

# An Outbreak of Measles in Saitama City, Japan : All Notified Subjects According to an Active Surveillance Program in the Spring of 2007

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**Abstract :** Measles is considered to be a major health problem worldwide with nearly 35 million cases and 1 million deaths occurring each year. The purpose of this study was to analyze an outbreak of measles in Saitama City, Japan. Saitama City Government has performed an active surveillance on measles since 2005 and all clinical-diagnosed patients with measles have been reported from medical institutions. A total of 376 subjects were received between the 14th week (April 2 to April 8) and the 24th week (June 11 to June 17). Two peaks according to age group were recognized: namely, children less than 2 years of age and the adolescents from 15 to 19 years of age. The latter peak was associated with the period of time when the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine had become a social problem. Japan is said to be a developing country regarding the measles vaccination strategy. In addition, no national program against measles has yet been established. Continuous efforts to increase immunization coverage are needed to interrupt indigenous measles transmission. The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare should therefore plan and perform a nationwide program to eliminate measles in Japan.

**Key words :** Measles, Vaccination, Non-vaccinees, Surveillance, Saitama City