# Status of Digitalization and Systemization of Infectious Disease Control in Tokyo Metropolitan Government

- 1 Trends in the Mechanism and Systemization of Infectious Disease Surveillance
- 2 Tokyo Metropolitan Infectious Disease Health Crisis Management Information Network System (K-net)
- 3 Digitalization of Public Health Center Operations
  - Introduction of a patient response management tool for tuberculosis operations in metropolitan public health centers



**Nobuaki Oya** Deputy Director, Infectious Disease Control Section, Bureau of Public Health and Medical Affairs, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Coordinator)

**Takahiro Inoue** Deputy Director, Infectious Disease Control Section, Bureau of Public Health and Medical Affairs, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (In charge of digitalization promotion)

#### 1 Trends in the Mechanism and **Systemization of Infectious Disease Surveillance**

#### (1) Patient-Based Surveillance

- The occurrence and spread of infectious diseases are monitored through reports submitted by diagnosing physicians. (This mechanism is based on national laws and is uniformly applied across Japan, not just in Tokyo.)
- There are two types of infectious disease reports:
  - **Comprehensive Notification:** All physicians submit reports.
  - **Sentinel Notification:** Reports are submitted only by designated medical institutions assigned by the governor of Tokyo.

#### Types of **Notification**

Notification

#### Overview

### Comprehensive

●The target infections are those that require prevention measures to control the spread, and those that are rare and cannot be monitored through fixed-point systems for trend analysis.

• All diagnosing physicians must report to the local public health center, which will then forward the information to the governor of the respective prefecture.

#### Target Diseases (Examples)

Ebola hemorrhagic fever, SARS, MERS, avian influenza, tuberculosis, bacterial dysentery, enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli infection, smallpox, dengue fever, legionellosis, syphilis, anthrax, etc.

Sentinel **Notification** 

- ●The target infections are those where the number of patients is large, and it is not necessary to report all cases.
- •Only the administrators of medical institutions designated by the prefectural governors are required to report

Seasonal influenza, novel coronavirus infection, hand, foot, and mouth disease, RSV infection, etc.

### (2) Pathogen-Based Surveillance

#### Active Epidemiological Investigation and **Necessary Testing**

Submission of Specimens at Designated Sentinel Sites

#### **Ensuring Specimens and Pathogens**

It is possible to request individuals suspected of being infected or patients to provide samples, and to request medical institutions or other entities that possess samples to submit them.

For certain diseases, with the aim of monitoring the detection status and characteristics of the circulating pathogens, medical institutions or other entities responsible for submitting samples are pre-designated as pathogen fixed-points, where regular and quantitative sample submissions are carried out.

#### Submission of **Specimens**

#### **Specimens** are sent to testina facilities such as public health institutes.



#### **Testing and Reporting**

Tests are conducted on samples received at testing facilities (such as regional public health laboratories), and the results are compiled and subjected to epidemiological analysis.

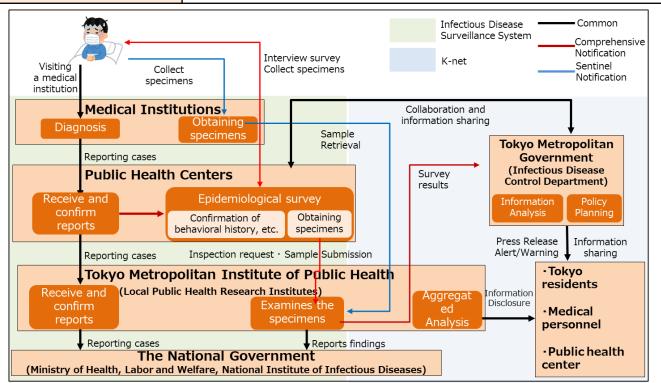




### Mechanism and Systematization Trends in Infectious Disease Surveillance

#### Roles and Workflow of Relevant Institutions in Infectious Disease Surveillance

Public Health Centers (PHC)	■Upon receiving reports of patient cases from medical institutions, the public health center carries out epidemiological investigations to collect information on the patients and implements necessary measures (such as securing samples, imposing work restrictions, and recommending hospitalization) to prevent the spread of infection.  ■The collected information is reported and shared with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Public Health, and relevant public health centers.
Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Public Health (Local Public Health Research Institutes)	■As a testing facility, it receives samples from public health centers and conducts genetic analysis and other tests. ■It collects and analyzes patient information and pathogen data from public health centers, and provides and publishes this information to relevant organizations.
Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Infectious Disease Control Division)	■In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases throughout the city, the division collaborates with relevant organizations to gather information, issue alerts (such as press releases), examine response strategies, and develop region-wide infection control measures.



#### **Infectious Disease Surveillance System**

- •A national system where medical institutions report information on infectious disease occurrences, and relevant organizations share this information.
- •Future system updates are expected to include additional functions such as sharing test requests and epidemiological investigation data.

#### K-net (Tokyo Metropolitan System)

A system for sharing infectious disease information among relevant institutions within Tokyo.

\*\*For details, please refer to the next page.

### Tokyo Metropolitan Infectious Disease Health Crisis Management **Information Network System (K-net)**

#### System Objective

Based on the Infectious Diseases Control Law, the system aims to quickly obtain and share information from epidemiological investigations, proactive epidemiological research, and analysis results. This facilitates the prevention of infectious disease spread by enabling prompt initial response measures (e.g., infectious disease information rapid reporting). Additionally, by sharing infection-specific information that individual institutions retain (such as tuberculosis control measures and mosquito-borne disease control) and the latest knowledge on overseas outbreaks, the system supports appropriate infectious disease countermeasures.

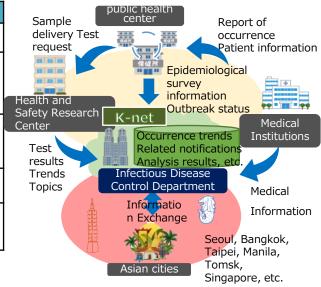
System Overview \*\* Planned system upgrade in Fiscal Year 2025, followed by

#### 【 Main Users 】

system restructuring)

Infectious Disease Control Division, Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Public Health, Public Health Centers, Designated Medical Institutions, Cities in Asia

Function	System Capability		
Opinion Exchange Forum	·Sharing various information, manuals, and topics related to infectious diseases		
Rapid medical information capture system	Centralized collection and sharing of patient information, including medical records     Rapid sharing of test requests and results     Share epidemiological survey information collected by public health centers among public health centers and within the prefecture		
Tuberculosis Control System	Sharing function for tuberculosis countermeasure information such as bacterial test results and information on missing persons		
Mosquito-borne infectious disease control system	•Functions for preventing mosquito-borne infectious diseases in Japan, such as plotting and sharing outbreak status		
Overseas Infectious Disease Information Forum	Function to exchange infectious disease information between Asian cities with many imported cases		



#### **Current Issues and Directions for Improvement**

- ①Since no major renovations have been made since the facility was built, it is necessary to respond to new needs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2The information handled is physically and logically distributed, making data organization and analysis a heavy burden.
- (3) The amount of information handled in infectious disease countermeasures is increasing, and the current aging system environment is making it difficult to keep up.

- (1) Taking into account the needs of public health centers and the perspective of BPR (Business Process Reengineering), efforts will be made to improve current functions and enhance usability.
- 2By digitizing, centralizing, and streamlining processes, the function for collecting and analyzing infectious disease information will be strengthened.
- 3 Establish a system infrastructure that allows flexible environment configuration, such as cloud-based solutions (capable of responding to emergencies).

#### 2 Tokyo Metropolitan Infectious Disease Health Crisis Management Information Network System (K-net)

### **Information Forum**

Overseas Infectious Disease As a platform for exchanging infectious disease information with cities in Asia and other regions, K-net includes an Overseas Infectious Disease Information Forum.



#### **Contact Information**

For inquiries regarding account issuance and other matters, please contact: Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Bureau of Public Health, Infectious Disease Control Division, Prevention Section **Email:** S1150703@section.metro.tokyo.jp

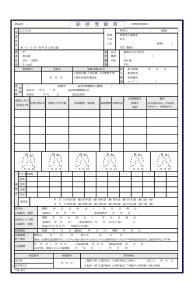
## 3. Digitalization of Public Health Center Operations : The Case of Tokyo Metropolitan Public Health Centers

#### 1. Current Operations at Tokyo Metropolitan Public Health Centers

- Of the total infectious diseases managed by public health centers (PHCs), **tuberculosis (TB)** has many patients and requires long-term management. (Treatment: Approx. 6 months, Follow-up: Approx. 2 years)
- The doctor notifies the PHC of the jurisdiction immediately once a diagnosis of TB is given.
   The PHC creates a TB Registration Form and manages it.
- PHCs currently create a TB Registration Form for every patient in paper format.
   ⇒Difficulty in sharing information among PHC staffs and transferring data between tasks

<Sample of contents and style of the TB Registration Form>

- · Registration date, registration ID
- · Address, name, sex, occupation, etc.
- · Name and address of the doctor who notified
- · Condition, results of drug sensitivity test, medical treatment status
- Administrative measures by PHCs (recommendations, determined public expenses)
- · Living environment, etc.



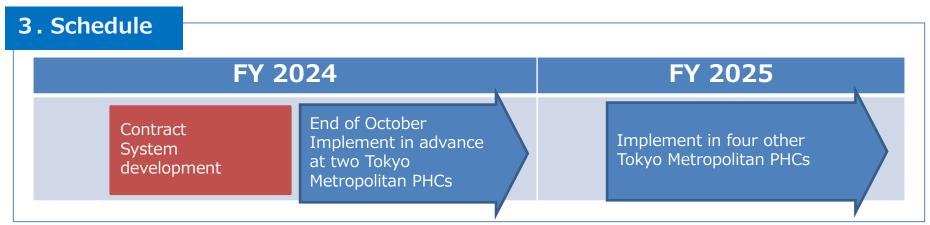
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- Multiple management sheets in Excel, etc., are created for task control.
  - (e.g., patient list, register of the health examination of contacts).
  - ⇒Takes time and effort to record the same information repeatedly

## 3. Digitalization of Public Health Center Operations : The Case of Tokyo Metropolitan Public Health Centers

#### 2. Outline of Tuberculosis Case Management Tool

- Improves and develops the case management tool\* implemented in Tokyo Metropolitan PHCs for COVID-19
  - \*Implemented a cloud service for building no-code apps from December 2021
- Digitalizes the TB Registration Form and builds and uses the TB patient and contact case management tool
  - ⇒ ①Improves efficiency of information sharing and progress management, and focuses on much more thorough patient support
    - 2 Smoother data transfer between related tasks
    - (3) Standardizes TB tasks and makes mutual case transfer easier



## 3. Digitalization of Public Health Center Operations : The Case of Tokyo Metropolitan Public Health Centers

