

January 2012

Notice to Expectant & Nursing Mothers Residing in Fukushima Prefecture

Yuhei Sato, Governor of Fukushima Prefecture
Kenichi Hata, Chairman of Fukushima Society of Obstetric & Gynecological Medicine
Keiya Fujimori, Chairman of Fukushima Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Shinichi Kikuchi, President of Fukushima Medical University

Request for participation in the 2011 Health Administration Survey for Prefectural Residents ('Questionnaire for Pregnancy and birth survey')

The Fukushima Prefectural Government has commissioned Fukushima Medical University (FMU) to conduct the 'Questionnaire for Pregnant Women & Nursing Mothers' as part of its residential health care initiatives in response to the recent earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disasters. The residents of Fukushima Prefecture have had to endure a great deal of anxiety since the accident at the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant. Also, local municipalities and medical institutions have not kept track of the whereabouts of expectant and nursing mothers since the accident, and have therefore been unable to provide adequate care and guidance to mothers and newborn infants.

FMH is therefore providing support to relieve the anxiety of expectant and nursing mothers following the recent disasters, and is also conducting a survey questionnaire to determine how you were affected and whether you received proper health care. The ultimate aims of this questionnaire are to establish a cooperative framework that includes obstetric care and maternal support for use in future emergencies, and to build a working partnership between local governments and healthcare providers. In addition to this questionnaire, we are also seeking your opinions in order to develop systems capable of providing better medical care in the event of your future pregnancy as well as for new expectant mothers living in Fukushima.

This questionnaire booklet is being distributed to women who received a 'Maternal and Child Health Handbook' between August 1, 2010 and July 31, 2011 from a municipality in Fukushima Prefecture, and women who received a 'Maternal and Child Health Handbook' from a municipality outside of Fukushima Prefecture but who underwent an obstetric exam or gave birth after relocating or returning to Fukushima on or after March 11, 2011.

If you have any queries about the questionnaire booklet, please contact FMH's Radiology Resident Health Care Center (Resident Health Care Center) at the telephone number provided below. If you have any concerns about your health or your baby's health, please provide details in the comments/requests section at the end of the questionnaire booklet and we will contact you about them.

The Resident Health Care Center is also periodically staffed by a nurse midwife to answer your childcare concerns and other healthcare issues. The Center may also contact you by telephone where support is deemed necessary based on your responses to the questionnaire. When an expert medical response is needed, support will be provided by a network of qualified physicians from FMU's Obstetrics and Gynecology Course and the Fukushima Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology (practicing obstetricians and gynecologists). The Resident Health Care Center is also the point of contact for nursing and expectant mothers who have evacuated to a different prefecture and those without a family doctor.

We look forward to your cooperation in completing the questionnaire, to help us make Fukushima a place where you and other new mothers can live in comfort and security.

For queries on the 'Questionnaire for Pregnant Women & Nursing Mothers', please contact:

Radiology Resident Health Care Center, Fukushima Medical University

Tel: 024-549-5180 (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon – Fri, closed on weekends & public holidays)