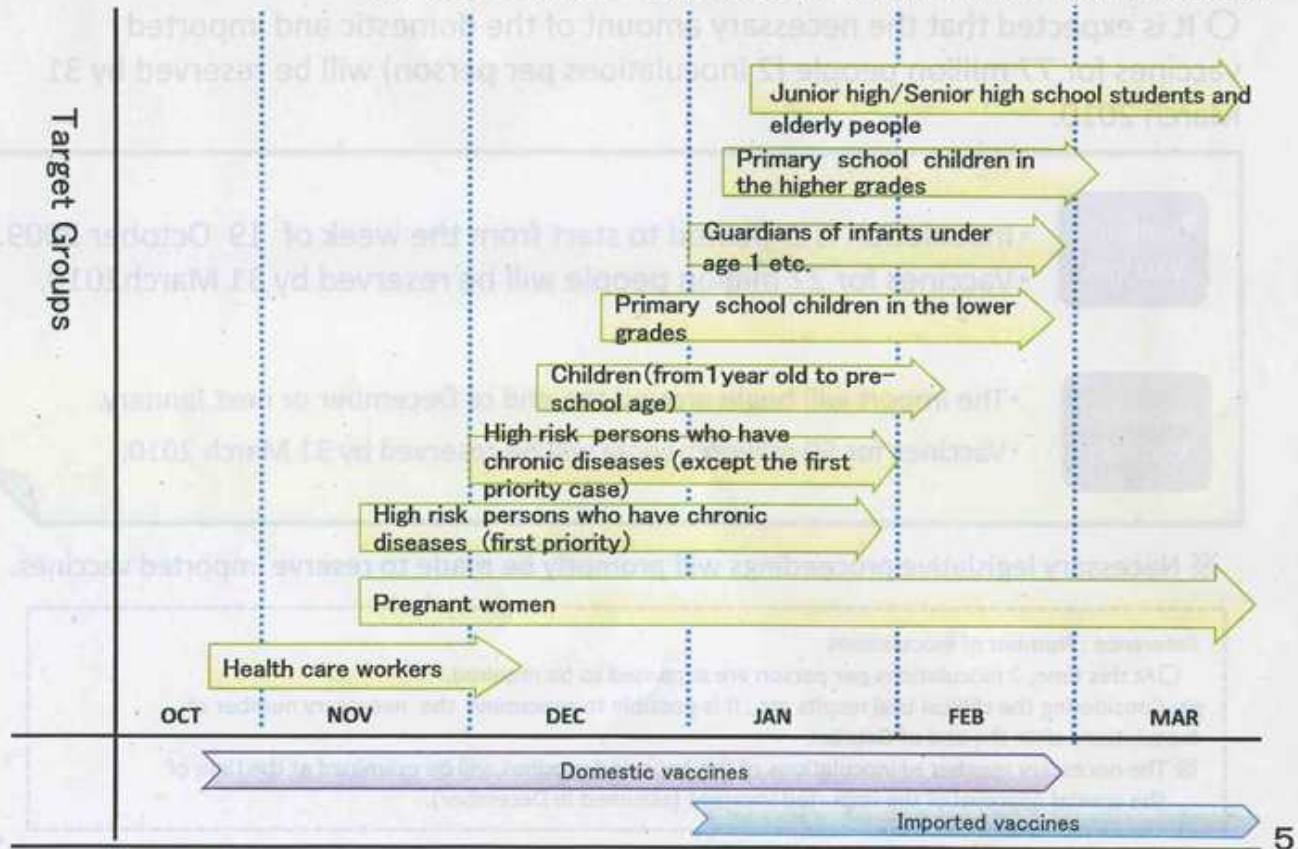
○ At this time, 2 inoculations per person are supposed to be required.

➡ Considering the clinical trial results etc., it is possible to reexamine the necessary number of inoculations after the end of October.

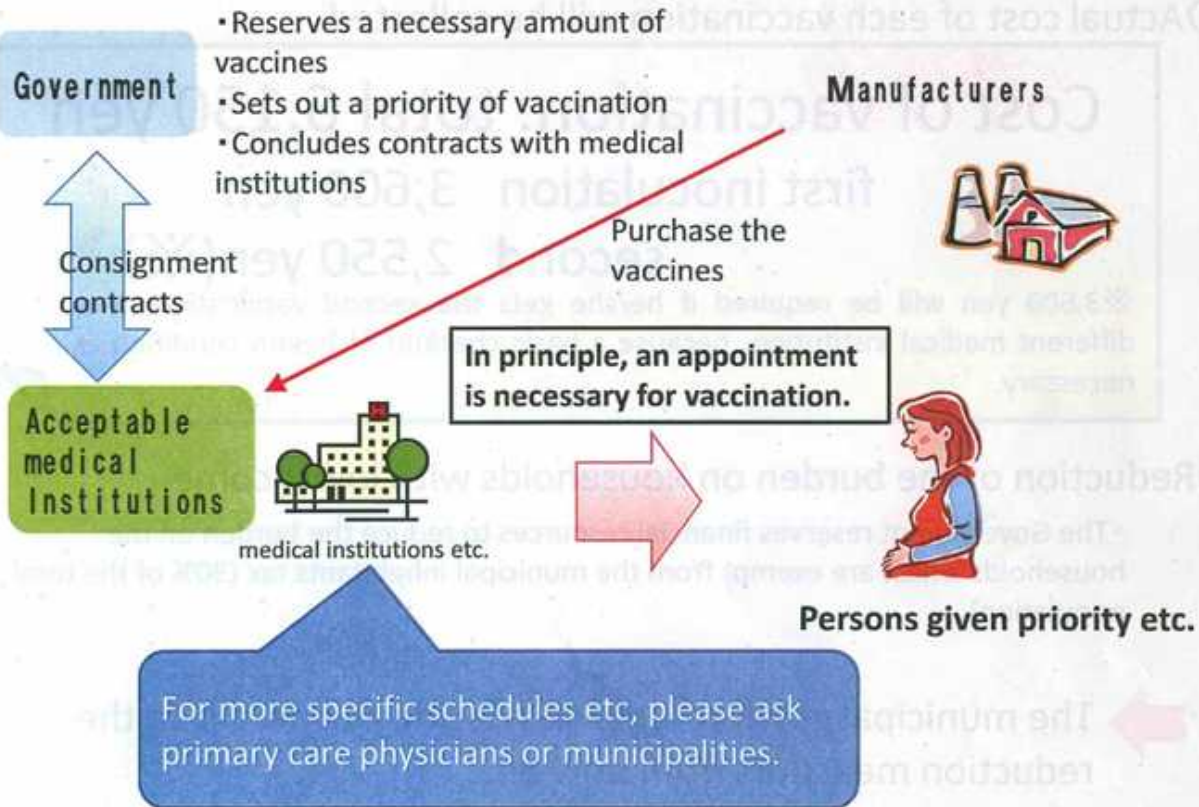
※ The necessary number of inoculations of the imported vaccines will be examined at the time of the special approval of the imported vaccines (assumed in December).

Rough Schedule of vaccination

※ There can be a slight difference in the schedule by the locality.



Scheme of vaccination



Cost burden of vaccination

- Actual cost of each vaccination will be collected.

Cost of vaccination: total 6,150 yen
first inoculation 3,600 yen
second 2,550 yen(※)

※3,600 yen will be required if he/she gets the second vaccination at a different medical institution, because a basic checkup of health condition is necessary.

- Reduction of the burden on households with low income

- The Government reserves financial resources to reduce the burden on the households which are exempt from the municipal inhabitants tax (30% of the total population).

➔ The municipal governments will decide the details of the reduction measures from now on.

Efficacy and safety of vaccines

○ There is a limit of the efficacy of influenza vaccines.

- The influenza vaccines are expected to be effective to some extent to prevent severe cases or death.
- There is no guarantee to prevent infections and spread of the flu.

○ Even in rare cases, severe side effects may be caused by the vaccines.

- Domestic vaccines: it is understood that the safety of the vaccines is almost same as the seasonal influenza vaccines.
- Imported vaccines: There is possibility that their efficacy and safety may be different from those of the domestic vaccines, because of the differences of their production method, ingredients and inoculation method, etc.

- The Government will immediately collect side effect cases, establish a system to evaluate information by experts and promptly respond the cases.
- A relief system will be established according to the Preventive Vaccination Law.

NOTICE

○ Vaccination expects an efficacy to some extent and also has some risks.

The Government will promptly provide people in Japan with necessary information as much as possible in order to get a vaccination by fully understanding its efficacy and risks.