

Issue 18

Nagasaki University's intake system for the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19)

Friday, March 13

Hello. This is Kohno Shigeru from Nagasaki University.

In Japan, the number of patients with novel coronavirus infection continues to increase. As of March 9, 33 of 47 prefectures nationwide have at least one confirmed case. Of the remaining 14 prefectures, Nagasaki, Saga, and Kagoshima are the only ones in Kyushu without any confirmed cases. The first confirmed case in Nagasaki Prefecture could be anytime, and administrative testing for the virus is being conducted daily. Nagasaki University promptly contacts the government administrative agencies almost every day to exchange the information including the test results.

On January 28, the novel coronavirus infectious disease was labeled a "designated infectious disease" by law. Thus, if a confirmed diagnosis is made, the patient must be admitted to an isolated area of a hospital. Nagasaki University Hospital is the only hospital in the prefecture with a Category I Infectious Disease designation and we are making various preparations to accept these infected patients.

When a patient with a confirmed infection is admitted to Nagasaki University Hospital, we not only protect the life of the patient, but we also must ensure that the infection does not spread to the staff and to the outside population by any means. Naturally, hospital facilities and equipment are being prepared to prevent infection. It is essential that Nagasaki University staff members work together and help each other in this effort.

Nagasaki University Hospital will respond to changes in the coronavirus situation by quickly revising the "New Coronavirus Infectious Disease Response Manual." It is available at any time for anyone on the hospital intranet.

Training sessions for emergency measures were held for all hospital staff on January 29 and February 27-28 and it was recorded for re-training of the staff. Part of the video is available on the Nagasaki University Hospital website, so it can be utilized by other medical institutions.

In fact, if a coronavirus infection occurs, the patients will be admitted to the special isolated areas in the hospital: an "infectious disease area" and a "tuberculosis area." For this reason,

some hospital staff will concentrate on care for that area and the capacity for regular medical service will have to be reduced.

In other words, not only will the medical staff who care for patients be affected, but also all staff of the hospital and even the whole university will need to support the response.

Considering the social life of the patient after discharge, disclosure of personal information through SNS is strictly prohibited. Some harsh words to medical staff who took part in the countermeasures have been reported in the press. I don't think this should ever happen. Let's work together as team "Nagasaki University" and overcome this difficult situation.

I received a request to share these emails with local staff at overseas stations. Issues 1 to 5 were translated into English by our staff. We will keep you updated when more issues are available.

<https://nudrive.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/public/mrxcwAXKLQaAelcBzYxweSzMgcMWItqZgoITjHOPoHOU>  
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