Reporting Criteria for Infectious Gastroenteritis

(1) Definition
Infectious disease caused by bacterial or viral infections, whose primary clinical manifestations are vomiting and diarrhea; most frequently, the causative agents are viruses (e.g. rotavirus, norovirus), and the season is from autumn to winter. Enteroviruses, adenoviruses and bacteria also cause infectious gastroenteritis.

(2) Clinical signs and symptoms:
Majority of patients are infants, and disease progression tends to be rapid among children ≤1 year of age. Chief clinical manifestations consist of vomiting and diarrhea, which may be accompanied by dehydration, electrolyte loss, and other general signs and symptoms. Symptoms vary by patient, with some being affected only by vomiting, others having only diarrhea, and in some diarrhea may occur after vomiting. Some patients may develop fever of 37-38°C. Among older children, manifestations may be limited to nausea and/or abdominal pain.

(3) Reporting criteria

a) “Patient (confirmed case)”
In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician at a designated sentinel medical facility has examined a patient with clinical signs and/or symptoms as described in (2), has suspected infectious gastroenteritis from clinical findings, and has made a diagnosis of infectious gastroenteritis based on the criteria as described in (4), the administrator of the designated sentinel medical facility shall notify the case on the following Monday on a weekly basis.

b) “Deceased”
In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician at a designated sentinel medical facility has suspected infectious gastroenteritis in a deceased patient with clinical signs as described in (2), and has diagnosed that the death was due to infectious gastroenteritis based on the criteria as described in (4), the administrator of the designated sentinel medical facility shall notify the case on the following Monday on a weekly basis.

(4) Requirement for reporting: items (a) and (b) both need to be fulfilled

a) Sudden onset of abdominal pain (may not be apparent among newborns and young infants), vomiting or diarrhea
b) Exclusion of other notifiable diseases