

広報ひこね（英語版）

# Community Newsletter *KOHO HIKONE*



## September 2025

- Road Closures and Traffic Control (P. 2)
- National Census (P. 3)
- Be Kind to Animals Week (P. 6)
- 79th National Sports Festival of Japan (P. 7)
- Human Rights Seminar and Festival (P. 7)



**[Official Hikone Website] [New Facebook Page!]**

Contact Info	Telephone Number
Hikone City Hall	0749-22-1411 (Switch Board)
Human Rights Policy Division (To Speak to Our English Interpreter, Please Call the Number on the Right.)	0749-30-6113
FACEBOOK	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng">http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng</a>

**You can talk to our English interpreter via phone at the given number above or in person at the Hikone city hall.**

**This English Version of *Koho Hikone* Is Issued Monthly.**

### This Foreign-Language Community Newsletter Is Available At:

- Hikone Fukushi Centre
- Hikone Bunka Plaza
- Hikone City Library
- Hikone City Hall (1F)
- AEON TOWN Hikone
- Nakachiku Kominkan
- Shiga Bank (Ohyabu Branch)
- “Gyomuyou Super” (Toga-cho)
- Beisia Hikone
- Inae-chiku Kominkan
- Mega Center TRAIAL Hikone
- Mega Don Quijote Toyosato
- Don Quijote Hikone
- Hikone City Hospital

## Interpreting Services (Available in English, Portuguese, Chinese, and Vietnamese)

### Onsite Foreign-Language Interpreting Services Are Available At The Hikone City Hall!

Please say “*eigo tsuuyaku onegai shimasu*” at the information desk of the city hall.

“えいご つうやく おねがいします”

City Hall Operating Schedule: Weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

\*Please note that the availability of our English interpreter is subject to change.



**\*Please Contact Each School Before You Attend.**

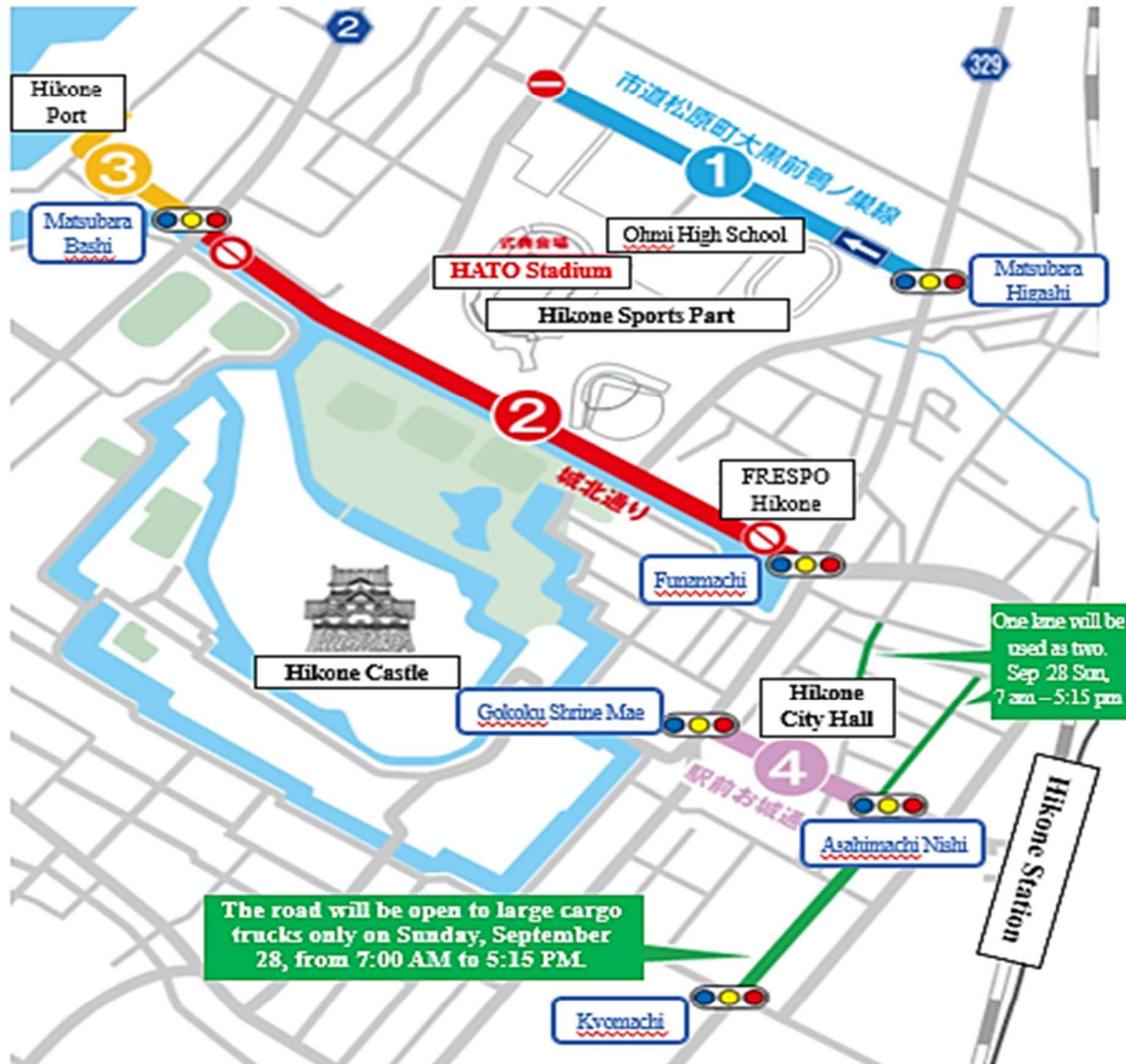
## Japanese Language Classes in Hikone



Day	Time	Location	Organization Name	Cost
Saturday	2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Naka-chiku Community Center (Oyabu-cho, 2610)	Hikone Kokusai Kouryu-kai VOICE Katsurada-San Tel: 090-5156-6916	100 yen per lesson
Monday to Friday *Closed on holidays	① 9:30 AM to 10:50 AM ② 11:00 AM to 12:20 PM ③ 1:30 PM to 2:50 PM ④ 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM ⑤ Online Classes	Innovation Office Nayashichi (Shiro-machi 1-7-16)	SMILE Mizuno-San Tel: 070-5661-7345	200 yen per lesson
1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Higashi-chiku Community Center (Daito-cho 1-26)	Hikone UNESCO Association, Japanese Language Class “JUMP” Learning Japanese as a foreign language educational support for children Tel: 090-2384-9760	Free

## Public Notices & Information

# Road Closures and Traffic Control Notice – National Sports Festival



		Sep 28 (Sun)	Oct 8 (Wed)	Oct 25 (Sat)	Oct 26 (Sun)	Oct 27 (Mon)
①	One Way	6:00~21:00	6:00~15:00	5:00~21:00	6:30~10:00 16:00~21:00	5:00~21:00
	No Parking				6:30~21:00	
②	No Regular Vehicles	9:00~21:00	—	5:00~15:00	—	9:00~21:00
③	No Parking	The Day Before 17:00~21:00	The Day Before 17:00~15:00	5:00 PM Fri, Oct 24 – 9:00 PM Mon, Oct 27.		
④	Pedestrian Only	7:00~17:15				

**The original Japanese version was created and distributed by Shiga Prefecture.**

**Contact Information:**

**Wata Shiga Kagayaku Koku Spo · Sho Spo Committee, Tel 077-528-3285**

**\*In case of discrepancies, the Japanese version prevails.**

## **Temporary Closure of Hikone City Library**

Due to the up-coming National Sports Festival of Japan, the Hikone City library is scheduled to be closed on the following days.

### **[September Closures]**

1<sup>st</sup> (Mon), 8<sup>th</sup> (Mon), 15<sup>th</sup> (Mon), 22<sup>nd</sup> (Mon), 23<sup>rd</sup> (Tue), 25<sup>th</sup> (Thu) until 30<sup>th</sup> (Tue)

### **[October Closures]**

1<sup>st</sup> (Wed) until 13<sup>th</sup> (Mon), 18 (Sat), 20<sup>th</sup> (Mon), 24 (Fri) until 27 (Mon)

**Contact Information: Hikone City Library, Tel. 0749-22-0649**

## **Temporary Halt of Government-issued Certificate Service at Convenient Stores**

Date and Time: September 6 (Sat), 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

**Contact Information: Hikone Life Service Division, Tel: 0749-30-6111**

## **National Census!**

The Japanese government conducts a statistical survey targeting all residents in Japan—regardless of nationality—once every five years. The purpose of this nationwide survey, known as the national census, is to collect detailed information about the population and their demographics.

This year's national census is scheduled to be conducted on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

Please note that census takers will visit each household and provide you with a census questionnaire in September.

In case you are not at home when they visit your place, they will leave the questionnaire in your mail box.

### **[Steps to Answer The Census Questionnaire Online]**

1. Scan the QR code printed on the questionnaire to access the online questionnaire platform.

\*No log-in ID or access pin is needed.

2. Start answering each question until the last.

\*It should take 5 to 10 minutes to complete it.

3. Set your own password.

4. Push the “送信 (Send)” button.

\*If you complete the census questionnaire online, you do not have to answer and submit the paper one.

### **[Response Period]**


• Online: September 20 (Sat) – October 8 (Wed)

• By Post: October 1 (Wed) – October 8 (Wed)

**Contact Information: Hikone Planning Division, Tel. 0749-30-6105**

## **FY 2026 Applications for Private Kindergartens Open (Group 1)**

\*Please directly contact each kindergarten if you have any questions.

Name	Capacity	Application Period	Contact Information
ABC English Preschool	3 yrs. old: Around 5	Open until September 30 (Tue)	Tel: 0749-23-2000
St. Joseph Kodomo-en	3 yrs. old: Around 20	October 8 (Wed) and 9 (Thu) 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM [Information Sessions] September 27 (Sat) and October 4 (Sat) at 9:00 AM *Please make a reservation.	Tel: 0749-22-5376
Kodomo-en Hikarinomori	3 yrs. old: Around 5	October 1 (Wed) to 17 (Fri) 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM *Closed on weekends and holidays	Tel: 0749-47-3237
Kinjo Kodomo-en	3 yrs. old: 20 4 yrs. old: 10 5 yrs. old: 3	October 20 (Mon) to 31 (Fri) 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM *Please contact the kindergarten before submitting your application.	Tel: 0749-47-3615 
Midori Kindergarten	3 yrs. old: 35 4 & 5 yrs. old: a few	November 10 (Mon) to 15 (Sat), 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM *Open until 12:00 on the 15 <sup>th</sup> .	Tel: 0749-25-2066

## **FY 2026 Application for Toriimoto Gakuen Begins**

Toriimoto Gakuen is a combined elementary and junior-high school.

The school is scheduled to open their enrollment application as stated below.

### [Eligibility Criteria]

Children who reside in Hikone and will be 1<sup>st</sup> grade (elementary) or 7<sup>th</sup> grade (junior-high) students in April, 2026.

### [Capacity]

Around 20 students for each elementary and junior-high school

### [Application Period]

December 3, Wednesday, 2025 until January 22, Thursday, 2026

- School Tours: September 17 (Wed), 18 (Thu), 19 (Fri)
- Information Session: September 19 (Fri) 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

**Contact Information: Hikone School Education Division, Tel. 0749-24-7973**

## **Sunday Opening of Hikone City Hall for My Number Card Procedures**

Date and Time: October 11 (Sat), 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Hikone City Hall, 1F

**Contact Information: Hikone Life Service Division, Tel: 0749-30-6151**

## **Saturday Bulky Waste and Small Appliances Collection**

Date and Time: September 20, Saturday, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Hikone Seiso Center

### **[Important Notes]**

- Do not wait in a car outside of the center before it opens on this day.
- You will be asked to show your identification to prove that you are a resident of Hikone.
- Bulky waste and small appliances only will be accepted. Any other type of garbage will not be collected on the day.
- You will be charged for disposing of bulky waste.
- Small appliances smaller than one meter in height, width, and depth will be collected for free.
- TVs, air conditioners, fridges, freezers, washing machines, and clothes dryers are subject to Japan's Recycling Act. For this, these appliances cannot be collected and disposed of at the Hikone Seiso Center.

**Contact Information: Hikone Seiso Center, Tel. 0749-22-2734**

## **Tips for Reducing and Recycling Waste**

Aluminum, steel and other metals are used in many products we consume in everyday life.

Do you know how they should be disposed of safely and properly for recycling?

The following provides helpful information for the safe and proper disposal of metal waste.

- Pans, Kettles, Frying Pans:

Even if handles are made of plastic or wood, dispose of them as tin and metal waste.

- Pop Tabs:

You do not need to remove them from cans before disposing of the cans as tin and metal waste.

- Cooking Knives, Scissors, and Other Similar Sharp Metal Waste:

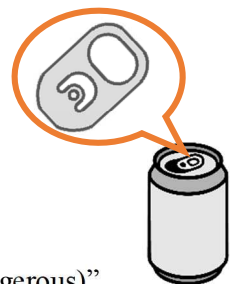
Wrap blades and sharp parts in layers of newspaper or thick paper, and clearly write “キケン! (Dangerous)” in red or another bright color before disposing of them as landfill.

- Metal Buckets:

Small metal buckets must be disposed of tin and metal waste, while large metal buckets must be disposed of as landfill.

- Spray Cans:

Be sure to empty the cans first. Then remove plastic parts, and dispose of the cans as tin and metal waste.



### **[The Following Items Must Be Disposed of as Landfill]**

- Metal spoons and forks
- Screwdrivers, hammers, and other construction tools
- Nails, screws and other metal fittings
- Disposable aluminum foil pots and aluminum foil
- Can lids and crown caps

## **Health Check-ups for New Elementary School Students**

Health check-ups will be conducted for children who will start elementary school as first graders from April, 2026.

Parents/guardians of children who were born from April 2, 2019 until April 1, 2020 will receive a reminder, a medical questionnaire, and other documents related to this health check in early October.

Please contact the relevant division of Hikone Board of Education if you do not receive anything related to your child's health check-up in early October.

**Contact Information: Hikone School Education Division, Tel. 0749-24-7973**

## **Be Kind to Animals Week: Sep 20 - 26**

- Be responsible for your pet's care throughout its life. Abusing or abandoning animals, or engaging in any inhumane acts toward them, is a serious crime.
- Pet noises, shedding, and waste can cause problems. Please ensure that your pets do not disturb your neighbors by taking good care of them.
- Refrain from feeding stray cats irresponsibly. Keep pet cats indoors, and be sure to spay or neuter them to prevent overpopulation.
- Please note that feeding wild animals irresponsibly can make them unable to survive on their own in nature. Do not feed wildlife simply out of sympathy.

**Contact Information: Living Life Environment Division, Tel 0749-30-6116**

## **Suicide Prevention Week: September 10 (Wed) to 16 (Tue)**

According to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, 20,320 is the number of people who took their own lives in 2024 across Japan. Men in their 40s and 50s accounted for the highest ratio in the 2024 suicide statistics, and many men in these age groups committed suicide due to health-related reasons.

The number of children who died by suicide stood at 529 in the same year, the highest number since the statistics began.

Suicide committed by minors under 18 years old tends to increase after each long school break.

If you notice that someone behaves differently, please ask how things have been for them.

[Suicide Prevention Hotlines]

- Kokorono Nayami Sodan: Tel. 0749-27-9981
- Shiga Inochino Denwa – Tel: 077-553-7387
- Yorisoi Hotline (in English) – Tel: 0120-279-338

# Upcoming Events & Fun News

## The 79<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival of Japan!

The annual national sports competition, in which qualifying athletes represent their respective prefectures, will be held in Shiga as shown below.

Please note that the main venue for this year's opening and closing ceremonies will be Hikone HATO Stadium.

**"Traffic control"** will be in place around venues in Hikone and other cities across Shiga, so we ask that you stay informed about road conditions during the festival period.



**Date: September 28, Sunday until October 8, Wednesday**

**Contact Information: Hikone Koku Supo and Sho Supo General Affairs Division, Tel. 0749-30-6141**

## Events for the Up-coming National Sports Festival

- Hikone Pre-festival Night

Date: September 27, Saturday, 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Venue: Front Parking Lot of Hikone City Hall

- Hikone Sta. Welcome Street Festival

Date: September 28, Sunday, 11:15 AM – 3:15 PM

## Hikone Eco-Market "Yumebatake"

Hikone Eco-Market is a flea market where household items that are no longer needed will be displayed for sale. Please note that the market will be canceled in case of rain or severe weather.

Date and Time: September 28 (Sun): 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Venue: Ohtemae Dani-2 Ho

## Hikone Morning Market

September 21 (Sun) 8:00 AM – Noon

Location: Osue-Cho, Gokoku Shrine

With a focus on three key elements — 'Food Safety,' 'Local Production for Local Consumption,' and 'Handmade' — the Hikone Morning Market offers locally grown produce, tofu, fresh fish dishes, handmade accessories, and more!

## Human Rights Seminar and Festival: Sep 20<sup>th</sup>

[Seminar Details]

Theme: The Future of Disaster Prevention and Multicultural Coexistence

Seminar Speaker: Taro Tamura (Diversity Institution)

[Festival Details]

- Performance by Inae Boys and Girls Choir
- Special Booth for the Upcoming National Sports Festival
- Appearance of Hikonyan

Date: September 20 (Sat), 1:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Venue: Mizuho Bunka Center

Important Points: • Please apply to participate in the seminar by email, by post, by phone, in person, or online.  
• If you need sign language support or wish to use a temporary childcare service, please contact the division in charge by September 12 (Fri).



**Contact Information: Hikone Human Rights Division, Tel. 0749-30-6115,**

**Email. [jinken@ma.city.hikone.shiga.jp](mailto:jinken@ma.city.hikone.shiga.jp),**

**Address. 522-8501, Hikone, Moto-machi, 4-2**

## Hikone Castle Illuminations

- Gold Light-up: September 7 (Sun) to 9 (Tue) from Sunset until 10:00 PM  
Gold is designated as the color for childhood cancer awareness.



- Orange Light-up: September 19 (Fri) to 21 (Sun) from Sunset until 10:00 PM  
Orange is the symbolic color for raising dementia awareness.



## Consultation Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
<b>Legal Consultation</b>	September 26 (Fri) 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per 30-minute consultation *Reservations available from Sep 17.	Hikone Community Development Promotion Division	0749-30-6117
<b><i>Akiya Bank</i> (Vacant House) Telephone Consultation</b>	Mon – Fri 10:00 – 18:00	<i>Akiya Bank</i> Office	0749-23-2123
<b>Consultation for Recovery from Cancer</b>	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 16:00 *Priority given to people who have an appointment.	Municipal Hospital Cancer Support Center	0749-22-6050
<b>Consultation for Working During Cancer Treatment</b>	Support for Finding a Job September 3 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. Support for Continuing to Work September 17 (Wed), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only.		
<b>Child Development (Disability) Consultation</b>	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15 *Offered by reservation only.	Development Support Division (Hirata-cho)	0749-26-8282
<b>Language Development Consultation</b>	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15 *Offered by reservation only.		
<b>Consumer Affairs Consultation</b>	Mon – Fri ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:15	Hikone Consumer Affairs Center	0749-30-6144
<b>Traffic Accident Consultation</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 – 12:00, 1:00 – 4:00	Koto Government Joint Complex	0749-27-2230

# Health and Wellness Information

Hikone Health Promotion Div. Tel: 0749-24-0816, Fax: 0749-24-5870

## October Health Check-ups for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers

Location: Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho)

Starting with health check-ups for infants and young children from April 2024, you are required to make an appointment in advance via the mobile app “母子モ (Boshi Mo).” If you come to the Kusunoki Center for your child’s check-up without an appointment, you may be asked to return after making one.



October

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	15 (Wed)	Children born between 2024 November 16 and 30
	28 (Tue)	Children born between 2024 December 1 and 15
1 and ½ years olds	17 (Fri)	Children born in 2024 March.
2 and ½ years olds	16 (Thu)	Children born in 2023 March.
	30 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	27 (Mon)	Children born in 2022 March.

**Contact Info: Hikone Health Promotion Division, Tel. 0749-24-3931**

## Free HPV Vaccine

Eligibility: Those who meet either Criterion 1 or Criterion 2

- Born between April 2, 1997 and April 1, 2009.
- Born between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2025 and have not completed the HPV vaccine series.

Available Period: March 31, Tuesday, 2026

**Contact Information: Hikone Health Promotion Division, Tel. 0749-24-0816**