

Novel Coronavirus Patient Outbreak Status in Tochigi Prefecture (Case No. 54)

April 26, 2020

A new case of novel coronavirus was declared by the Prefectural Institute of Public Health and Environmental Science on April 26 at approximately 5:00 PM.

This is the 54th confirmed case of novel coronavirus in Tochigi Prefecture.

A proactive epidemiological investigation of this case, including people who have been in close contact with the patient, is in progress.

【Patient Summary (Case 54)】

1. Age: 70s
2. Sex: Male
3. Residential area: Tochigi City
4. Symptoms and progression:

April 22	Fever in the morning (37°C) with nasal congestion
April 23	Fever (37°C-38°C). Consulted with Medical Institute A in Tochigi City via intercom; was instructed to keep an eye on condition and follow up.
April 24	Fever (37°C-38°C)
April 25	Examination at Medical Institute A, diagnosed with pneumonia. Medical Institute A contacted the Prefectural South Health and Welfare Center and sample was collected.
April 26	Tested via PCR and confirmed positive. Hospitalization planned at a medical institution in south Tochigi.

5. Patient Behavior History

- No history of travel overseas.
- Workplace is in the Tokyo area.
- Commuted to work via public transportation on April 20 (wearing a mask).
- Shopped briefly at a local supermarket on April 21 (wearing a mask, transportation via bicycle).
- Remained at home other than the above outings and visits to medical facilities beginning on April 22.

6. People in Close Contact with the Patient

- 2 family members were in close contact with the patient. They plan to be tested via PCR on April 27. Any other possible people in close contact are currently under investigation.
- None in the medical facilities due to appropriate infection prevention measures.

7. Philosophy on Publicizing Case Details

- We believe it is necessary to create a balance between protecting patient privacy and publicizing patient information that is needed for preventing the spread of infection.
- The patient's behavior history during the period when the infection may have been passed on to others (beginning on April 20) has been publicized within the scope necessary to prevent the spread of infection.
- In contrast, the patient's behavior history outside of the period when the infection may have been passed to others (April 19 and earlier) is not believed to be necessary for preventing the spread of infection, so it has not been publicized.

◆ To the People of Tochigi Prefecture

- ① It is very important that every person in the prefecture takes measures such as handwashing and practicing cough etiquette, just as you would to prevent a cold or seasonal influenza. We ask for your cooperation in the effort to prevent the spread of infection.
- ② If you have the following symptoms, please consult with the Prefectural Health and Welfare Center in your area or the Utsunomiya Public Health Center Consultation Desk (Center for those who have recently returned from overseas or had contact with confirmed coronavirus patients) .

- You have had cold symptoms and a fever of 37.5°C or above for 4 or more days (including times when you must continue taking fever reducers)
 - You have intense fatigue (malaise) or shortness of breath (difficulty breathing)
- *For elderly patients or those with pre-existing illnesses, seek consultation if the above symptoms continue for 2 or more days

Upon consultation, if there is suspicion that you may have novel coronavirus, you will be referred to the special examination facility for those who have recently returned from overseas or had contact with confirmed coronavirus patients. Please wear a mask and avoid public transportation when you visit for your examination. Furthermore, at this time, other illnesses are overwhelmingly more common than novel coronavirus. If you suspect you may have an illness like influenza, please consult with your regular doctor as you usually would.

- ③ Please avoid collecting in spaces with poor ventilation and spaces where people spend prolonged periods of time in close proximity.
- ④ If you develop a fever or other symptoms, please stay home and do not go to work.
- ⑤ Please check the Tochigi Prefectural Government website for detailed information about the status of the infection.

◆ To the media:

This information is being disseminated for the purpose of public awareness about infection prevention. We ask that those in journalism and the media view this information with an eye toward protecting patient privacy and give special consideration to reporting within the scope of the materials provided.