

Reporting of Notifiable Infectious Diseases

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If a student, faculty member, or staff member contracts any of the notifiable infectious diseases listed in Table 1, he must report it to Tokyo Institute of Technology. The three types of infections that must be reported are as follows:

Type I: Infections whose occurrence is rare, but are highly virulent

Type II: Outbreak-prone infections transmitted via aerosolized pathogens

Type III: Infections caused by food poisoning, and other outbreak-prone infections

How to Contact the Institute

As a general rule, reporting of an infection should be by telephone to the Health Service Center (hours: 8:30–17:15; Ookayama campus: 03-5734-2065; Suzukakedai campus: 045-924-5107). If reporting by e-mail (nurses@jim.titech.ac.jp), information must be sent using a password protected file attachment (send the password in a second e-mail).

Notifiable Infectious Diseases and When to Contact the Institute

In the interest of the health of the Institute community, individuals diagnosed with an infection listed in Table 1 must notify the Health Service Center immediately. Educational establishments of Japan are obligated by law to take necessary actions to prevent the outbreak of notifiable infectious diseases within their premises (the Ordinance for Enforcement of the School Health and Safety Act, Chapter 3). If a student, faculty member, or staff member contracts any of these infections, the Institute has the authority to exclude him from the Institute for a period deemed necessary (see Table 1 for the exclusion period mandated for each infection).

In the event that a member of the Institute community gets diagnosed with a type I infection, a *hokenjo* (local government agency responsible for public health) will be alerted by the examining clinician. The *hokenjo* will in turn contact and liaise with the Institute to investigate and take steps to prevent an outbreak of the disease. An infected individual is nonetheless required to notify the Health Service Center directly as soon as possible.

Type II infections are spread via aerosolized pathogens in the form of droplets that are expelled through sneezing and coughing, and are prone to cause mass infection. In particular, tuberculosis and measles are transmitted through droplet nuclei (airborne transmission), where pathogens remain airborne for a long time. This makes an enclosed space such as a lecture hall ideal for the wide-scale infection of these diseases. Influenza and pertussis, on the other hand, are transmitted when an infected person coughs or

sneezes on another person who is close by (droplet contact). However, they can also be contracted if a person touches his nose or eyes with the same hand that came into contact with a surface contaminated with infectious droplets. Members of the Institute community are encouraged to wear masks and habitually wash their hands as a way of preventing the spread of these infections, which have the tendency to circulate on a seasonal basis.

If a student, faculty member, or staff member contracts a type III infection associated with food poisoning such as cholera, dysentery, and enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli (e.g., E. coli O157), the *hokenjo* will liaise with the Institute to prevent its outbreak.

Flow of Information

Information will be delivered to the relevant members of the Institute community as shown in Figure 1.

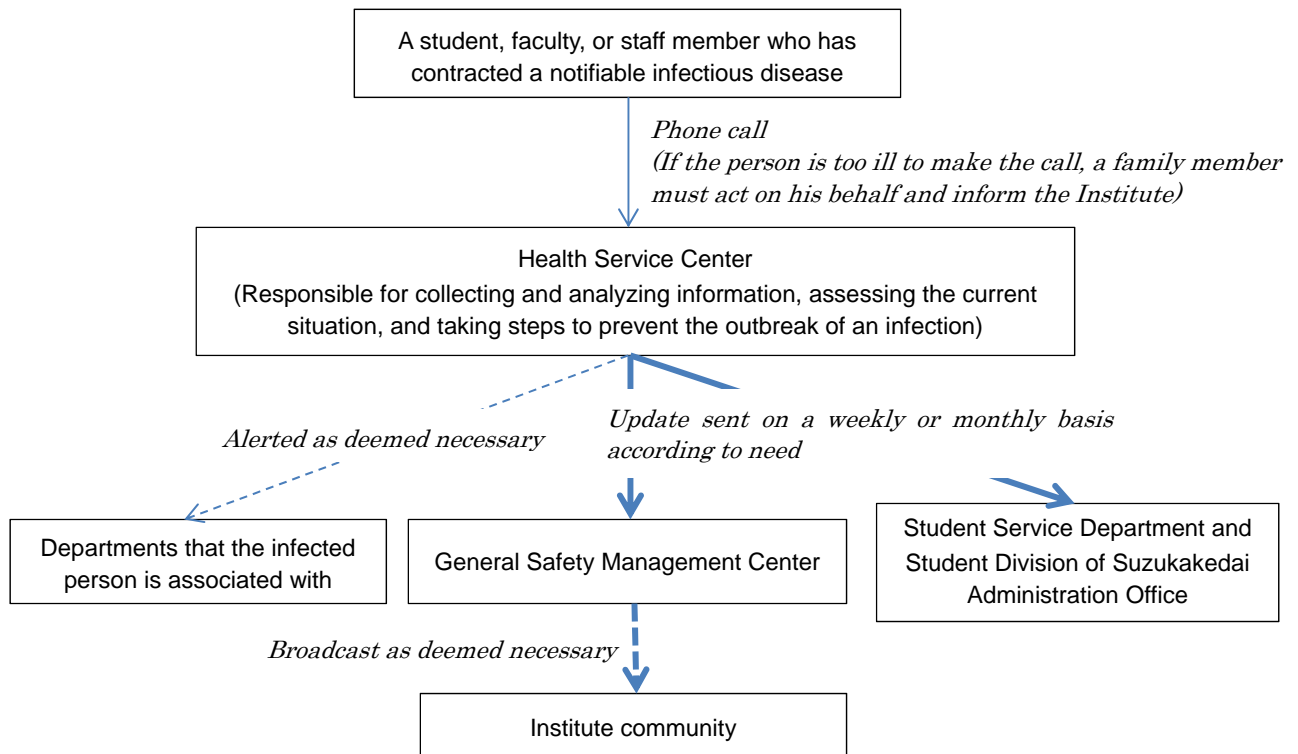


Figure 1. Flow of information when an infectious disease has been reported

How to Keep Health Information Secure

Safeguarding the privacy of personal health information should be of paramount importance when notifying the Institute. As a general rule, an infected person should contact the Health Service Center by phone. If e-mail is to be used, health information must not be included in the message itself, but in a password protected file sent as an attachment.