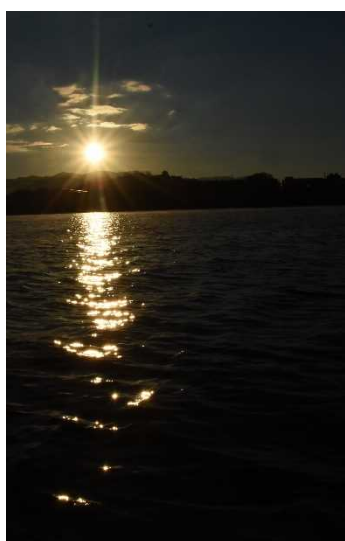


広報ひこね（英語版）

# Community Newsletter **KOHO HIKONE**



## January 2026

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**[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

## **Tax Return for Prefectural and Municipal Inhabitant Taxes**

The tax return season in Japan usually starts in mid-February and ends in mid-March. During this period, tax return sites can become quite busy. To minimize congestion and reduce wait times, the following sites will be open to accept prefectural and municipal inhabitant tax returns before the tax return season goes into full swing.

- Inae Branch Office of Hikone City Hall: January 30 (Fri), 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- Hikone City Hall: February 3 (Tue) to 6 (Fri), 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

### **[Notes]**

- Tax return submissions will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Depending on how crowded the sites become, acceptance of submissions may end earlier than scheduled.
- These tax return sites are available only to those whose address was registered in Hikone City as of January 1, 2026, and who are required to file prefectural and municipal inhabitant taxes.

### **[What to Submit along with a Tax Return Form]**

- Your 2025 withholding tax slip (called 'Gensen Choshu' in Japanese), or all of your 2025 pay slips.
- If you operate your own business, your income and expenditure statement.
- If you wish to claim tax deductions for medical expenses, life insurance premiums, earthquake insurance, dependents, etc., please prepare all necessary supporting documents.

### **[Support for Preparing a Tax Return Form] \*Available by reservation only.**

Date and Time: February 2 (Mon) – 6 (Fri), 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: 1F, Hikone City Hall



### **[Contact Information]**

- If you have any questions about topics such as a tax break for home mortgage loans, seniors with disabilities, etc., please contact the Hikone Tax Division at 0749-30-6140.

If any of the following conditions apply to your tax return, please visit the Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry (4th Floor) during the tax return period.

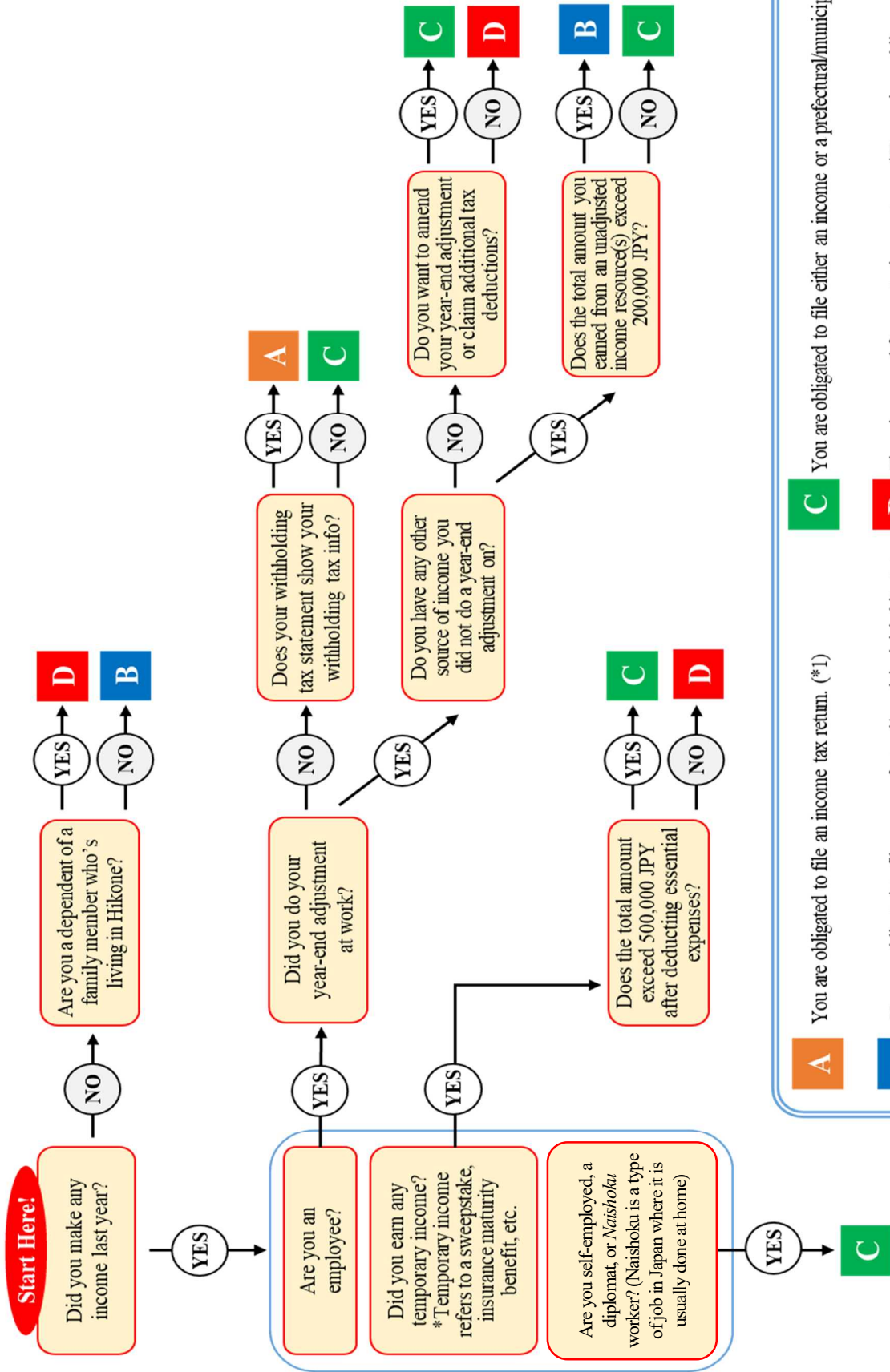
#### **If You:**

- Have capital gains (selling properties, investments, etc.)
- Want to claim a housing loan tax credit.
- Want to claim a tax deduction for retrofitting a home for earthquake resistance, accessibility, or energy efficiency.
- Do your taxes for your own business for the first time.
- Need a Blue-Sheet tax return form (called *Aoiro Shinsei* in Japanese) or need to report a large amount of business revenue.
- Have been required by the tax agency to file your own tax return.
- Need to file a tax return on behalf of someone who passed away recently.
- Want to file tax returns for previous years (up to 5 years retrospectively).
- Are a recipient of inherited pension payments.
- Want to claim a tax deduction for miscellaneous losses due to a natural disaster, etc.

**Contact Information: Tax Agency of Japan, Tel. 0570-00-5901**



# Do You Have To File A Tax Return For Your Prefectural/Municipal Inhabitant Taxes?



**A** You are obligated to file an income tax return. (\*1)

**C** You are obligated to file either an income or a prefectural/municipal inhabitant tax return. (\*2)

**B** You are obligated to file your prefectural/municipal inhabitant tax.

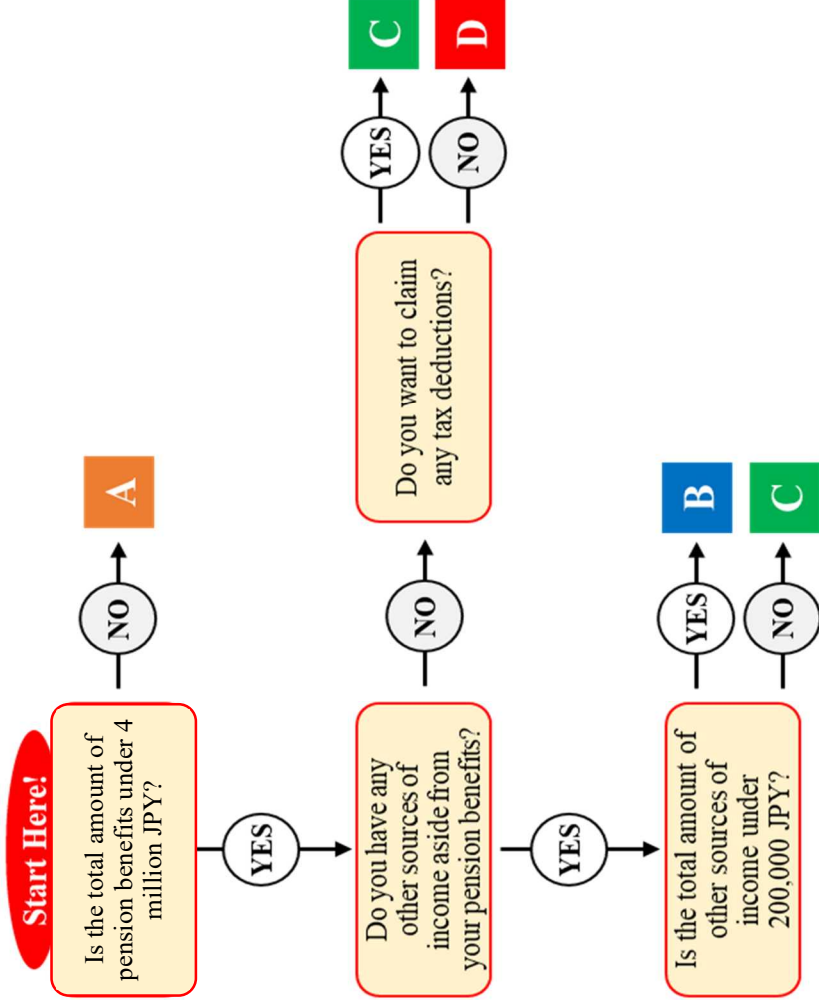
**D** There is no need for you to do your taxes. \*To receive public services, you may be required to do so.

\*1: Please be careful mixing up your gross income and net income.

\*2: Once you file your income tax return, there will be no need to file a prefectural inhabitant tax return.

# Do You Have To File A Tax Return For Your Prefectural/Municipal Inhabitant Taxes?

Note That This Flowchart Is For Pensioners!



- A** You are obligated to file an income tax return. (\*1)
- B** You are obligated to file your prefectural/municipal inhabitant tax.

- C** You are obligated to file either an income or a prefectural/municipal inhabitant tax return. (\*2)
- D** There is no need for you to do your taxes. \*To receive public services, you may be required to do so.

\*1: Please be careful mixing up your gross income and net income.

\*2: Once you file your income tax return, there will be no need to file a prefectural inhabitant tax return.

## **Tax Deduction Program for Seniors**

Those aged 65 years or older may be able to claim tax deductions on their municipal and prefectural inhabitant taxes if they can meet both the following criteria.

### **[Criteria]**

Those aged 65 years or older who:

- Reside in Hikone and their nursing care (grade 1 to 5) needs are recognized by the government.
- Have been formally diagnosed with greater-than-moderate dementia or require constant care due to physical inability to go out and perform daily activities alone.

### **[How to Apply]**

Please submit the designated application form, which is downloadable from the website of Hikone City.

If you submit the form by mail, instead of in person, please also include a photocopy of your nursing care certificate.

### **[Note]**

After submitting your application, you will receive the results from the city in a couple of weeks.

If your application is accepted, please visit the National Tax Agency office or Hikone Tax Division.

**Contact Information: Hikone Welfare Promotion Division for the Elderly, Tel: 0749-23-9660**

## **Vacancies at Hikone Affordable Housing Units (City-Run Apartments)**

- Hida Danchi: Room No. 6
- Daito Danchi: Block No. 1, Room No. 207 (suitable for a family)
- Higashinonami Danchi: Room No. 7 (suitable for a family)
- Serikawa Danchi: Block No. 1, Room No. 302 (suitable for a single-parent household)

### **[Eligibility]**

Eligibility criteria may vary depending on the applicant's circumstances.

Please visit the Hikone Housing Division for detailed information in advance.

### **[Application Period]**

January 19 (Mon) – January 30 (Fri)

### **[Application Method]**

Please submit the application form and all required documents in person at the relevant division.

This must be done by the applicant or a family member who will move into the city-run apartment together.

### **[Important Note]**

If your application is approved, you will be able to move into the apartment around late March.

**Contact Information: Hikone Housing Division, Tel. 0749-30-6123**

## **Hourly Minimum Wage**

[Minimum Hourly Wage in Shiga Prefecture as of October 5, 2025]

- 1,080 yen

[Minimum Hourly Wage by Industry Sector as of December 28, 2025].

- Ceramics, Stone and Clay Products: 1,099 yen
- General Machinery and Equipment: 1,114 yen
- Electrical Device/Equipment, Precision Device/Instrument: 1,105 yen
- Vehicles, Automobile Parts and Accessories: 1,115 yen

**Contact Information: Hikone Labor Standards Inspection Office, Tel:0749-22-0654**



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

Date and Time: February 8 (Sun), 9:30 – 12:30

Location: Hikone City Hall, 1F



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

## **Closure of Hikone Water and Sewerage Customer Service Center**

Please note that the Hikone Water and Sewerage Customer Service Center will be temporarily closed on January 17, Saturday. If you need to take care of your water payments or other procedures, please contact the center before or after this closure.

**Contact information: Hikone Water and Sewerage Management Division, Tel: 0749-22-2722**

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

Due to annual maintenance, the Hikone City Library is scheduled to be closed from February 11 to 18.

Before the scheduled maintenance between January 28 and February 10, the maximum number of books you can check out will be increased to 15 books from the usual 10 books.

Please note that the book drops on the premises of the library can be still used.

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

## **Temporary Halt of Bulky Waste Disposal at the Hikone Seiso Center**

From January 26 (Mon) until February 6 (Fri), due to maintenance work, bulky waste cannot be disposed of at the center.



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

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

When replacing or disposing of furniture or appliances, please consider the following tips before throwing them away as bulky waste.

### **[Bulky Waste Items]**

- Futon Mattresses
- Furniture
- Small Appliances (under one meter in height, width, and length)
- Rugs
- Multi-Component Items
- Bicycles
- Other Bulky Household Items



### **[Tips for Reducing and Recycling the Above Items]**



- If items can still be used, please consider delaying replacement or using them for different purposes.
- Sell items on flea market-style apps such as Oikura, on websites, or at thrift shops, or give them to friends or to someone through an online service such as Jimoty.
- Repairing items or using proper recycling services provided by authorized businesses can also be a good way to reduce waste.

### **[Businesses Sponsored and Approved by Hikone City]**

- おいくら (Oikura) – A Flea Market-Style App
- ジモティー (Jimoty) – An Online Website
- リネットジャパンリサイクル (Renet Japan Recycle) – A Recycling Company for Electronics and Home Appliances



## Upcoming Events & Fun News

### **Enjoy Songs from Around the World**

Participants introduce songs from their countries to others and enjoy singing together.

Anyone who resides in Hikone is welcome to join this event.

Date and Time: January 24 (Sat), 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Capacity: Up to 15 people

Location: Kokusai Koryu Salon (Hikone, Chuo-cho)

Application Period: January 7 (Mon) – January 20 (Tue)

\*Please apply by phone or email.

**Contact Information: Kokusai Koryu Salon, Tel. 0749-22-5931, Email. hikone-il@za.ztv.ne.jp**

### **Hikone Morning Market**

January 18 (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!

### **Shiga Prefecture-Sponsored Job Fair in Hikone**

29 companies in Hikone City come together at the job fair venue this time.

It is free to drop by at the venue with no dress codes or any formalities.

Date and Time: February 18 (Wed), 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Location: Proceed Arena HIKONE (Koizumi-cho)

Target Groups: University students, graduate students, junior college students, technical college students, technical high school students, university graduates, and general job seekers

[Important Note]

Please submit your application online by scanning the QR code by the morning of February 18.



**Contact Information: Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tel. 0749-22-4551**



# Consultation Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
<b>Legal Consultation</b>	January 23 (Fri), 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per person *Reservations available from Jan 14.	Hikone Community Development Promotion Division	0749-30-6117
<b>Akiya Bank</b> (Vacant House) <b>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] January 7 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. [Support for Continuing to Work] January 21 (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 Accident 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
<b>Labour Law Consultation</b>	January 23 (Fri), 18:30 – 20:00 *30 minutes per person *Offered by reservation only. *Reservations available from Jan 5.	Proceed Arena HIKONE	0749-30-9228

# Health and Wellness Information

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

## February 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.



February

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	10 (Tue)	Children born between 2025, March 16 and March 31.
	18 (Wed)	Children born between 2025, April 1 and April 20.
1 and ½ years olds	13 (Fri)	Children born in 2024, July.
	20 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	12 (Thu)	Children born in 2023, July.
	19 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	9 (Mon)	Children born in 2022, July.
	16 (Mon)	

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

## Reminder: Deadline for Subsidized Shingles Vaccination for Seniors

### [Subsidy Period]

Shingles vaccination can only be subsidized by the city until March 31, 2026 for seniors who meet the following target ages.

### [Eligibility Criteria (Target Age Groups)]

- 65 years old: Born from 1960, April 2 to 1961, April 1
- 70 years old: Born from 1955, April 2 to 1956, April 1
- 75 years old: Born from 1950, April 2 to 1951, April 1
- 80 years old: Born from 1945, April 2 to 1946, April 1
- 85 years old: Born from 1940, April 2 to 1941, April 1
- 90 years old: Born from 1935, April 2 to 1936, April 1
- 95 years old: Born from 1930, April 2 to 1931, April 1
- 100 years and older: Born before 1926 April 1

### [Out-of-Pocket Expenses after Subsidies]

- Live Attenuated Shingles Vaccination: JPY 2,700 per dose
- Recombinant Shingles Vaccination: JPY 7,100 per dose \*The recombinant shingles vaccination requires two doses.

### [Important Notes]

- You can still get vaccinated against shingles; however, you must bear the full cost of a vaccine.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Hikone Health Promotion Division at the number given below.
- To those who are eligible for the subsidized shingles vaccines, the notice has already been mailed.

Contact Information: Hikone Health Promotions Division, Tel: 0749-24-0816

