

広報ひこね (英語版)

Community Newsletter **KOHO HIKONE**



March 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	http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng

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	Free
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
1st, 3rd, 4th Saturday	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Higashi-chiku Community Center (Daito-cho 1-26)	*This class is available for children only! 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

Do Not Throw Away Batteries with Other Household Trash!!

An increasing number of fires caused by lithium batteries have been reported across Japan! According to national statistics from 2023, 8,543 fires were caused by the inappropriate disposal of batteries that year.

In Hikone, there have been several cases in which used batteries were mixed with other household trash, which could set garbage trucks or Hikone's garbage incineration plant on fire. In the worst case of scenario, the entire plant may need to be shut down or lives could be put at risk due to improper disposal of batteries.

Never dispose of batteries with any other household trash!



[How to “PROPERLY” Dispose of Used Batteries]

Once a month, when landfill waste is collected in your neighborhood, used batteries are also collected.

Please place them in a transparent/translucent plastic bag and leave the bag separately from landfill waste at your neighborhood's garbage collection spot.



[Disposal of “Rechargeable Batteries”]

Please bring rechargeable batteries, including mobile batteries, to the Hikone Seiso Center (garbage incineration/recycling plant) or Hikone City Hall.

Please note that while nickel-cadmium, nickel-metal, and lithium-ion batteries are collected, lead-acid batteries, such as car and motorcycle batteries, etc. cannot be accepted.



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

Tips for Reducing and Recycling Waste:

- There are stores where cardboard boxes, magazines, and other recyclable materials are collected in Hikone. Please scan the QR code below to see which stores collect recyclable materials!



- Both **used coffee grounds** and **used tea leaves** can be repurposed for aromatic or scent-related uses!

Sunday Bulky Waste and Small Appliance Collection at Hikone Seiso Center

Date and Time: March 22 (Sun), 8:00 – 11:00

Location: Hikone Seiso Center (Garbage Incineration and Recycling Center)

Important Points:

- Please have your photo ID handy and present it at the gate of the center to prove that you are a Hikone resident.
- Only landfill and small appliances will be accepted.
- Landfill can be dropped off for a fee, but appliances smaller than one meter in length, width, and depth can be disposed of free of charge.
- Unbroken fluorescent tubes and light bulbs can also be disposed of.
- Certain appliances, such as televisions, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, and clothes dryers, cannot be disposed of at the center under the Japan Recycling Act.
- Make sure to follow instructions given by center workers to avoid causing a backlog of traffic.

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

Long Wait to Complete My Number Procedures!

To avoid a long wait for your My Number procedures at Hikone City Hall, here are a few ways to save your time.

[Renewing the Use of the Electronic Certificate Service]

Once every five years, you are required to renew My Number's electronic certificate service.

This process can be done three months in advance at the Inae branch office or the Hikone Welfare Center.



[Renewing a My Number Card]

Once every 10 years (for children under 18, once every 5 years), you are required to renew your My Number card, on the condition that the card has never expired before.

If you have a notice and documents related to the renewal of your My Number card, you can complete all required procedures online or by mail.



[Helpful Information]

When you moving out of Hikone to a different municipality, you can complete the required procedure called "Tenshutsu Todoke (moving-out notification)" online. Please scan the QR code and access Myna Portal.



[My Number Card Procedures at the Hikone Welfare Center]

Any My Number procedures other than picking up your newly issued My Number card can be processed at the Hikone Welfare Center between 9:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. on weekdays.

If you wish you pick up your newly issued My Number card at the center, please call 0749-30-9241 or scan the QR code to make an appointment.



Saturday Opening of Hikone City Hall for My Number Card Procedures

Date and Time: April 12 (Sun) from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Hikone City Hall, 1F

*You can schedule your appointment in advance by scanning the QR code or call the number below.



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

Suspension for the Government-Issued Certificate Service at Convenience Stores

This is a reminder that the service for obtaining government-issued certificates at convenience stores has been suspended due to the long-term maintenance and system updates until 6:30 a.m. on March 10 (Tuesday).

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

Traffic Control around Hikone Castle: Mar 28 – Apr 16

As a cherry blossom season comes around April, traffic control will go into effect for Hikone Castle and its surrounding areas. Please check the areas affected on the map below.



[Traffic Control Areas and Hours]

- North-Side Intersection at the Horse Stable to In Front of Kuromon (Black Gate)
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (during the cherry blossom peak period, extended to 9:00 p.m.)
- Irohatsu to Hikone Higashi High School
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Irohatsu to Castle Resort & Spa
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

[Important Notes]

- During the peak period, the Irohatsu area is expected to be extremely congested.
- In case of severe weather, traffic control may be suspended.
- Avoid visiting Hikone Castle and surrounding areas during the cherry blossom season.
Please use public transportation instead.
- Parking on private property and on the roadside is against the traffic law.



Contact Information: Hikone Tourism Association: Tel. 0749-23-0001

Road Safety Campaign: Mar 15 – Apr 15

The period from March 15 (Sat) through April 15 (Tue) is designated as Road Safety Awareness Month. This campaign reminds all road users of their increased responsibility to follow traffic regulations as the new school year begins in April. If you see children, seniors, cyclists, or people with disabilities walking, please yield to them as a sign of courtesy. Under the revised traffic law that took effect in April 2023, cyclists are required to wear a helmet.

In the evening and at night, pedestrians and cyclists are also advised to wear reflective materials or bright-colored clothing so that drivers can see them easily.

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

Upcoming Events & Fun News

Soccer Match: Reilac Shiga FC VS Roasso Kumamoto

Date and Time: March 8 (Sun) at 2:00 p.m.

Venue: Heiwado HATO Stadium



Shitake Mushroom Planting Experience Workshop

Are you interested in getting hands-on experience in cultivating Shiitake mushrooms? Hikone Kodomo Center is hosting such a workshop on March 20 (Friday, holiday) as follows!

[Date] March 20, Friday, Holiday

[Time] Morning Class – 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon Class – 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

[Meeting Spot] In front of the ground of Hikone Kodomo Center (Hikone, Hinatsu-cho)

[Target Age Group] Elementary School Children *They must be accompanied by their parents.

[Capacity:] 20 participants for each class

*Please call 0749-25-1599 to sign up your child for the Shiitake mushroom planting experience workshop.

Applications for this workshop will start on March 6, Friday at 10:00 AM.

Note that applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact Information: Mt. Kojin Park Office, Tel: 0749-25-1599

Places for Children to Do Self-Study During Spring Break

Locations: • 3F, 31 Meeting Room, Hikone Welfare Center (Hikone, Hirata-cho 670)

• Kokusai Koryu Salon (Hikone, Chuo-cho 2-26)

• Community Halls

*Other public facilities will be open for children to study during Spring break.

Please visit the Hikone City's official website for more information.

Opening Days and Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

• March 27 (Fri), March 30 (Mon), March 31 (Tue)

• April 2 (Thu), April 3 (Fri), April 6 (Mon), April 7 (Tue)

Contact Information: Hikone Children and Youths Support Division, Tel: 0749-49-2251

Adult Care and Welfare Job Fair in Shiga

Anyone interested in the fields of adult care and welfare is welcome to participate in this job fair.

There will be booths where you can try out welfare assistance equipment and have a photo taken for your resume.

If you wish to leave your child(ren) in care during the job fair, temporary on-site childcare service is available with advance reservation. Please call the number listed below.

Date and Time: March 8 (Sun), 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Reception begins at 12:30 p.m.

Venue: COZY TOWN, 4F, AL Plaza Hikone (Hikone, Daito-cho)



Contact Information: Shiga Kaigo and Fukushi JInzai Center Hikone, Tel. 0749-21-6300

Hikone Eco Market “Yumebatake”

Yumebatake is a flea market where household items that are no longer needed are available for purchase.

Date and Time: March 22 (Sun) 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Ohtemon-mae 2nd Reserved Area (Hikone, Konki-cho)

Contact Information: Yumebatake Committee, Tel: 090-1224-3782

With Marché 2026

There will be food stalls, hand-made craft shops, and other fun events at the market.

Date and Time: March 7 (Sat), 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Hikone Morning Market

March 15 (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

March is Suicide Prevention Month

The number of suicides tends to rise in March, as the month is a time when things may change very quickly for some people. While some can cope with quick, noticeable changes, others may have difficulty adjusting to the changes. Please call the following consultation number if you wish to talk to someone about your struggles.

Contact Information: Hikone Welfare Division for People with Disabilities, Tel. 0749-27-9981

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
Legal Consultation	March 27 (Fri), 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per person *Reservations available from March 27.	Hikone Community Development Promotion Division	0749-30-6117
Akiya Bank (Vacant House) Telephone Consultation	Mon – Fri, 10:00 – 18:00	Akiya Bank Office	0749-23-2123
Consultation for Recovery from Cancer	Mon – Fri, 9:00 – 16:00 *Priority given to people who have an appointment.	Municipal Hospital Cancer Support Center	0749-22-6050
Consultation for Working During Cancer Treatment	[Support for Finding a Job] March 4 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. [Support for Continuing to Work] March 18 (Wed), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only.		
Child Development (Disability) Consultation	Mon – Fri, 8:30 – 17:15 *Offered by reservation only.	Development Support Center (Hirata-cho)	0749-26-8282
Language Development Consultation	Mon – Fri, 8:30 – 17:15 *Offered by reservation only.		
Traffic Accident Consultation	Tue · Thu ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:00	Koto Joint Government Building	0749-27-2230
Consumer Affairs Consultation	Mon – Fri ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:15	Hikone Consumer Affairs Center	0749-30-6144
Human Rights Consultation for Foreigners	9:00 – 17:00 on weekdays		0570-090-9111
Bullying Hotline	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 17:00	School Support, Human Rights, and Anti-Bullying Division	0749-24-7977
Consultation for Children and Adolescents (Social Withdrawal, Abuse, etc.)	9:00 – 16:45 on weekdays	Hikone Children and Family Center “Hikomaru”	0749-26-0994
Consultation for Women (Domestic Violence, etc.)	9:00 – 16:45 on weekdays		0749-49-2251
Labour Law Consultation	March 27 (Fri), 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. *Appointments start on March 1. *Up to 30 minute per person.	Proceed Arena Hikone	0749-30-9228

[Hotlines for Domestic Violence]

- Hikone Children and Adolescents Support Division: 0749-49-2251, Weekdays, 9:00 – 16:45
- Hikone Children and Families Consultation Center: 0749-24-3741, Weekdays, 8:30 – 17:15
- Chuo Children and Families Consultation Center: 077-564-7867, Every day, 8:30 – 22:00
- Shiga Gender Equality Center: 0748-37-8739, Tue–Sun, 9:00 – 12:00, 13:00 – 17:00 (*Until 20:30 on Thursdays)

[Hotlines for Child Abuse]

- National Consultation Hotline for Children: 189, 24 hours, 7 days a week
- Hikone Children and Adolescents Support Division: 0749-26-0994
- Hikone Children and Families Consultation Center: 0749-24-3741
- Child Abuse Hotline: 077-562-8996, 24 hours, 7 days a week

*In case of emergency, do not hesitate to call the police at 110 or 0749-27-0110.

Health and Wellness Information

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

Changes to Japan's Immunization Program Starting April

[RS Virus Vaccination]

To help protect infants and toddlers from RS virus, vaccination will be available for women who are 28 to 36 weeks pregnant.

[HPV Vaccination]

Only Gardasil 9 will be available.

[Pneumococcus Vaccination for Seniors]

The PCV20 vaccine will replace the current PPSV23 vaccine, and the cost of pneumococcal vaccination is set to increase.

[Flu Vaccination for Elderly People]

People aged 75 and older can choose to receive a high-dose influenza vaccine instead of the standard-dose vaccine.

Financial Assistance for Rubella Vaccines

[Eligibility Criteria]

Those who meet all of the following criteria are eligible for financial assistance for rubella vaccination:

Tested or will be tested for rubella antibodies between March 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026 in Shiga.

Test results during the above period show a lack of rubella immunity.

Vaccinated or will be vaccinated against rubella between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026.

[Amount of Financial Assistance]

Up to 5,000 JPY (those under Seikatsu Hogo, up to 10,000 JPY), limited to one payment per person.

[Application Period]

Until Friday, March 31, 2025

If applying by mail, please ensure your application is received by March 31.

April 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.



April

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	15 (Wed)	Children born between 2025, May 16 and May 31.
	21 (Tue)	Children born between 2025, June 1 and June 15.
1 and ½ years olds	10 (Fri)	Children born in 2024, September.
	17 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	16 (Thu)	Children born in 2023, September.
	23 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	13 (Mon)	Children born in 2022, September.
	20 (Mon)	

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