To Prefectural Residents and Business Owners

August 21, 2009
Shizuoka Prefecture H1N1 Influenza Preparedness Headquarters

The Health, Labor, and Welfare Minister announced at an August 19th press conference that Japan has entered into an epidemic season of the H1N1 influenza. At the present moment, the number of infected patients in Shizuoka Prefecture is low in comparison to the national average, but there are concerns that this number will escalate hereafter. In particular, when schools reopen in September, it is presumed that there will be increases in wide-spread outbreaks and fast-paced infection rates. Prefectural residents and business owners are asked to follow the guidelines below to stop wide spread infection.

<Key Points to Guard Against H1N1 Influenza>

1. Prefectural Residents
   a. Gargle and wash hands regularly. If you develop symptoms, limit going outside. If you must leave your home, wear a mask and cover your mouth when coughing.
   b. People with underlying medical conditions, those who are pregnant, infants, and the elderly can experience severe symptoms upon contracting H1N1 influenza. Therefore, if fever or other symptoms appear, consult with your doctor or nearby health clinic as soon as possible.

2. Business Owners
   a. Please give the above information to your employees and customers.
   b. Put in place appropriate measures to continue smooth work operations in the case of employees' absence from the flu.