Regulatory Efforts to Combat COVID-19 in Japan

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Health Authority Forum: Japan, September 13th

- Situation of COVID-19 in Japan

- International outputs and activities
  - Statements by the Chief Executive Dr. FUJIWARA
  - Discussion in ICMRA

- Efforts for Speedy Approvals of COVID-19 Products
  - Regulatory Flexibilities/Agilities during COVID-19
  - Approved Medical Devices for COVID-19

- Safety Measures *(ventilators and tracheal tubes)*

Situation of COVID-19 in Japan as of August 29th, 2021

Cumulative number of confirmed cases is **1,450,487** cases

Cumulative number of deaths is **15,939** cases

https://covid19.mhlw.go.jp/extensions/public/en/index.html

The 4th State of emergency was declared in

Okinawa, Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Osaka, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Shizuoka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Fukuoka, Hokkaido, Miyagi, Gifu, Aichi, Mie, Shiga, Okayama, and Hiroshima.

- Other 12 areas are under the Priority Preventative Measures

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000164708_00079.html

Vaccination started on Feb. 17th from healthcare professionals, and April 12th for elderly aged 65 or older.

- **Total number of vaccine doses administered**

127,420,574 (1st: 70,699,480 2nd: 56,721,094)

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/vaccine.html

Statements by the Chief Executive Dr. FUJIWARA

9 statements issued:

As of 13 July, 2021

- Special Approval for Emergency on First COVID-19 Vaccine in Japan (16 February, 2021)
- PMDA Reveals Principles on Evaluation of COVID-19 Vaccines (12 October, 2020)
- PMDA to Offer Free Scientific Advice for COVID-19 Vaccines Development (6 October, 2020)
- For Your Access to Japanese Clinical Trial/Clinical Research Information (4 June, 2020)
- First Approval of Antigen Test for COVID-19 (13 May, 2020)
- Special Approval for Emergency on Remdesivir for COVID-19 (8 May, 2020)
- Four IVDs Approvals for COVID-19 and Response to the Increased Ventilator Demand (21 April, 2020)
- PMDA Takes Further Steps to Speed up Clinical Development of COVID-19 Products (10 April, 2020)
- PMDA pledge to tackle COVID-19 Pandemic (31 March, 2020)

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/about-pmda/0002.html

Discussion in ICMRA

Active discussions on product development in workshops.

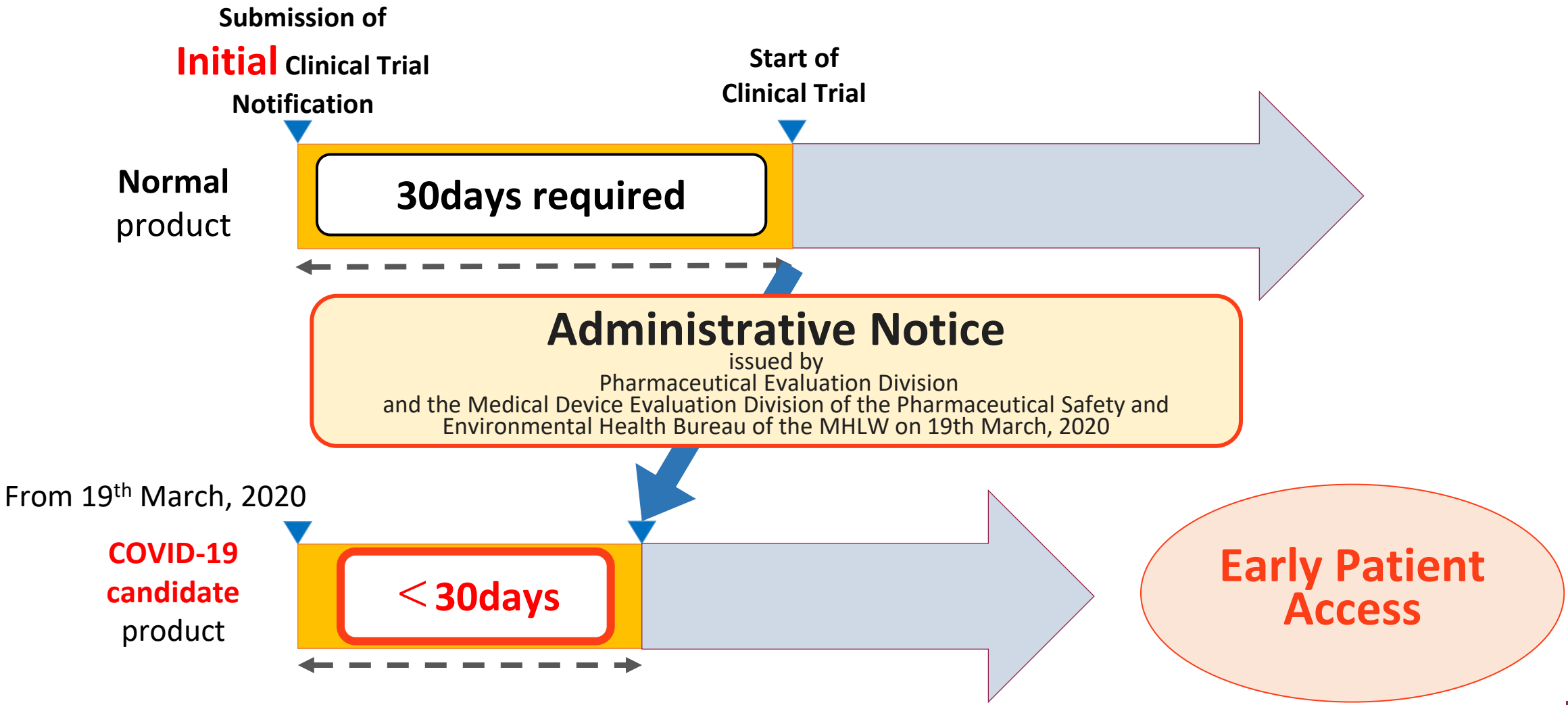
- Global regulatory workshop on COVID-19 Real-World Evidence and Observational studies #1-4
- Global regulatory workshop on COVID-19 therapeutic development #1-2
- Global regulatory workshop on COVID-19 vaccine development #1-2
- ICMRA Vaccine Safety Collaboration Workshop #1
- ICMRA Pregnancy and Lactation Workshop #1
- ICMRA COVID-19 Virus Variants workshop #1
- ICMRA workshop on enabling manufacturing capacity in the COVID-19 pandemic #1

Regulatory Flexibilities/Agilities during COVID-19

Clinical Trial, GCP

Document Title (Links are only in Japanese)	Summary of Flexibilities/Agilities
Handling on clinical trial notifications of COVID-19 (Administrative Notice dated March 19, 2020) https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000234901.pdf	Clinical trials on COVID-19 **can be started without waiting 30 days after the submission of clinical trial notification** if investigation by PMDA is completed.
Handling on review of COVID-19 clinical trials by Institutional Review Board (IRB) (Administrative Notice dated April 1, 2020) https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000234902.pdf	The IRB meeting of each medical institution **can be held by e-mail and online basis** other than face-to-face. It can be applied **only when the review is urgently needed**. The details of meeting must be recorded and stored.
Handling on the storage of informed consent forms during clinical trials (Administrative Notice dated April 7, 2020) https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000234903.pdf	The following documents **can be regard as original documents if it is difficult to store the signed informed consent**. 1. **Copies** – when they are making the signed informed consent in writing, the copies certified as having made based on the process that is established to guarantee the identity with the original. 2. **Electric signature** – Only when the documents with the sign can be stored based on the prepared procedure manual with keeping their readability, and in case it is possible to deliver its copy to the subject.

Allowing Quick Start of Clinical Trials



https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/int-activities/0001.pdf

Regulatory Flexibilities/Agilities during COVID-19

Clinical Trial, GCP (continued)

Document Title (Links are only in Japanese)	Summary of Flexibilities/Agilities
Handling of implementation guidelines for document-based conformity inspection and GCP on-site inspection for the time being associated with COVID-19 (Administrative Notice dated May 12, 2020) https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000235011.pdf	1. Considering the infection risk, GLP/GCP document-based conformity inspection and GCP on-site inspection **can be postponed**. 2. The Authority **can conduct remote inspections** to Sponsors. 3. **Confirmation of management on clinical trial sites by sponsor can be done without GCP on-site inspection**. However, when there are any serious concern, sponsor should undergo on-site inspection after the pandemic is settled. 4. **Sealing on documents is not needed.**
Q&A on clinical trial of drugs, medical devices, and regenerative medical products under the influence of COVID-19 (Administrative Notice dated March 27, 2020) https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000235164.pdf	***Will be updated occasionally*** 1. Delivery of the investigational medicinal products 2. IRB 3. On-site monitoring 4. protocol deviations 5. Examinations specified in the clinical trial protocol etc.

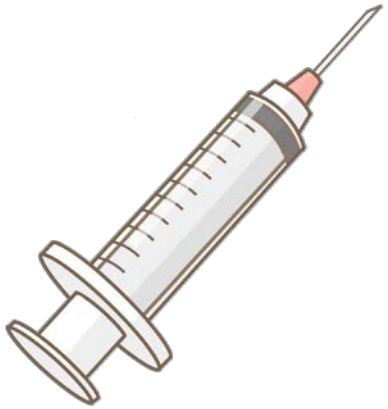
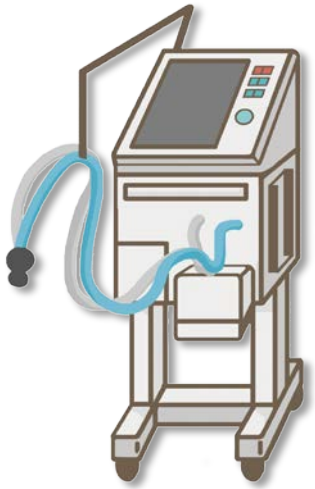
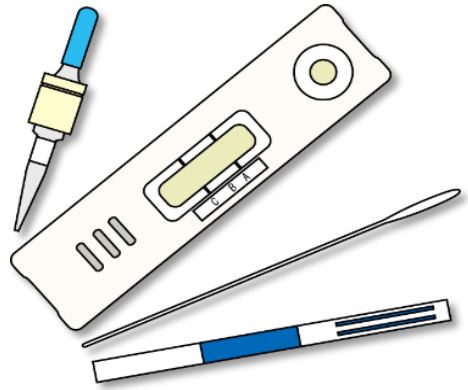
Regulatory Flexibilities/Agilities during COVID-19

Marketing Approval

Document Title (Links are only in Japanese)	Summary of Flexibilities/Agilities
Handling on regulatory reviews of drugs, medical devices, IVDs, and regenerative medical products for the time being associated with COVID-19 (Administrative Notice dated April 13, 2020) https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000234904.pdf	1. **Prioritize** examination, investigation and inspection **of Covid-19 medicines** 2. **Promote IT means** for exchange of information, communication and documentation with applicants and manufacturers due to Covid-19 pandemic 3. Promote the IT measures for all medicines under evaluation
Handling on review processes for COVID-19 related medical devices such as ventilators, etc. (Administrative Notice dated April 13, 2020) https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000234905.pdf	1. In addition to responding to consultations on ventilators, etc., **flexible response** to enable prompt regulatory procedures based on the actual access timing. 2. **Clarified points to consider** in regulatory procedures when supplying parts such as ventilators. 3. **Prioritize and promptly process partial changes** in approval items related to manufacturing registration and addition of manufacturing site.
Handling on regulatory reviews of disinfectant as newly designated quasi-drugs for the time being associated with COVID-19 (Administrative Notice dated April 24, 2020) https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000234940.pdf	In order **to expedite the regulatory reviews on disinfectant**, the sponsor which request for the expedited regulatory process must inform MHLW when they apply for an approval. Also, they must respond to query from PMDA as soon as possible.
Handling on regulatory reviews of medical products against COVID-19 (PSEHB/PED Notification No. 0512-4, PSEHB/MDED Notification No.0512-1 May 12, 2020) Updated on June 17th, 2021 https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000235010.pdf https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000241284.pdf	The notice describes **priority review and flexibility on review process and dossiers of clinical data for medical products against COVID-19**. MA applicants can submit, instead of the clinical trial data conducted in compliance with the related law, **the clinical study data funded by public sector such as MHLW**,

Speedy Approvals of COVID-19 Products

The number of approved products（As of August 29th, 2021）

Drugs	Vaccines	Medical Devices	IVDs
			
3 product	**3** product	**23** products	**72** products

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/about-pmda/0002.html

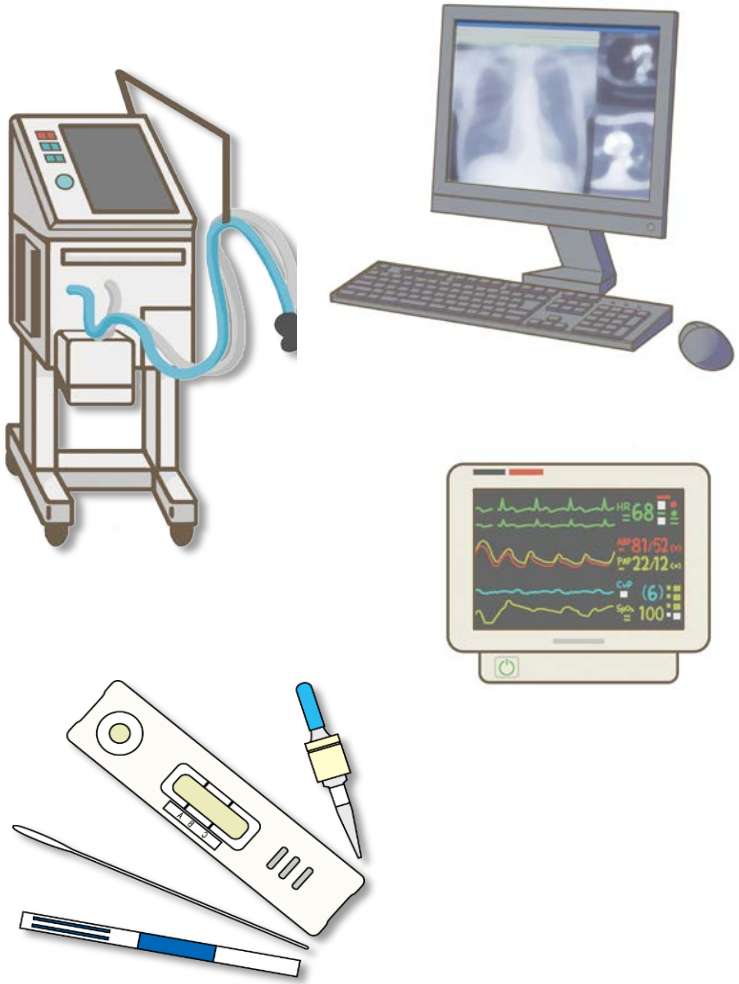
Approved Medical Devices and IVDs for COVID-19

Medical devices

- Ventilators
- Heart-lung bypass systems
- Software for diagnostic imaging system workstation
- Software for central monitor and program
- Syringes with needle, etc.

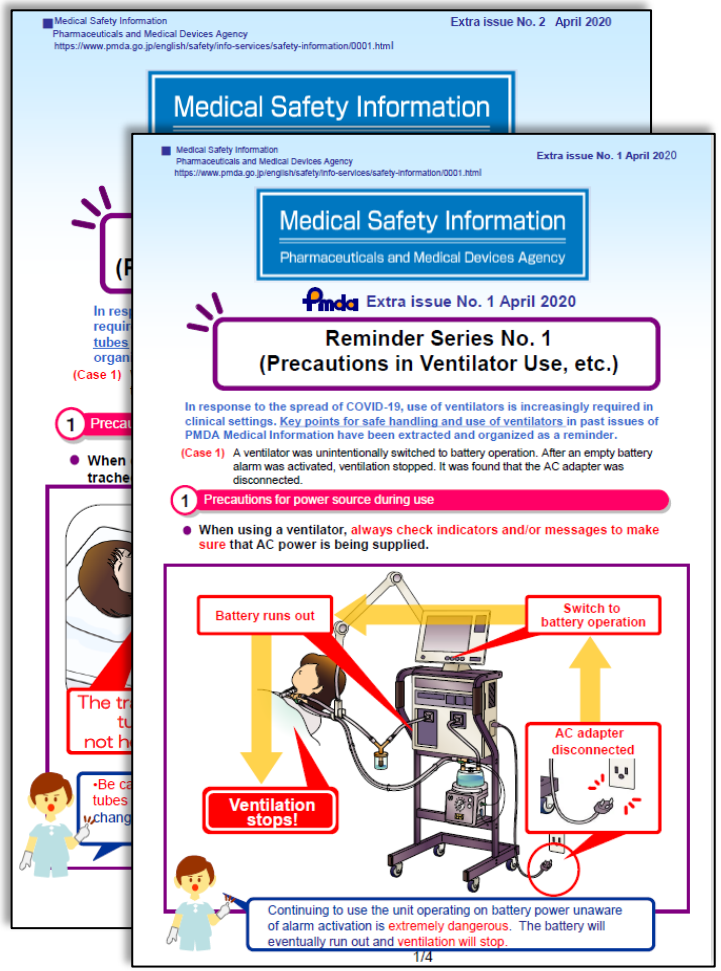
IVDs

- SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid kits
- SARS-CoV-2 antigen kits, etc.



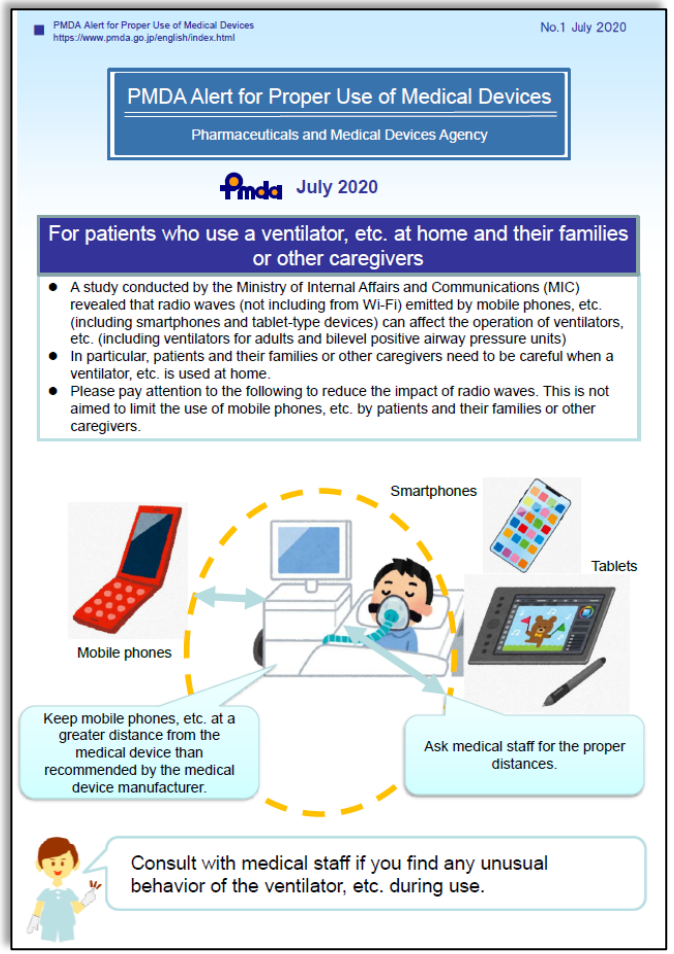
Safety Measures *(ventilators and tracheal tubes)*

For healthcare professionals



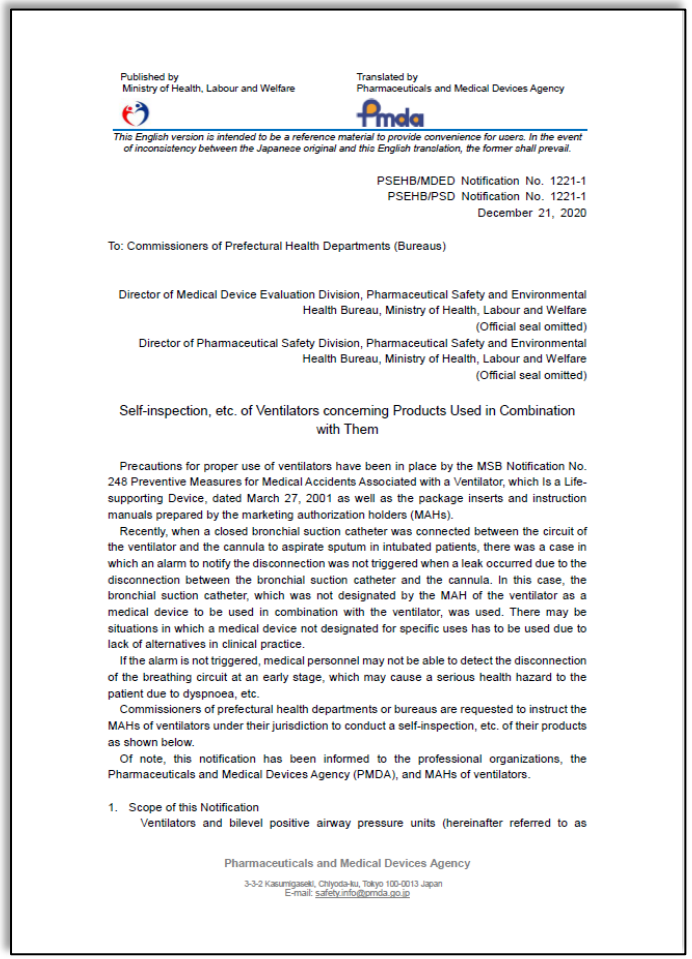
https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/safety/info-services/safety-information/0001.html

For patients and families of home medical care



https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/safety/info-services/devices/0008.html

Notification for Self-inspection



https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/safety/info-services/devices/0010.html

Summary

- Situation of COVID-19 in Japan is still serious, but vaccination has been started and related pharmaceutical products are approved promptly with regulatory flexibility and agility.
- The most of our efforts are published in English on PMDA Website for transparency.
- Working with world to combat COVID-19 through ICMRA activities, etc.
- Post marketing safety measures of related products have been taken promptly and accurately such as PMDA Safety Information etc. for ventilators and tracheal tubes.

Thank you!