

Reported food allergies on rise among students in Japan



1) Students with food allergies among public elementary, junior high and high school students have doubled in nine years, according to a survey by the education ministry.

2) The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology announced Dec. 16 that 4.5 percent or approximately 454,000 public elementary, junior high and high school students claim to have food allergies today, compared to 2.6 percent or approximately 330,000 students nine years ago.

3) While measures to prevent **accidental ingestion** are being implemented in some municipalities, some 6 percent of public

elementary and junior high schools have seen cases in which students have mistakenly eaten foods they are allergic to, highlighting an overall lack of understanding of and delayed response to food allergies among schools, parents and doctors.

4) Of the approximately 454,000 students claiming to have food allergies, only about 2 percent were found to have received doctors' diagnoses, and the remaining majority of allergy cases were reported by students' parents, **giving rise to** suspicions that some students may not have actual allergies.

5) At a meeting of experts held Dec. 16, Takanori Imai, a lecturer at Showa University of Medicine, suggested that such self-reporting of food allergies not backed by medical professionals could lead to students who actually require protection **slipping through the cracks**, and called on schools to require doctors' diagnoses.

6) Meanwhile, Mariko Sonobe, head of the non-profit organization Allergy wo kangaeru hahanokai (Group of mothers who think about allergies), said that there was room for improvement among doctors as well, as some parents were known to have their children carry around **epipens** -- a device used to deliver **epinephrine** to ease allergic reactions -- without having been taught how to use them properly by doctors.

7) A sample survey of 2 percent or 579 elementary and junior high schools found 40 cases of students mistakenly eating food they had allergies to, with the most common cause -- in 12 cases -- being **contamination** at the time the food is served.

8) An elementary school in the Tokyo city of Chofu where a fifth grade girl died from eating a school lunch with food she was allergic to on Dec. 20 last year began instituting measures such as employing color-coded trays and dishware starting in the second semester of the current academic year. As the one-year anniversary of the incident approaches, her mother called on schools and parents to work toward preventing such accidents from happening again by sharing information on such cases.

[12/17/2013/Mainichi Japan]

3) accidental ingestion 誤飲 4) give rise to ~を(引き)起こす、~を生じさせる 5) slip through the cracks 見過ごされる 6) epipens エピペン ◆ エピネフリン・ペン/ epinephrine エピネフリン (= アドレナリン) 7) contamination 混成、混入

★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. Do you know about the news in paragraph #8? How did you feel when you heard about it?

2. What do you think are the reasons behind the increase of the cases of kids with allergies?

3. What are those images of food all about? How do you call those food in English?

4. Do you have food allergies? What food are you allergic to?

Do you know anyone who has the food allergy?

5. What do you think can parents and school do to protect kids with food allergies?

6. In Japan, school lunch are served in public elementary schools.

What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of such program?

7. Except for food allergy, do you know any other forms or types of allergies?

How do people protect themselves from allergy attack?

8. Make sentences using following words; allergic to, ingestion, give rise to, highlight, slip through, contaminate, diagnose, institute and approximately.

今回の調査は、2012年12月、東京都調布市の小学校で、食物アレルギーのある女子児童が給食のチーズ入り韓国風お好み焼きをおかわりしてアナフィラキシー症状を起こし、後亡くなった事故を受けて、文部科学省が行いました。食物アレルギーがある子供や、アナフィラキシー症状の経験の子供の数は、前回2004年の調査に比べて増加していることが分りました。アレルギーのある児童の約6割は、原因食材を取り除いた給食を提供されており、3割は、献立表の原材料表示を参考に原因食材を自分で取り除いて食べないようにしており、1割は弁当を持参しているそうです。文科省担当者は、実際の患者増加に加え、アレルギー問題に敏感な風潮も反映されているのではないかと述べています。