

# Chigasaki Breeze

*Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.*

No.0023

## INFLUENZA PANDEMIC.....NOTIFICATION FROM THE GOVERNOR

On April 30, Kanagawa Prefectural Governor Matsuzawa made a statement for citizens to be prepared for the influenza pandemic. Some months have passed now, but the influenza is still here and has been predicted to return this fall. So, let us quote the governor's statement anew as an emergency notice and reconfirm as to how we should cope with the possible development of infection.

### Emergency Notice

Today, the World Health Organization (WHO) has raised its alert level of the influenza pandemic (swine influenza) to Phase 5 based on the situation that the flu virus has further spread from human to human, and outbreaks of the influenza are witnessed in larger groups.

We, the Kanagawa Prefectural Government, already established the Health Crisis Management Headquarters, and according to the Kanagawa Prefectural Action Plan against the influenza pandemic, we are promptly implementing various measures to protect prefectural citizens' health and prevent infection.

We will continue to take all possible measures against the influenza, so we would like to ask the citizens to calmly respond to the situation based on the accurate information.

#### To the Prefectural Citizens

- To defend against infection of the influenza pandemic, it is important to obtain the latest accurate information and respond calmly. Please try to get official information provided by the prefectural, national, and municipal governments, as well as news from the newspapers, TVs, and radios. The prefecture's official website will carry the latest information on the influenza, too.
- To prevent infection, it is important to take precautionary measures in daily life, such as wearing a mask, washing your hands, gargling often, and avoiding crowds. Please also observe the rules of etiquette, such as covering your mouth with a handkerchief when you cough.
- If you have developed influenza-like symptoms, for example, a fever, coughing and suffering from fatigue, after returning from Mexico, U.S. and other regions where the flu infection had been confirmed, be sure to make a telephone call first for consultation to the "Hatsunetsu Sodan Center" (high-fever consultation centers) at the Kanagawa Prefectural Public Health and Welfare Centers, or the Public Health Centers of Yokohama, Kawasaki, Yokosuka, Fujisawa and Sagami-hara Cities before visiting a medical institution.
- If you plan to visit Mexico and other regions where the flu infection has been confirmed, please consider cancelling the visit. You can obtain the relevant information on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- You will not be infected with swine influenza virus by eating pork and processed pork products. Influenza is not transmitted through foods, so eating foods made in Mexico will not cause infection.

Do not get confused by inaccurate information.

Shigefumi Matsuzawa Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture April 30, 2009

Inquiries in foreign languages to be accepted until November:

English 045-314-9917 Spanish 045-314-9918 Portuguese 045-314-9919 Chinese 045-314-9927

## HAMAORI-SAI AND MIKOSHI 浜降祭と神輿

*Hamaori-Sai* is well known as a dawn festival and the scene of a number of Mikoshis, the sacred portable shrines, going into the sea wildly dancing for purification.

This year, *HAMAORI-SAI* is scheduled on July 20th, Monday, and about 40 *Mikoshis* will get together at Chigasaki Nishihama Beach from 5 o'clock in the morning carried by many people in special clothing from around Chigasaki and Samukawa. Some of them come from a fair distance carrying Mikoshi on their shoulders shouting "*Dokkoi, Dokkoi*" in a special rhythm. And at around 7 o'clock, all of *Mikoshis* get together and the joint "ritual" of praying for a rich harvest of the five kinds of grain is held. As soon as the ritual finishes, *Mikoshi* start to return to their own shrines.

How and when *HAMAORI-SAI* started is not necessarily clear, but it is said that in 1838, one of the *Mikoshis* was lost when there was a fight between parishioners of Samukawa shrine and the shrines of a neighboring town at a pier on Sagami-gawa near Samukawa shrine. The lost *UJIGAMI-SAMA* was found in the sea of Chigasaki by a fisherman named *MAGOHICHI* of Nango a few days later. Then parishioners of Samukawa shrine visited Chigasaki beach to express their appreciation for the discovery.

On the other hand, *Tsurumine-Hachiman-Sha* shrine is said that they had offered *Mikoshi* to Chigasaki beach a long time before Samukawa shrine started to visit the beach in order to pray for the well-being, good health and safety of the family; the so called purification ceremony.

Unexpectedly, both *Tsurumine-Hachiman-Sha* shrine and *Samukawa* shrine had a common ritual to offer *Mikoshi* to Chigasaki beach. So they discussed the joint ritual repeatedly since the Meiji era and finally agreed for *HAMAORI-SAI* to be held on July 15th every year since *Taisho* 12 (1923) and it has continued for dozens of years.



## MINI CONCERT AT THE CITY HALL ON AUGUST 18 (Tue)

The mini concert at the main lobby of the city hall is scheduled on August 18 (Tue) at 12:20 ~ 12:50. To be performed is a folk song and guitars by 6 members. This music concert at the main lobby happens once every three months for the purpose of having citizens feel welcome at the city hall and closer to the administration. Please come and enjoy listening to their folk song and the sound of guitars this time.

Inquiries: Bunka Suishin-ka (Cultural Promotion Section) 82-1111