



Influenza (other than avian influenza and novel influenza)

(1) Definition:

Acute respiratory infections caused by influenza virus (other than influenza virus type A causing avian influenza and influenza virus causing novel type influenza)

(2) Clinical symptoms:

Upper respiratory tract inflammation associated with sudden onset of high fever, general malaise, headache, and myalgia. Diagnosis based on these clinical symptoms is possible during the influenza season (generally November to April of the next year in Japan), but otherwise it is difficult. Possible complications are encephalitis and pneumonia.

(3) Criteria of notification (influenza sentinels)

a): “Patients (confirmed cases)”

In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, the administrator of a designated sentinel medical institution (influenza sentinels) must notify the case on weekly basis on Monday of the next week of the diagnosis, when a physician in the institution has examined a patient with clinical characteristics as described in (2), suspected influenza, and the patient exhibited all the symptoms listed in [1] or, even when not all the listed symptoms are observed, diagnosis of influenza was made based on criteria [2] .

b): “Dead body of the infected”

In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, the administrator of a designated sentinel medical institution should notify the case on weekly basis on Monday of the next week of the diagnosis when a physician in the institution has examined a dead body of a patient with clinical characteristics as described in (2), suspected influenza, and diagnosed that the death was caused by influenza based on the presence of all the symptoms as described in [1] or on the positive laboratory findings as described in [2] even when all the criteria in [1] are not observed.

[1] Clinical symptoms required for the notification

Notification requires all of the followings:

- Sudden onset
- High fever
- Upper respiratory tract inflammation
- General malaise and other systemic symptoms

[2] Laboratory findings required for notification

Laboratory test	Specimens for laboratory test
Detection of influenza antigens using a rapid diagnostic kit	Nasal cavity aspirate, nasal cavity swab, throat swab

(4) Notification criteria (sentinel hospitals)

In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, the administrator of a designated sentinel medical institution (sentinel hospitals) must notify the case on weekly basis on Monday of the next week of the diagnosis, when a physician in the institution has examined a patient with clinical characteristics as described in (2), suspected influenza, and the patient exhibited all the symptoms listed in (3)[1] or, even when not all the listed symptoms are observed, diagnosis of influenza was made based on laboratory findings 3[2].