



June 17, 2020

MicroBiopharm Japan Co., Ltd's Response to the Novel Coronavirus Infection

In accordance with its mission of “Contribute to healthcare by applying the natural power of microorganisms to meet the needs of pharmaceutical manufacturing around the world”, MicroBiopharm Japan Co., Ltd. (“MBJ”, Head office: Tokyo, President and CEO: Akito Umeda) is responding to the novel coronavirus infection through such activities as supporting the development of novel coronavirus treatments, providing a stable supply of pharmaceutical ingredient (APIs) in various different countries, and ensuring employee safety.

1. Contribution to the development of treatments

In collaboration with a leading Japanese pharmaceutical company, Eisai Co., Ltd. (Eisai), MBJ has prepared a unique collection of natural compounds, isolated from MBJ's microbial library.

Eisai is the only Japanese company participating in the activity for research and development of new medicine in a consortium of life science companies entitled “COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator”, which was founded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, and MasterCard to accelerate the development of medicines, vaccines and diagnostic techniques in the fight against COVID-19.

A part of natural compounds set that originated in MBJ's microorganisms was provided by Eisai to the Scripps Institute to be screened for antiviral compounds effective against COVID-19.

2. Stable supply of our products

MBJ maintains the necessary stocks for the stable supply of our products.

Thanks to the strong support of our stakeholders, nothing critical has happened to our business due to COVID-19, but we would like to ask for your continued cooperation in order to maintain a stable supply of our products.



3. Efforts for the prevention of spread of infection

MBJ is taking all possible actions at its facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In response to the declaration of a state of emergency, MBJ is encouraging the growth of a working-from-home culture where possible, and continues to urge employees who must go to the office to only commute during off-peak hours and avoid the “3Cs” (closed spaces with insufficient ventilation, crowded conditions with lots of people, and conversations conducted at a short distance). MBJ will continue to pay close attention to the changes in the number of infected persons and administrative trends, and will strive to respond appropriately and in a timely manner.

* Scripps Research Institute (US)

The world's largest non-profit research institute located in California, USA. It is said to have an especially strong influence in research in the field of chemistry, including the pharmaceutical field. Its drug development division, Calibr, collaborates with the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator consortium to develop drug treatments for COVID-19.