

About Radiation

The radiation levels in Minamisoma are decreasing due to natural phenomena such as decontamination, rain, and wind, but the citizens' anxiety is still high.

The city will continue to monitor radiation levels and will hold lectures and consultation groups to provide correct information about radiation. Please feel free to apply and join if you want to hear from experts in these discussion groups.

Where to apply: Health Promotion Division, Radiation Health Section 0244-44-2121

We will also be able to provide a radiation level measuring device called "D-Shuttle." So if you are interested, please contact us at the above number.

FAQ

Q Is there a difference in the effect on the human body between artificial/man-made radiation and natural radiation?

A The kinds of radioactive substances that were released in the accident include artificial/man-made radioactive substances such as cesium and natural radioactive substances that exist in nature such as potassium and carbon. Both are the same in terms of emitting radiation, so the difference between artificial/man-made and natural radiation does not change the effect on the human body. What causes the biggest problem in regards to effects on the human body is the level of radiation.

Q I buy mineral water and drink it, but is tap water okay?

A The city ensures that the tap water provided is safe by using a treatment process. In addition, the city measures the amount of radioactive substances three times a week, and no radioactive cesium has been detected during the measurements. The tap water is safe to drink and use.

Q I use well water, but is it safe?

A It is known that radioactive cesium is easily absorbed into particles of soil, and the absorbed cesium remains on the surface layer of the soil. The city also tests well water and most well water does not contain any radioactive substances. However, if the water becomes cloudy, there may have been contamination with cesium being absorbed into the soil, so be careful. If you are worried, we recommend you get your well water tested.

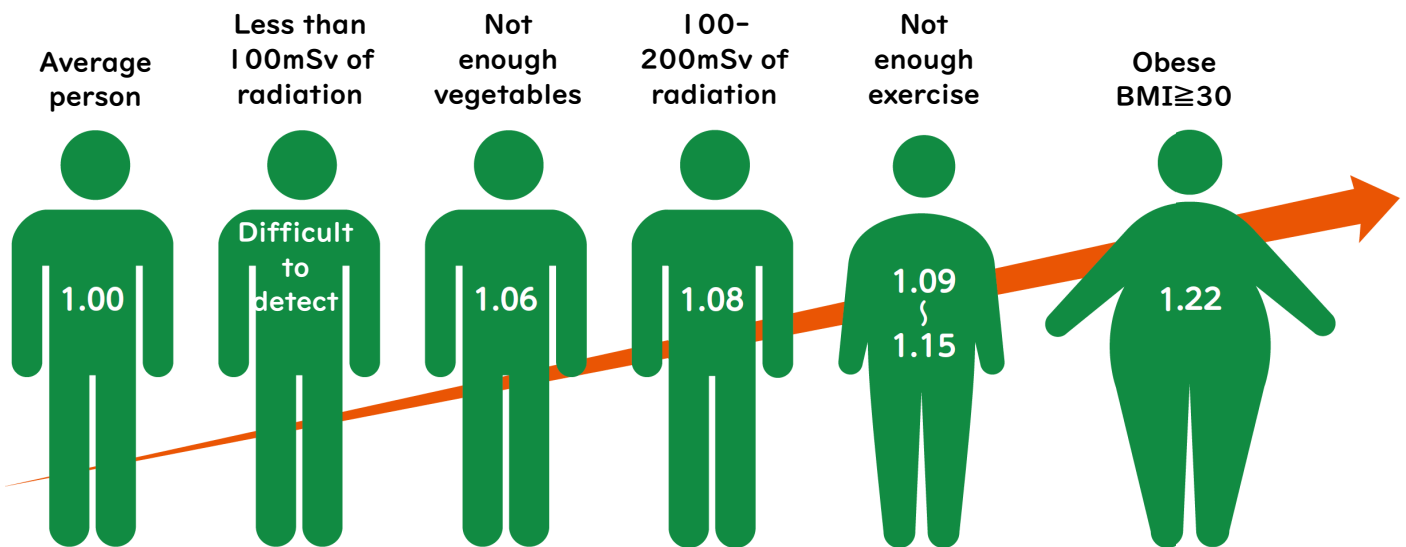
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Q The food you buy in stores doesn't have any specified radiation dosages on it. Is it safe to eat?

A Foods sold at supermarkets and shops are products that have been tested for radioactive substances. Foods in circulation meet safety standards and are safe to eat.

Q How much does radiation have on health compared to other factors?

A If the average person started out with a cancer risk of 1.00, then not eating enough vegetables would boost the risk up to 1.06, exposure to 100-200mSv would boost it up to 1.08, lack of exercise would be 1.09 to 1.15, and obesity would be 1.22. Compared to normal lifestyle-related risks, the health risk from radiation is not particularly high. (See graph below for visual example). (Source: National Cancer Center)



Q Why do monitoring post numbers fluctuate?

A There are two possible factors in the fluctuation of the numerical value of the monitoring posts. One is the change in weather conditions. For example, when it rains, natural radioactive substances adhere to dust in the air and stay on the ground, so the amount of radiation detected temporarily increases, and when the rain stops, it returns to its original state. The second is that the radiation itself has statistical fluctuations. Even if it is measured multiple times under the same conditions, the value will fluctuate within a certain range.