

広報ひこね（英語版）

# Community Newsletter **KOHO HIKONE**



## April 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	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
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

## Tips for Reducing and Recycling Waste:

Used papers, clothing, and plastic containers and wrappers can all be recycled into other items.

- **Used Papers**  
(milk cartons, magazines, random paper waste, etc. )



- **Clothing**



### Toilet Papers Cardboard, Newspapers , etc.



- **Plastic containers and wrappers**



### Plastic Pallets, etc.



## National Spring Traffic Safety Campaign: April 6 – 15

It is indispensable for all of us to be aware of the importance of following traffic rules.

The following points are part of common courtesy to help minimize the risk of traffic accidents.

- If you see pedestrians while driving, please slow down and stop to yield to them.
- Please take extra precautions especially on school roads and residential roads.
- Do not use a smartphone while riding a bicycle, and please follow traffic rules as a bicyclist.

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

## May 10: Opening of Hikone City Hall for My Number Card Procedures

Date and Time: May 10 (Sun) from 9:30 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**

## **Changes to the Amount of Disability Benefits (Effective April)**

[Increase in the Monthly Amount of Each Benefit]

- Special Disability Benefit: 30,450 yen (increased from 29,590 yen)
- Benefit for Children with Disabilities: 16,560 yen (increased from 16,100)

[Benefit Payments Schedule]

- April 28 (Tue) for February to April
- August 5 (Wed) for May to July
- November 4 (Wed) for August to October
- February 2 (Wed) for November to January

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

## **Subsidies for Taxi Fares and Gasoline for People with Disabilities**

Up to 12,000 yen of taxi fares or up to 6,000 yen of gasoline can be provided.

Applications will become available in April. For more details, please contact the relevant division listed below.

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

## **Financial Assistance Program for School Expenses**

This program provides financial assistance to families experiencing financial difficulties with school-aged children. Expenses for necessary school items, school meals, a school graduation trip, and so on will be partially covered by this program.

[Eligibility Criteria]

\*You must fulfill one of the following criteria.

- Parents or legal guardians of children in elementary or junior-high school.
- Recipients of Jido Fuyo Teate (financial help for single parents)
- Eligibility for Seikatsu Hogo (Livelihood Protection Program) has recently been stopped or terminated.
- Those who are exempt from resident tax or have received a resident tax deduction.

[Note]

There are some other criteria applicable to families depending on the situation, so please contact the relevant division of Hikone Board of Education for further details.

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

## **Revision of the Health Insurance Premiums Rates for Seniors in FY 2026 and 2027**

Starting April 1, 2026, changes will be made to the rates of health insurance premiums for seniors as follows.

Category	Current	After the Revision		
	Medical Care Only	Medical Care	Monetary Help for Children and Childrearing	Total
<b>Income-Based Rate</b>	9.56%	10.13 %	0.25%	10.38%
<b>Per Capita Amount</b>	48,604 yen	55,380 yen	1,340 yen	56,720 yen
<b>Maximum Annual Insurance Premiums</b>	800,000 yen	850,000 yen	21,000 yen	871,000 yen

Amount of Income-Based Rate = Total Income-based amount, etc. (\*1) – 430,000 yen (\*2) × Income-based rate

\*1: Total income-based amount refers to total income amount from the first-half of the year, forest income, land, buildings, stocks subject to separate taxation, etc.

\*2: The total amount of income must be under 24,000,000 yen.

**Contact Information: Hikone Insurance and Pension Division, Tel: 0749-30-6145**

### **Rabies Vaccination Months: April to June**

It is compulsory for all dog owners to have their dogs older than 91 days receive a rabies vaccine once a year.

A notice regarding rabies vaccination will be mailed to owners of dogs registered with the city. If you do not receive any notice about the vaccine, your dog(s) may not be properly registered. In that case, please contact the relevant division of Hikone City Hall either in person or by phone as soon as possible.

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

# Upcoming Events & Fun News

## Soccer Matches at Heiwado HATO Stadium

**[Cerezo Osaka YANMAR Ladies VS Mitsubishi Urawa RED Ladies]**

Day and Time: April 4 (Sat) at 2:00 PM

\*Please scan the QR code on the right to download free tickets to watch this match.



**[Reilac Shiga FC VS FC Ryukyu]**

Day and Time: April 12 (Sun) at 2:00 PM

**[Reilac Shiga FC VS Oita Trinita]**

Day and Time: April 19 (Sun) at 2:00 PM

**[Reilac Shiga FC VS Gainare Tottori]**

Day and Time: April 29 (Sun) at 2:00 PM



## Cherry Blossom Viewing Activity at Hikone Castle

Date and Time: April 4 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

\*Please gather in front of the main gate of the castle.

Location: Hikone Castle

Target Age Group: Children older than elementary school age

\*Elementary schoolers must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

What to Bring: Raincoat/umbrella if it rains.



**Contact Information: Hikone Shizen Kansatsu Group, Tel: 0749-26-0510**

## Dandelions Observation Activity at Mt. Kojin Park

You can participate in an activity to find rare dandelions unique to Japan.

You can also learn how to differentiate between invasive western dandelions and Japanese dandelions.

Date and Time: April 25 (Sat) 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Mt. Kojin Park

\*Please gather in front of Hikone Kodomo Center

Eligible Age: 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and older

\*Children younger than 3<sup>rd</sup> graders must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Capacity: 30 participants (first come, first served)

How to Apply: Please apply by email or online by scanning the QR code starting April 1, Wednesday.

Notes: · Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

· Please bring something to drink.

**Contact Information: Kankyo Forum Koto Office, Tel: 0749-27-2255, Email: de43@pref.shiga.lg.jp**

## Hikone Morning Market

April 19 (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!

## World Autism Day – April 2

April 2 is internationally recognized as World Autism Day.

To raise awareness and support for the autism community, famous landmarks and historic buildings around the globe will be lit up in blue, the symbolic color for the Light It Up Blue Campaign, representing "comfort" and "hope."

As part of this campaign, Hikone will illuminate Hikone Castle in blue from April 2 to 4 between sunset and 9:00 PM.



# Consultation Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
<b>Legal Consultation</b>	April 24 (Fri), 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per person *Reservations available from April 15.	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] May 13 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. [Support for Continuing to Work] April 15 (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 Center (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

## [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

## Helpful Information for Deciding Whether to Visit an Urgent Care Center

If you are unsure whether to visit an urgent care center, you can call the telephone numbers below to seek advice from healthcare professionals.

### **[Hotline for Urgent Pediatric Care (Toll Free and Foreign Languages Are Assisted )]**

Tel: #8000 or 077-524-7856

Availability:

- Weekdays and Saturdays, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. the following morning
- Sundays and National Holidays, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. the following morning

Target Age Group: Children under 15

### **[Hot Line for Medical Emergencies]**

Tel: #7119 or 077-528-1317

Availability: 24 hours a day, year-round

Target Age Group: All ages

### **[Online Websites to Find Medical Facilities]**

- Shiga Prefecture Medical Information (Japanese only)



- Online QQ (Medical Information for Children)



### **[Urgent Care Center and Unit in Hikone]**

- Hikone Urgent Care Center (Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Only)

Tel: 0749-22-1119

Location: 1F, Kusunoki Center

Open: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sundays and National Holidays)

Reception: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Important Note: Please call in advance to make an appointment before visiting the center.



- Hikone Chuo Hospital

Tel: 0749-23-1211

Open: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Weekends)

Important Note: Please call in advance to confirm which departments are available before visiting the hospital.



## May 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	13 (Wed)	Children born between 2025, June 16 and June 30.
	19 (Tue)	Children born between 2025, July 1 and July 15.
1 and ½ years olds	15 (Fri)	Children born in 2024, October.
	22 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	14 (Thu)	Children born in 2023, October.
	21 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	18 (Mon)	Children born in 2022, October.
	25 (Mon)	

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

## Importance of Breast Cancer And Cervical Cancer Screening

It is strongly advisable to get screened for breast and cervical cancer once every two years!

The following information is applicable in Hikone. Please contact the Hikone Health Promotion Division at 0749-24-3719, if you have questions.

### **[Breast Cancer Screening]**

Target Group: Women living in Hikone aged 40 or older as of March 31, 2027

Screening Fee: 1,000 Yen

### **[Cervical Cancer Screening]**

Target Group: Women living in Hikone aged 20 or older as of March 31, 2027

Screening Fee: 1,000 Yen

### **[Notes]**

- Please visit one of the city-designated health facilities and bring your photo ID.
- Some facilities may require an appointment for cancer screening.

## **Pneumococcal Vaccination for Seniors**

A subsidy is available for those who have never been vaccinated against pneumococcal infection and meet either “Eligibility A” or “Eligibility B” specified below.

### **[Eligibility]**

A: 65 years old at the time of receiving a pneumococcal shot

B: 60 to 64 years old with heart disease, kidney disease, respiratory disease, or HIV

### **[Subsidy Amount]**

3,710 yen

### **[Important Points]**

- Please schedule an appointment at a health facility where the pneumococcal vaccine is administered.
- People who fall under the age group of 60 to 64 with at least one of the medical conditions mentioned in Eligibility B are required to apply at the Hikone Health Promotion Division.

## **Shingles Vaccine as Routine Immunization**

Subsidized shingles vaccines are available for individuals who meet either Eligibility A or Eligibility B from fiscal year 2025 to 2029. Please note that each eligible individual can receive no more than one series of shingles vaccination during that period.

### **[Eligibility]**

- A: Those who are aged 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, or 100
- B: Those aged 60 to 64 and who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS  
\*Equivalent to holding a Grade I Physical Disability Certificate.

### **[Shingles Vaccine Types]**

1. Live Shingles Vaccine: One Dose
2. Recombinant Vaccine: Two Doses (2 months apart)

### **[Out-of-pocket Vaccine Expenses]**

1. Live Shingles Vaccine: 2,700 yen
2. Recombinant Vaccine: 14,200 yen

\*Please note that the subsidy program does not fully cover the cost of the vaccination.

### **[Notes]**

- Please consult your family doctor or the Hikone Health Promotion Division (Tel: 0749-24-0816) to find out where you can receive a shingles shot.