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Introduction

Tokyo iCDC: An Intelligence Network Connecting Experts



Koike Yuriho,
Governor of
Tokyo

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government launched Tokyo iCDC on October 1, 2020, to bolster its infectious disease response. This organization's strengths lie in the scientific knowledge, rich experiences, and close networks of the distinguished members of the Expert Board.

Since the first case was confirmed in Tokyo, the battle against COVID-19 raged for some 1,200 days, during which time Tokyo overcame numerous waves of infection by presenting a united front.

This long fight against the virus was an

ongoing process of trial and error as we sought to protect the lives and health of the people of Tokyo. Throughout it all, it was none other than the sound advice and dedicated cooperation of the experts at Tokyo iCDC that pointed us in the right directions.

With the reclassification of COVID-19 as a Class 5 disease, which includes less severe infectious diseases such as seasonal influenza, response is now entering a new stage. But the threat against humanity, which has come up against various infectious diseases throughout its history, is not just the coronavirus, but any unknown virus that can emerge at any time. We need to evolve into a resilient city that will not be swayed by new infectious diseases. The foundation for a sustainable recovery from a crisis is the knowledge and experience accumulated during difficulties, at times, while groping in the dark.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government, together with the experts at Tokyo iCDC, will continue to work incessantly to fortify preparations for infectious diseases and ensure the safety and security of all Tokyo residents.

July 2023
Koike Yuriho
Governor of Tokyo

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Kaku Mitsuo,
Director of
Tokyo iCDC

Infectious diseases have no borders, and their spread is accelerated by the active movement of people.

As an illness that can be contracted by everyone, infectious diseases pose a threat to not just individuals, but for all of society. That is why the establishment of a social network for information sharing, cooperation and collaboration, and risk communication is a major key in implementing infectious disease response.

In particular, the presence of experts who can provide advice and assistance based on

the latest information, scientific knowledge, and expert opinion on infectious diseases is crucial.

Tokyo iCDC, as a new organization that serves as a center for effective infectious disease response, has been providing advice concerning the infection situation in Tokyo and its various stages. These efforts are supported by an innovative approach in which an intelligence network consisting of over 80 experts provides support and cooperation in building a social network for Tokyo's response to infectious diseases.

This is a compilation of the major initiatives taken to support the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's COVID-19 response since the launch of Tokyo iCDC. Its aim is to provide a valuable record of knowledge and experience that will help the Tokyo Metropolitan Government realize its goal of achieving a sustainable recovery.

Here, we wish to share our three-year experience in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, what could be called a once-in-a-century crisis, in order to prepare for any risk presented by new infectious diseases emerging in the future.

July 2023
Kaku Mitsuo
Director of Tokyo iCDC

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