

# Radiation in Japan food poses “low risk”

With some fallout found in an increasing number of foods, the Japanese government is taking steps to stop contaminated products from reaching consumers. International scientists say the risk from food in Japan so far is low, especially outside the Fukushima plant disaster zone

## RADIATION LEVELS BY PREFECTURE

Data for March 22 in microsieverts ( $\mu\text{Sv}$ ) per hour

- Radiation within normal values
- Radiation higher than normal
- No data



Area of Detail



PACIFIC OCEAN

Sea of Japan  
(East Sea)



### Radiation exposure

At sea level, normal radiation is  $0.03 \mu\text{Sv}$  per hour, equal to  $2,400 \mu\text{Sv}$  per year. Chest X-ray is  $20 \mu\text{Sv}$  and transatlantic flight  $30 \mu\text{Sv}$

▶  $100,000 \mu\text{Sv}$  per year is lowest level at which increased cancer risk becomes evident. Fatal dose is 7 million  $\mu\text{Sv}$

20km evacuation zone

### Fukushima Daiichi plant

20-30km stay-indoors zone

▶ IAEA data shows radiation levels of  $161 \mu\text{Sv}$  per hour 20km from plant – 1,600 times higher than normal

▶ Radiation levels higher in sea water samples near plant:  
**Iodine** 126.7 times normal  
**Caesium** 24.8 times normal (Tokyo Electric Power data)

▶ WHO says contamination is more serious than expected. Radioactive traces found in tap water in nine prefectures. Sales of milk and spinach halted from areas near plant

Yamagata  
0.100

Aomori  
0.022

Akita  
0.036

Iwate  
0.035

Miyagi

Sendai

Niigata  
0.046

**JAPAN**  
Fukushima

Nagano  
0.057

Gunma  
0.115

Tochigi  
0.147

Ibaraki  
0.327

Saitama  
0.126

Chiba  
0.098

Tokyo  
0.141

Shizuoka  
0.066

Kanagawa  
0.110

Yamanashi  
0.061

100km  
60 miles