

広報ひこね（英語版）

# Community Newsletter *KOHO HIKONE*



## December 2025

- Public Services during the Holidays (P. 2)
- Dental Clinic Services During the Holidays (P. 2)
- Help the City Remove Snow (P. 3)
- Winter Children's Multicultural Club (P. 5)
- Beware of Noro Virus! (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 by phone at the given number above or in person at Hikone City Hall.**

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

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

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

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

### Onsite Foreign-Language Interpreting Services Are Available At 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 Attending.** 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)	<u>*This class is available for children only!</u> 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

## **Schedule of Public Services during the Year-End and New Year Holidays**

Please note that from Dec 27 (Sat) through Jan 4 (Sun), the city hall is scheduled to be closed.  
However, the following public services will be available as follows.

### **[Garbage Collection Services]**

Available on December 29 (Mon) and 30 (Tue). \*Please check your district's garbage collection calendar.

### **[Hikone Incineration Plant] Tel: 0749-22-2734**

- Large-Sized Waste Collection: December 29 (Mon) and 30 (Tue), 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Hikone Bunka Plaza's Parking Lot
- Burnable and Recyclable Waste: December 29 (Mon) and 30 (Tue), 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the Hikone Seiso Center

### **[Shiunen Crematorium] Tel: 0749-48-1318**

Open from Dec 27 (Sat) to Jan 4 (Sun), excluding Jan 1 (Wed).

### **[Water and Sewer Customer Services Center] Tel: 0749-27-2802**

Open from Dec 27 (Sat) to 31 (Wed) and on Jan 4 (Sun), 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

### **[Hikone Urgent Care Center] Tel: 0749-22-1119**

Open from December 28 (Sun) to January 4 (Sun), 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

\*Reception begins at 9:00 AM.

\*Be sure to call the urgent care center beforehand.

\*Only internal medicine and pediatrics will be provided.

### **[Hikone Municipal Hospital] Tel: 0749-22-6050**

Open during this holiday period.

\*No testing for COVID or influenza.



### **[Night Soil Treatment]**

In addition to the already scheduled collections, the city's night soil treatment collections will take place on December 27 and January 12, if the collections cannot be operated on other days due to severe weather. For further information, please contact City Hall before the holiday period.

### **[Important Notes]**

- Be sure to check your garbage collection calendar when taking out the trash by following the City's trash disposal rules.
- Obtaining certain government-issued certificates at convenience stores using a My Number card will be unavailable from December 26 until January 4. Registering childbirth, death (the issuance of a cremation permit is available between 9:00 AM and 4:45 PM), divorce, etc. can still be processed at City Hall even during this holiday period.
- Bills for resident tax, national health insurance, night soil treatment, water and sewer services, and other obligations can be paid at banks designated by the city (please check each bank's holiday schedule). You may also use cashless payment apps such as PayPay, LINE Pay, au PAY, Pay B, and others on your smartphone for certain bills that include an eL-QR code.

## **Dental Clinic Services During the New Year and Year End Holidays**

### **[Important Points]**

\*The opening hours at each of the following clinics are from 9:00 AM until 3:30 PM

\*If you have any questions, please call the clinic directly during their operating hours.

\*Please call the clinic before you visit for dental care.

### **[Schedules]**

- December 30 (Tue): Fujimoto Dental Clinic (Taga-cho), Tel: 0749-48-1871
- December 31 (Wed): Taiyou Dental Clinic (Hirata-cho), Tel: 0749-24-8241
- January 1 (Thu): M Dental Office (Matsubara-cho), Tel: 0749-21-5212
- January 2 (Fri): Yamada Family Dental Clinic (Nose-cho), Tel: 0749-20-4393
- January 3 (Sat): Fumimura Dental Clinic (Minamikawase-cho), Tel: 0749-28-1182

## **Places Where Children Can Do Self-Study During Winter Break**

Locations: Hikone Welfare Center, Community Centers, Hikone Kokusai Koryu SALON, and more.

Opening Days:   • December 25 (Thu) and 26 (Fri)  
                      • January 5 (Mon) and 6 (Tue)

Opening Hours: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

\*Please visit the official Hikone City website or contact the division in charge at the following phone number to check other locations where children can do self-study.

**Contact Information: Hikone Children and Youth Division, Tel. 0749-49-2251**

## **My Number's Convenient Store Services for Government-Issued Certificates**

During the following maintenance periods, government-issued certificates cannot be issued at convenience stores using your My Number card.

- Dec 8 (Mon) 11:00 PM until 10 (Wed) 6:30 AM
- Dec 26 (Fri) 5:00 PM until Jan 4 (Sun) 6:30 AM
- Jan 12 (Mon) 11:00 PM until 27 (Tue) 6:30 AM

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

## **Human Rights Awareness Week: Dec 4 – 10**

To realize an equal society, it is indispensable for everyone to understand and respect human rights.

If you witness something concerning human rights, or if your own rights are violated, please call the number below.

- Human Rights Consultation in Foreign Languages: Tel. 0570-090-911
- Minnano Jinken 110: Tel. 0570-003-110
- Kodomono Jinken 110: Tel. 0120-007-110

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

## **Shiga Traffic Safety Campaign: Dec 1 – Dec 31**

As winter approaches, daylight hours become shorter. Drivers and cyclists are advised to turn on lights earlier during this time of year. Pedestrians are encouraged to wear bright-colored clothing and/or reflective gear.

It goes without saying that driving under the influence of alcohol is absolutely illegal.

**Contact Information: Hikone Traffic Policy Division: Tel. 0749-30-6134**

## **Please Help the City Remove Snow**

The City kindly asks residents to understand that, even though it makes every effort to clear snow from the roads, it is difficult to manage this work alone during the peak snow season due to limited time and manpower. For this reason, the City requests residents' cooperation in removing snow from residential roads. When removing snow from residential roads, do not pile it around fire hydrants or water storage tanks used for fire-extinguishing operations. If snow is piled around them, it takes extra time for firefighters to begin fire suppression, which may allow a fire to spread unnecessarily. While the City's Fire Department also removes snow, it may not be able to clear all hydrants and water storage tanks on its own. If you see any of them covered with snow, please remove it. In addition, when clearing snow off driveways or residential roads, you may place it into rivers or roadside drainage ditches, but not to the extent that it obstructs the flow of water.

**Contact Information:**

- **For General Snow Removal Operations: Hikone Construction Management Division, Tel. 0749-30-6121**
- **For Hydrants and Water Storage Tanks: Hikone Fire Department, Tel. 0749-22-0337**



## **Protect Water Pipes from the Cold of Winter!**

Here are some dos and don'ts to prevent residential water pipes during peak winter.

- Wrap towels around water pipes and taps, and cover them with a plastic bag.
- If water pipes are frozen, gently pour room-temperature water over the pipes.
- **DO NOT USE HOT WATER!** Pouring hot water over a frozen pipe can damage it or cause it to burst.
- If a water pipe bursts, shut off the water valve immediately.
- To check if there is no water leakage, please see the water meter's water flow indicator needle.  
If the needle spins or oscillates while not using water, it may indicate that there is a leak.

**Contact Information: Hikone Water and Sewerage Engineer Work Division, Tel. 0749-22-2648**  
**Water and Sewerage Customer Service Center, Tel. 0749-27-2802**

## **Home Heating Fire Prevention**

Heating equipment, particularly the use of halogen heaters, remains one of the leading causes of home fires each year. As we start using home heaters more frequently with winter fast approaching, please be aware of the following points to help prevent a fire:

### **[When using a kerosene heater]**

- Do not use gasoline or mix kerosene with gasoline for a kerosene heater.
- Keep anything that can catch fire, such as paper, clothes, etc., away from a heater.  
Avoid drying wet clothes near it, as this could start a fire.
- Let fresh air in from time to time while using a kerosene heater. Using a heater for a long period of time in an unventilated space is **a common source of carbon monoxide poisoning**.
- Be sure to secure a heater in case of a sudden jolt due to an earthquake, etc.
- If a chimney is attached to a heater, fasten it with wires and fittings.

### **[When pouring kerosene into a fuel tank]**

- Be sure to turn off the heater first and double-check that the flame is completely extinguished.
- If the fuel tank is a cartridge type, ensure that the lid is properly and tightly closed.

### **[When turning on/off a kerosene heater]**

- Adjust the flame, and check that the wick is burning properly.
- Never leave the heater burning while sleeping or when no one is at home.

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

With the New Year holidays approaching, it is a great time to declutter.

If you have unwanted toys at home, here are some practical tips on how to dispose of them in a responsible way.

### **[If toys are in good condition]**

- Sell them on flea market-style apps, websites, or at thrift shops.  
Example: “おいくら (Oikura)” — authorized by Hikone City.
- Give them to your friends or someone through online.  
Example: “ジモティー (Jimoty)” — authorized by Hikone City.



### **[If toys cannot be sold or given to anyone]**

- Larger than an 18-liter plastic tank – Dispose of as bulky waste.
- Made of wood or cloth – Dispose of as burnable waste.
- Made of plastic – Dispose of as landfill waste.
- Containing metal parts – Dispose of as landfill waste.
- Run on batteries – Remove batteries first, then dispose of as landfill waste.
- Rechargeable toys smaller than 1 meter (height, length, and width) – Dispose of as small home appliances.



## Upcoming Events & Fun News

### **Winter Children's Multicultural Club: Participants Wanted!**

The theme of this winter's Children's Multicultural Club is "Yummy and Fun! Holidays Around the World!."

Participating children will join a cooking activity and learn how holidays are celebrated around the world.

[Date and Time] December 25 (Thursday), 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

[Venue] Minami District Community Hall (1321-1, Kanro-cho, Hikone)

[Eligible Age Group] Elementary and junior-high school  
children residing in Hikone.

[Participation Fee] 400 yen per child

[Capacity] Up to 25 children

[How to Apply] Please scan the QR code and submit your application via Google Forms by December 10 (Wed).



**Contact Information: Hikone Human Rights Policy Division, Tel. 0749-30-6113**

### **Christmas Concert at Kodomo Center**

Please enjoy performances by the **Hikone Children's Choir** on December 7 (Sunday).

[Start Times]

- 1<sup>st</sup> Performance: 1:30 PM
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Performance: 3:00 PM

**Contact Information: Hikone Kodomo Center, Tel. 0749-28-3645**

### **Hikone Morning Market**

December 21 (Sun) 8:00 AM – Noon

Location: Osue-Cho, Gokoku Shrine

With the three key elements of 'Food Safety,' 'Local Production for Local Consumption,' and 'Handmade,' you can find and buy locally grown produce, tofu, fish dishes, handmade accessories, and more at the Hikone Morning Market!



# Consultation Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
<b>Legal Consultation</b>	December 26 (Fri) 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per person *Reservations available from Dec 17.	Hikone Community Development Promotion Division	0749-30-6117
<b>Akiya Bank (Vacant House) Telephone Consultation</b>	Mon – Fri 10:00 – 18:00	Akiya Bank 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] December 3 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. [Support for Continuing to Work] December 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>Traffic Control Consultation</b>	Tue · Thu ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:00	Koto Joint Government Building	0749-27-2230
<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>Human Rights Consultation for Foreigners</b>	9:00 – 17:00 on weekdays		0570-090-911
<b>Bullying Hotline</b>	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 17:00	School Support, Human Rights, and Anti-Bullying Division	0749-24-7977
<b>Consultation for Children and Adolescents (Social Withdrawal, Abuse, etc.)</b>	9:00 – 16:45 on weekdays	Hikone Children and Family Center “Hikomaru”	0749-26-0994
<b>Consultation for Women (Domestic Violence, etc.)</b>	9:00 – 16:45 on weekdays		0749-49-2251

# Health and Wellness Information

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

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

Location: Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho)

Starting in April 2024, appointments for health check-ups for infants and young children must be made in advance through the mobile app 'Boshi Mo (母子モ).' If you visit the Kusunoki Center without an appointment, you may be asked to return after making one.



January

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	14 (Wed)	Children born between 2025, Feb 21 and Mar 15.
1 and ½ years olds	16 (Fri)	Children born in 2024, June.
	23 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	15 (Thu)	Children born in 2023, June.
	22 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	19 (Mon)	Children born in 2022, June.
	26 (Mon)	

**Contact Info: Hikone Mother and Child Welfare Division, Tel. 0749-24-3931**

## World AIDS Day (December 1)

As part of this internationally recognized World AIDS Day, the Hikone Public Health Center offers free HIV testing for anyone who wishes to be tested anonymously.

Testing for syphilis, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C is also available at the center.

[Free Testing Schedule]

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of every month, 2:00 PM – 3:20 PM

\*On December 16 (Tue) only, 9:20 AM – 2:30 PM

Contact Information: Hikone Public Health Office, Tel. 0749-21-0283

\*You can remain anonymous to be tested for HIV.

**Contact Information: Hikone Public Health Office, Tel. 0749-21-0283**

## Beware of Noro Virus!

[Symptoms of Norovirus]

The incubation period of norovirus is 24 to 48 hours. Typical symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, and a mild fever, usually lasting a couple of days. Some people infected with norovirus may show no symptoms or only mild symptoms similar to a common cold.

[Precautions]

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and rinse well.
- Be sure to cook food thoroughly.
- When serving food, wear a mask and single-use gloves.
- Disinfect kitchen utensils and tableware.
- Wear a mask and disposable gloves when caring for someone who has norovirus.