

## Information on the new strain of influenza

A new strain of influenza infectious to human has been confirmed in such countries as Mexico, the United States, Canada and Spain.

New strains of influenza have so far appeared every ten to forty years and caused pandemics worldwide. They occur when influenza viruses have mutated and thus became infectious to human.

Gunma prefectural government is taking all necessary measures in order to protect the safety and security of its residents and has recommended that they be on their alert and act in a calm manner.

The patients where this disease has been spotted have such symptoms as fever, lethargy, poor appetite and coughs, which are influenza's general symptoms. Those who have recently been in the countries or regions where the disease has been detected need to pay full attention to these symptoms.

It is recommended that visits to these parts of the world be postponed unless they are necessary or urgent. Should you have come back from these areas and notice any of these symptoms, please consult Prefectural Health and Welfare Offices that provide a consultation service.(And the consultation will be provided in Japanese.)

It is also advised that those who are currently in these regions stay indoors as much as possible, wear masks, wash hands and gargle frequently because infection by coughs or sneezes, or direct contacts between people can be expected.