

URGENT QUEENSLAND HEALTH PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Topic: Enquiries relating to concerns regarding radiation arising from nuclear incidents in Japan

Alert No: 1

Date 17 March 2011

Time 8:45

There is no risk to people currently living in Australia due to this incident.

Persons who have been resident in Japan for the duration of the incidents may be concerned about the possibility of being exposed to radiation as a result of the reported incidents involving the nuclear power reactors in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) reports that, although unlikely, there is a small chance of exposure to radiation, at very low levels, for people who were in the Fukushima area and an isolated area near Onagawa prior to noon on 15 March 2011. The health effects from exposure at these low levels are considered very low to negligible.

ARPANSA advice as at 16th March 2011 is that since the winds are presently blowing off shore from the Fukushima area, people in that area, and other parts of Japan are extremely unlikely to be contaminated and the health risks are negligible.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) continues to closely monitor the situation as it evolves. The most up to date information on the situation and health risks may be found on the ARPANSA website - <http://www.arpansa.gov.au>.

Persons who are concerned should be directed to 13HEALTH in the first instance or to the ARPANSA website.

If individuals who have been in Japan during this period, and are still concerned, 13Health will refer them to the Radiation Health Unit of Queensland Health's Environmental Health Branch.

If you have any queries regarding this information sheet please contact the Radiation Health Unit on

Mobile: 042 902 1204

Dr Jeannette Young
Chief Health Officer
17 March 2011

