

January 2012

Notice to Fukushima Prefecture Residents

Yuhei Sato, Governor, Fukushima Prefecture
Shinichi Niwa, Chairman of the Fukushima Society of Psychiatry
Mitsuaki Hosoya, Chairman of the Fukushima Society of Pediatrics
Shinichi Kikuchi, President of Fukushima Medical University

Request for participation in the 2011 Fukushima Health Management Survey
("Mental Health and Lifestyle Survey")

The Fukushima Prefectural Government has assigned Fukushima Medical University, as the responsible organization, to conduct "Mental Health and Lifestyle Survey" as part of its residential health care initiatives.

The Great East Japan Earthquake and ensuing accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant forced many long-term residents of Fukushima to evacuate their home towns for unfamiliar surroundings in adjoining cities and prefectures, which is assumed to have caused a great deal of confusion, anxiety, and isolation. Similarly, those who have remained in Fukushima have experienced considerable anxiety from living amidst highly-stressful circumstances. We have also heard numerous reports of hardship from residents relocated to temporary housing due to differences between their previous home and current accommodation. Also, while the situation at the Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant appears to have stabilized somewhat, widespread reporting of radioactive contamination in the media has caused many people to feel increasingly anxious about the future.

This survey aims to facilitate the provision of appropriate information on medical, healthcare, and welfare services to the public and professionals by correctly assessing the emotional and physical issues of those adversely affected by the recent disasters, and to enable the development of better psychological care for future generations during natural disasters and emergencies.

If you have queries about the questionnaire booklet or any health concerns, please contact Radiation Medical Science Center at Fukushima Medical University. The Center has established 'Mental Health Support Team', which is staffed by clinical psychologists, nurses, and public health nurses, to handle emotional issues as well as specialized mental health and welfare issues. The Team may contact you to discuss your survey responses or telephone queries where psychological support is deemed necessary.

The Center has also set up a system of registered physicians who have undergone training in mental health and radiology (mainly from Fukushima Medical University, Fukushima Society of Psychiatry, and Fukushima Regional Chapters of the Fukushima Prefectural Society of Pediatrics) to provide care in each region when an expert medical response is needed.

We look forward to your cooperation in this survey to help us realize a brighter future for Fukushima's future generations.

Inquiries:

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