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PHC and specific cases of Covid-19 in Japan

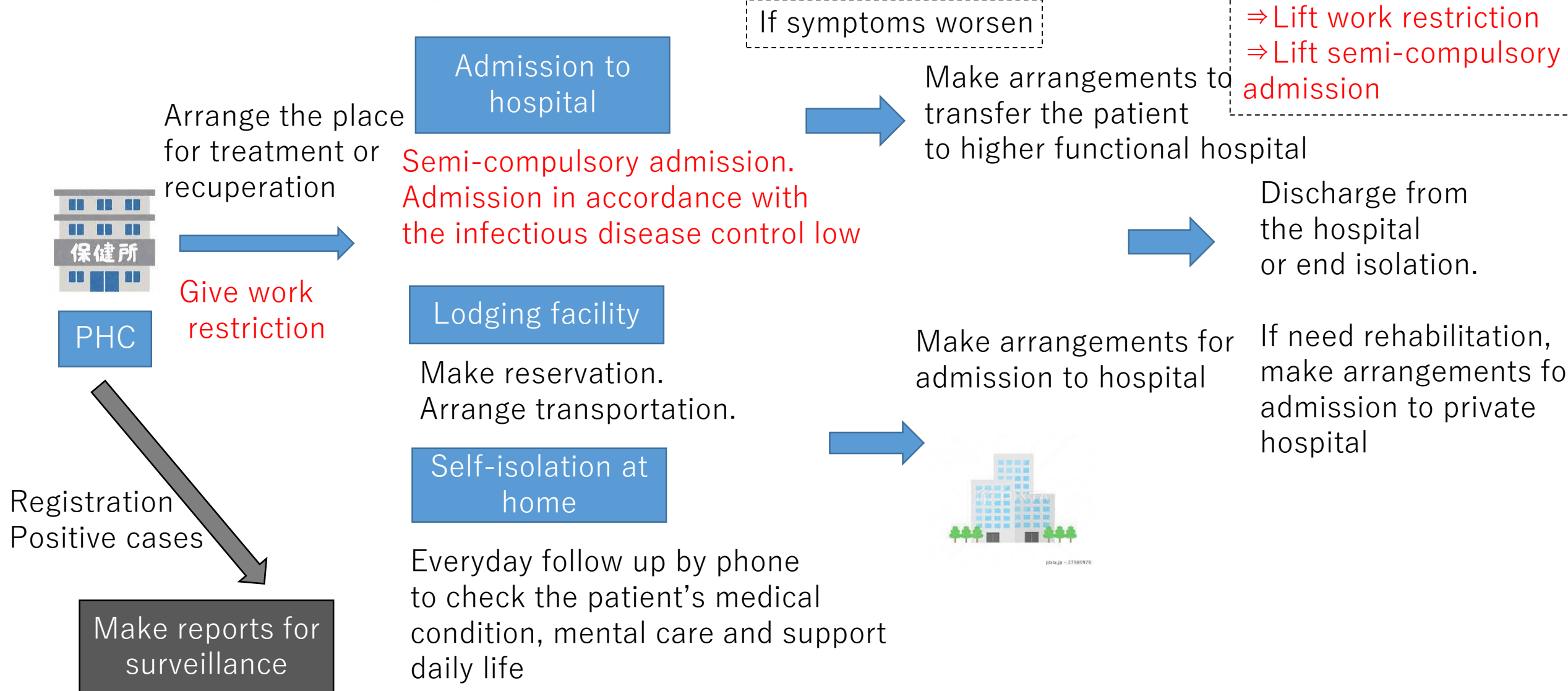
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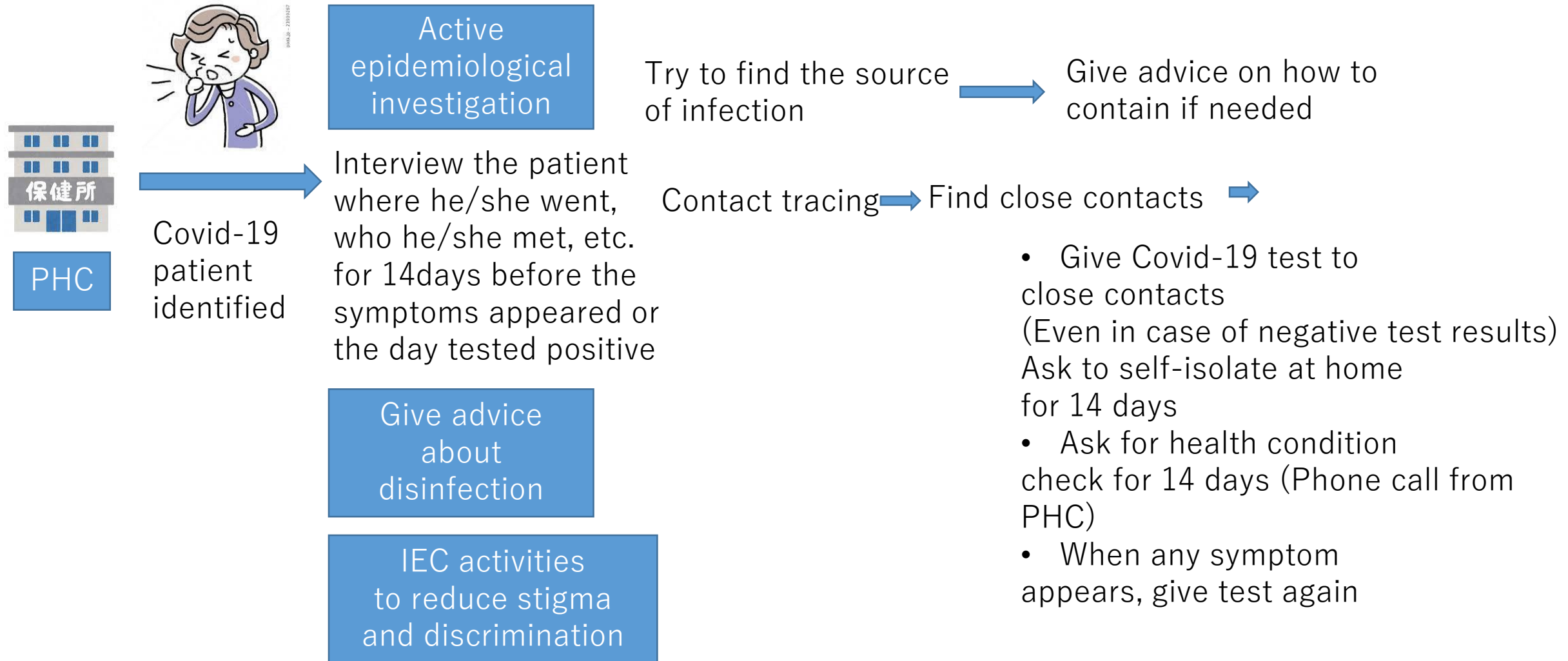
Role of PHC in anti-Covid-19 measures

How to manage Covid-19

– What PHC is doing in Clinical setting

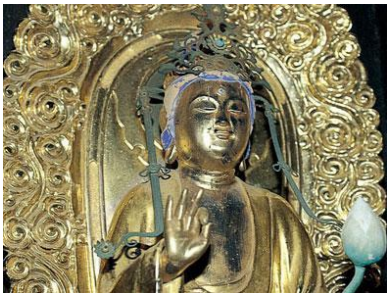


How to manage Covid-19 – What PHC is doing to contain a further spread of the coronavirus.



Hitoyoshi PHC(RURAL)

- Covers 1city, 4 towns and 5 villages.
- Population 87,568(2016) . Getting smaller.
- Deep mountainous and isolated area.
- Main industries are agriculture and forestry.
- Remarkably aging society. Doctors are not an exception.



Kikuchi PHC(SUBURBAN)

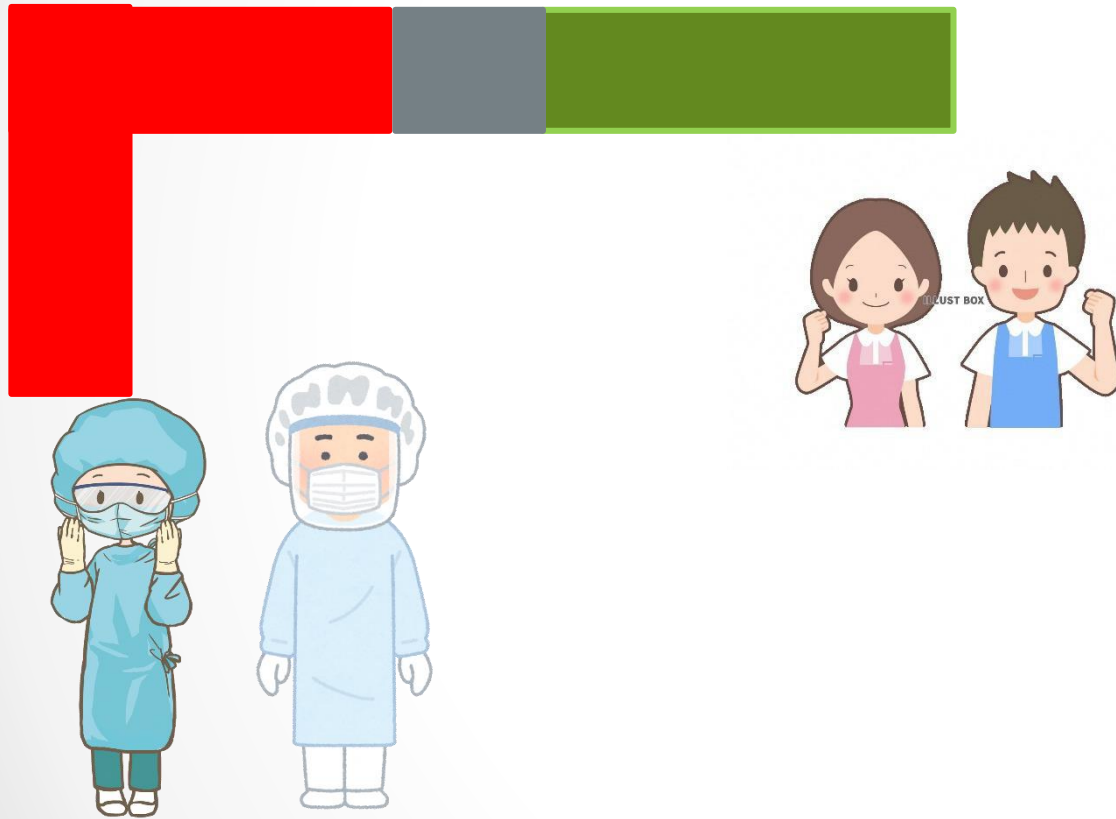
- Covers 2 cities, 2 towns.
- Population 18,3447(2017), on the increase.
- Suburb area of Kumamoto city, prefectural capital. Many people commute to Kumamoto city for work or school.
- Main industries are agriculture, livestock industry, and manufacturing industry.
- Birth rate 10.5%~highest among health administration area.



	Hitoyoshi PHC: rural area	Kikuchi PHC: suburban area
COVID-19 situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 60 patients from April 2020~March 2021(in one year) • 22 beds in 2 hospitals. Few cases of over beds. • Only few cases for isolation at lodging facility or at home • Easy to find the hospitals for severity triage or emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 230 patients from April~May in 2021(in two month) • 11 beds in 2 hospitals. Several cases of over beds • Most of the mild cases go to lodging facility or self-isolation at home • Difficult to find the hospitals for severity triage or emergency. Because usually, hospitals or people are depend on higher functional hospital in Kumamoto city.
What PHC is doing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHC can more concentrated on active epidemiological investigation. PHC can visit the field. • Responsible hospital follow the patients in self-isolation at home from the view of clinical and PHC follow them for mental care and support their daily life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busy to find hospitals outside of jurisdiction area when over beds happen. • Busy for arrangement of transportation for patients who go for hospital or lodging facility. • Not enough time for active epidemiological investigation. PHC just give advice by phone call. • Director of PHC needs to clinically follow the patients at home. Hospitals do not have enough man power following patients at home. Asking help to clinic doctors.

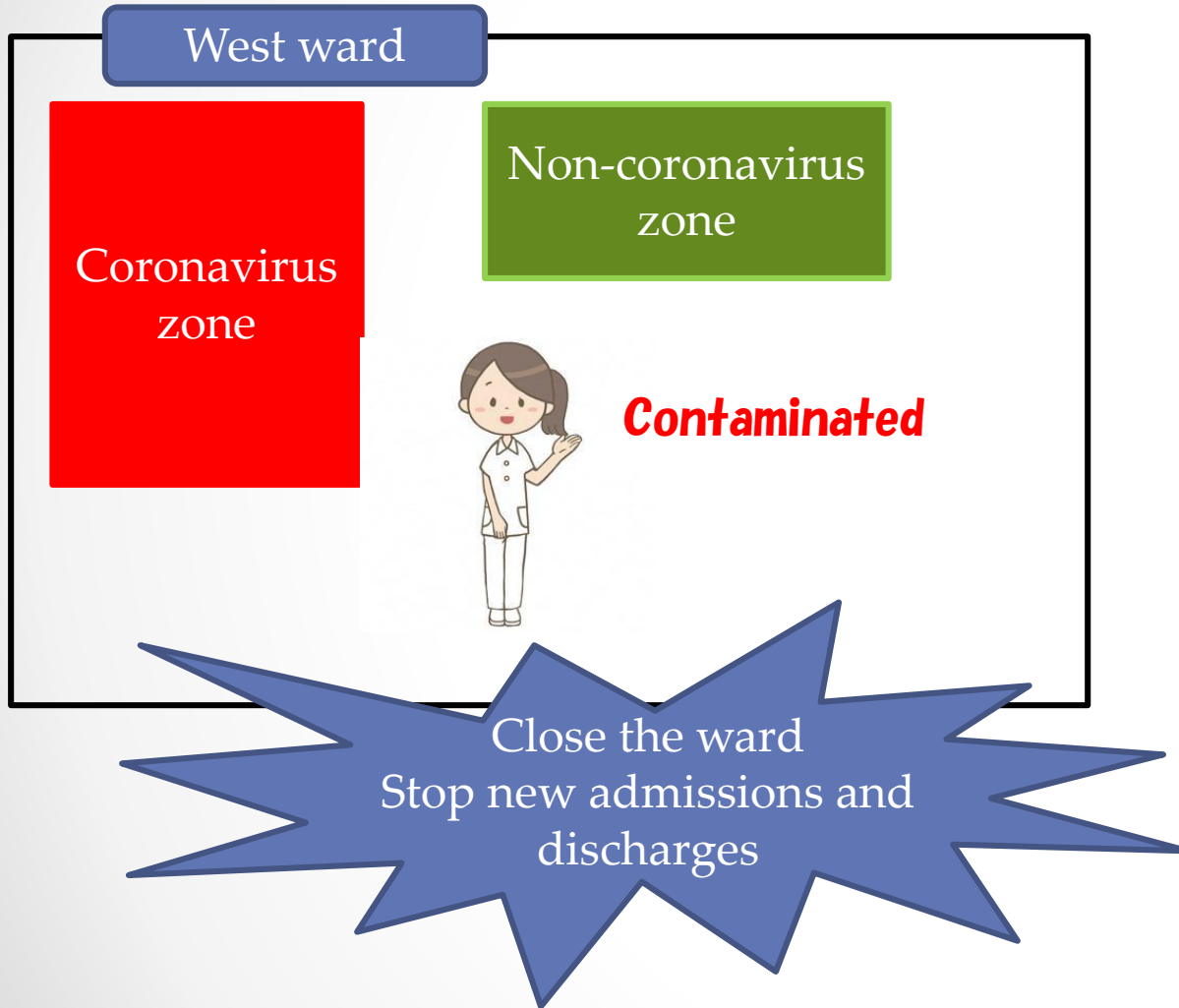
Specific cases of Covid-19

When a covid-19 patient is found in a psychiatric hospital or in a facility for elderly care



- Usually, it is difficult for hospitals that cater for Covid-19 to accept patient with psychiatric disease or disability, including dementia. If there are found to be many Covid-19 positive patients in a hospital/facility and there are not enough beds for Covid-19, psychiatric hospital or facility for elderly care needs to keep caring for them at their own facility.
- In such case, care givers need to learn about infection control: how to use PPE, zoning, etc. under advice from PHC.

When a covid-19 patient is found in a hospital



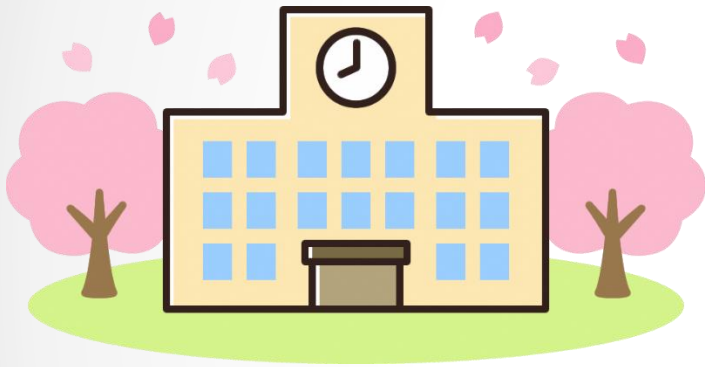
- Sometimes, nosocomial infection happens in hospital. In such case, PHC give advice to the hospital such as
 - ① To give Covid-19 test to medical staffs and patients in the contaminated ward. If there are many positive cases, expand the no. of staff or patients targeted for Covid-19 test.
 - ② To close the ward until no more newly infected persons found.
 - ③ If infection is more widespread, close whole hospital.

When a covid-19 patient is found in a company



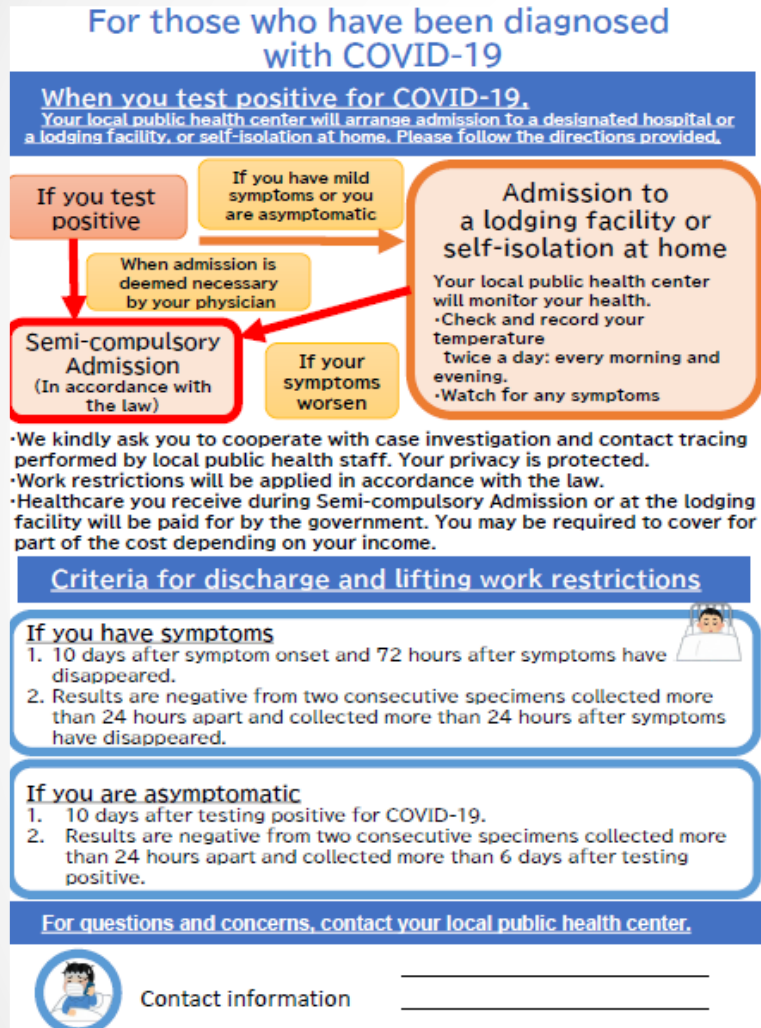
- Cooperate with occupational health staff.
- PHC conducts active epidemiological investigation in the company and give test if there are close contacts.
- Ask Covid-19 negative close contacts to stay home for 14 days and to call to PHC when he/she has any symptoms.
- Give advise on how to disinfect the office and how to reduce the risk of infection in the office.
- Discuss how to continue the business if needed. (Develop BCP is desirable before epidemic occurs)

When a covid-19 patient is found in a school



- PHC conducts active epidemiological investigation in the school and give test if there are close contacts.
- Give advise on how to disinfect the school and how to reduce the risk of infection in the school.
- If parents ask school for explanation, have parents meeting with school teachers.
- Activities to reduce stigma and discrimination are very important, especially in school.

When the COVID-19 patient is a foreigner



- Language is the biggest problem. Most of the PHC staff are not good at speaking English. Furthermore, most of COVID-19 foreigner patients are technical intern trainees, who come from Asian countries, and then PHC staff need to communicate with them in their each mother tongue. It is quite difficult.
- It is also quite difficult to make foreign patients understand about semi-compulsory admission based on the law. Interpreters specialized in medical field is needed but actually not enough assigned.

Prepare multilingual official documents which can help PHC activities.

Prevent COVID-19 in evacuation shelter



At the reception

- Measure body temperature
- Avoid spreading droplet by Acrylic plate
- Prepare alcohol for hand hygiene
- 'Ware a mask' awareness poster



- Need four kinds of isolation spaces
- For COVID-19 infected patient
 - For COVID-19 close contacts
 - For COVID-19 suspected patients (waiting for result of COVID=19 test)
 - For other infectious disease patients

Other cases

- **Self-isolation at home**: mother and three little children (father is COVID-19 positive)
- **Self-isolation at home**: only two teenagers (parents and youngest sister are infected)
⇒PHC call everyday not only to check their health condition but also to check on their life and mental health. Cooperate with city/town/village health center.
- **DV is discovered**
⇒In a case where both wife and husband are infected, wife should be admitted to different hospital from her husband because of DV. PHC make arrangements for their hospitalization.
- **Pet problem**
⇒Some patients refuse admission because there is no one to take care of his/her pet. Veterinarian of PHC give advice to how to manage their pet during hospitalization.

Conclusion

- PHC has an important role as a coordinator of all organizations regarding health care and welfare even regarding Covid-19 issues.
- PHC needs to manage all public health problems even regarding Covid-19 issues.



Free rental mobile febrile outpatient booth at hospital



Local shirt maker made gowns for medicine when PPE shortage occurred in Japan.



Enjoy public health!