

広報ひこね (英語版)

Community Newsletter

KOHO HIKONE



December 2023

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(Hikone English Facebook Page)



(Official Hikone Website)

Contact Us	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 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
- Hikone City Hospital
- TRAIAL Hikone
- Mega Don Quijote Toyosato
- Inaechiku Kominkan

Interpreting Services (Available in English, Portuguese, Chinese, 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 Opening Hours: Weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

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


(Facebook) <http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng>



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

Japanese Language Classes in Hikone



Day	Time	Location	Organization Name	Cost
Wednesday	7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Kokusai Kouryu SALON 	Hikone International Friendship Association Tel: (0749)-22-5931 E-mail: hikone-il@za.ztv.ne.jp	2,000 yen (Total 10 Classes) <u>*Ticket System</u>
Friday	2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.		*Japanese classes we offer are suitable for those who have never studied Japanese before and beginners. *To check our opening schedule, please scan the QR code on the left or contact us by phone or email directly.	
Saturday	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Naka-chiku Kouminkan	Hikone Kokusai Kouryu-kai VOICE Katsurada-San Tel: 090-5156-6916	100 yen per lesson
Monday to Friday *closed on holidays	①9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. ②11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. ③1:30 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. ④3:00 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. ⑤Online Classes	Innovation Office NAYASHICHI, Shiro-machi1, 7-16	Smile Mizuno-San Tel: 070-5661-7345	200 yen per lesson
1 st , 3 rd , 4 th Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Higashi Chiku Community Center	Hikone UNESCO Association, Japanese Language Class “JUMP” Learning Japanese as a foreign language educational support for children Tel: 090-2384-9760	Free

Information

☆Schedule of Public Services during the Year-End and New-Year Holiday Period

Please note that from Dec 29 (Fri) through Jan 3 (Wed), the city hall is scheduled to be closed.

With that said, the following public services are still available on each day marked by “●” in the table below.

Service		Date	29	30	31	1	2	3	Contact Information, etc. (Switch Board:0749-22-2734)
		Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		
Sanitation Centre	Trash Collection	●	●						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only Burnable Waste Will Be Collected. (Depending on which school district you live in, the collection date differs.) Opening Hours of the Sanitation Center Large-Size: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Burnable, Recyclable (Plastic Containers, Cans and Metal, Glass Bottles, Plastic Bottles, Paper, Cardboard Boxes, Clothes): 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. TEL: 0749-22-2734
	Trash Collection at Hikone Sanitation Centre	Large-Size Trash	●	●					
		Burnable & Recyclable	●	●					
Cremation Service		●	●	●			●	●	Shiunen Crematorium: TEL: 0749-48-1318
Night Soil Treatment Service		●	●						Hikone Jigyo Kosha TEL: 0749-23-4135
Public Water Service (Starting/Cancelling Water Supply) (Payment for Water Bills)		●	●	●					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Water and Sewerage Customer Service Center TEL: 0749-27-2802
Holiday Emergency Medical Centre (Kusunoki Centre 1F)		●	●	●	●		●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Reception Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) TEL: 0749-22-1119 Be sure to make a call first before visiting the center.
Hikone City Hospital		●	●	●	●		●	●	Emergency Center TEL: 0749-22-6050

[Important Notes]

- 1: Be sure to consult your trash collection calendar, and take out the trash as instructed by December 28 (Thu).
- 2: When it comes to land fill waste, the garbage collection calendar of your school district shows what date will be the last day in the current year for land fill collection. If you wish to dispose of land fill waste between December 29 and January 3, please bring it to the Koyagi Chukey Kichi (19 Koyagicho, Higashiomi). Note that you may need to set a date and time for the landfill disposal at this facility in advance.
- 3: Please visit the city hall by the 28th if you need any certificates. Getting certain government-issued certificates at convenience stores will be unavailable from December 29 until January 3. Registering childbirth, death (the issuance of a cremation permit is available between 8:30 and 5:15), divorce, etc. can be completed at the city hall even during this year-end and new-year holiday period.
- 4: In terms of Hikone's public water and sewerage services, starting/cancelling the water supply and paying water bills are available at the Water and Sewerage Customer Service Center (1F, Hikone City Hall) between 9:00 and 5:00.
- 5: Payments for resident tax, national health insurance, night soil treatment, water, sewer service, and so on, can be made at banks designated by the city. (Please check the opening schedules of each bank.) If your payment bill can be paid at a convenience store, you can do so through a cashless payment app on your smartphone such as PayPay, LINE Pay, au PAY, Pay B, etc.

☆Available Dental Clinics During New Year Holiday Period

The dental clinics listed in the table below take turns offering dental services as follows from December 30 (Sat) 2023 through Jan 3 (Wed) 2024.

- Opening Hours: 9:00 AM until 3:30 PM
- Be sure to call the dental clinic in advance to schedule your appointment.

Opening Date	Dental Clinic Name	Tel
Dec 30, Sat, 2023	Muto Dental Clinic (Nishiima-cho)	0749-21-0008
Dec 31, Sun	Kimura Dental Clinic (Gosanjo-cho)	0749-23-2220
Jan 1, Mon, 2024	Yasuzawa Dental Clinic (Hirata-cho)	0749-23-3318
Jan 2, Tue	Yasuzawa Dental Koizumi Clinic (Koizumi-cho)	0749-22-6191
Jan 3, Wed	Ohashi Dental Clinic (Toyosato-cho)	0749-47-5320

☆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 a home heater more often with the winter fast approaching, please beware of the following points to prevent a home fire from happening!

[When using a kerosene heater:]

- Do not use gasoline or mix kerosene with gasoline for a kerosene heater!
- Keep anything that can catch on fire, such as paper, clothes, etc., away from a heater.
Avoid drying wet clothes near a heater, which 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 if need be in case of a sudden jolt due to an earthquake, etc.
- Fasten it with wires and fittings if a chimney is attached to a heater.

[When pouring kerosene into a fuel tank:]

- Be sure to turn off a heater first and doublecheck whether the flame has been extinguished completely.
- If a fuel tank is a cartridge type, check that its lid has been properly and tightly shut.

[When turning on/off a kerosene heater:]

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

Snow Removal Request from the Hikone Fire Department Headquarters

If a fire hydrant and fire cistern are covered with snow, it may put fire fighters at risk of delaying extinguishing a fire and being unable to prevent fire damage from spreading. When it snows heavily, the fire department headquarters dispatches its people to clear the snow covering fire hydrants and fire cisterns as much as possible. That said, it is impossible for the fire department headquarters to remove snow on every single fire hydrant and fire cistern, so for this very reason, they are asking residents of Hikone City to help the fire department headquarters clear snow covering a fire hydrant and/or fire cistern during the wintertime. Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated and can save lives and prevent further fire damage.

Inquiries: Hikone Fire Department Headquarters, Tel: 0749-22-0337

☆Snow Cleaning During Wintertime

As we are heading into the wintertime, it is a good time to remind you that Hikone City ensures that the city will respond to winter events as effectively as possible. Nevertheless, the city still needs each resident to remove snow from sidewalks, routes to school, driveways, and the like, as it is difficult for the city to plow and clear snow from every corner of Hikone in a timely manner.

Inquiries: Hikone Roads and Rivers Division, Tel: 0749-30-6122

☆Protect Water Pipes From The Cold Of Winter

- Wrap towels around a water pipe and tap 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! If you pour hot water over a frozen pipe, it could damage or even burst the pipe.
- If a water pipe bursts, shut off the water valve immediately, and call either number given below.
- It is advisable to regularly check for a water leak by taking a look at your home water meter.



Inquiries: Hikone Water And Sewerage Engineer Work Division

Tel: 0749-22-2648 Water And Sewerage Customer Service Center, Tel: 0749-27-2802

☆Shiga Year-End Traffic Safety Campaign

During the whole month of December (the 1st through the 31st), Shiga Prefecture kicks off its Year-end Traffic Safety Campaign. Please be cordial while behind the wheel to the elderly and children. As for pedestrians and cyclists, with days becoming shorter, it is advisable to wear light-color clothes and/or put on reflective safety stickers/tags so that it is easier to be seen in the evening and at night. Drivers, on the other hand, are reminded that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious traffic violation.

Inquiries: Hikone Traffic Policy Division, Tel:0749-30-6134

☆Sunday Issuance of My Number Cards

Date: December 10 (Sun), 24 (Sun)

Time: 9:30AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Hikone City Hall (1F)



Inquiries: Hikone Life Service Division, Tel: 0749-30-6151

☆Study Spaces for Children During Winter Break

Opening Days: Dec 25(Mon), 26 (Tue), 28 (Thu),

Jan 4 (Thu), 5 (Fri)

Opening Hours: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: Hikone Welfare Center (3F), Community Centers, etc.

*Please access the official website of Hikone City to see other places open for children to study during winter break.

Inquiries: Hikone Children and Youths Division, Tel: 0749-49-2251

☆Human Rights Awareness Week: Dec 4 - 10

In order to realize a discrimination and bias free society where every can live their life happily, it is indispensable for each and every one of us to properly understand human rights and recognize one another.

[Human Rights Telephone Consultation Services for Foreign Nationals]

- Foreign Nationals Human Rights Hotline
Tel: 0570-090-911
- Hikone Support Center for Foreigners
Tel: 0749-30-6113

☆Respect for People With Disabilities Week (Dec 3 - 9)

[What Are Reasonable Accommodations?]

A reasonable accommodation is an adjustment or modification for individuals with disabilities in the way that they can perform necessary activities in their everyday lives, at work, at school, etc.

As the national government of Japan is set to partially amend the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, which goes into effect on April 1, 2024, not just public agencies but also private companies must provide reasonable accommodations.

Inquiries: Hikone Welfare Division for People with Disabilities, Tel: 0749-27-9981

☆World Aids Day (December 1)

Symptoms of HIV may not appear for a long period of time in early stages, transmitting the virus to others unbeknownst to those who have been infected. If you suspect that you may have contracted HIV, please consider getting tested for the virus.

[HIV Testing Information]

*You can get tested for HIV anonymously at no cost at the Hikone Public Health Office.

Testing Days: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of Each Month

Testing Time: 2:00 PM – 3:20 PM

Site: Hikone Public Health Office (Hikone, Wada-cho)

Available Test Types: HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis Virus (Type B and C)

Tel: 0749-21-0283

Event

☆Christmas Concert by the Hikone Children's Choir

Date and Time: December 10 (Sun), 1:30 PM, 3:00 PM

Location: Hikone Kodomo Center (Hinatsu-cho)

Tel: 0749-28-3645



☆Hikone Morning Market

December 17 (Sun) 8:00 AM – Noon

Location: Osue-Cho, Gokoku Shrine

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



Consultation

Legal Consultation	December 22 (Fri) 13:00 – 16:00 ※5500 yen per consultation (Reservations available from December 13)	Hikone Community Development Division	0749-30-6117
<i>Akiya Bank</i> (Vacant House) Telephone Consultation	Mon – Fri 10:00 – 18:00	<i>Akiya Bank</i> 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 December 6 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 (Offered by reservation only) Support for Continuing to Work December 20 (Wed), 13:30 – 15:30 (Offered by reservation only)		
Child and Family Consultation	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15	Consultation Room for Children (Welfare Centre)	0749-23-7838
Child Development (Disability) Consultation	Mon – Fri ①8:30 – 17:15 (Offered by reservation only)	Development Support Division (<i>Hirata-cho</i>)	0749-26-8282
Language Development Consultation	Mon – Fri ①8:30 – 17:15 (Offered by reservation only)		
Human Rights Consultation in Foreign Languages	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 17:00		0570-090-911
Bullying Consultation Hotline	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 17:00	School Support • Human Rights • Anti-Bullying Measures Division	0749-24-7977
General Consultation for Children and Youths (social withdrawal, etc.)	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15	Child and Youth Consultation Desk (Hikone Welfare Centre)	0749-26-6880
Consumer Affairs Consultation	Mon – Fri ①9:00 – 12:00 ②13:00 – 16:15	Consumer Affairs Center	0749-30-6144
Road Accident Consultation	Tue & Thu ①9:00 – 12:00 ②13:00 – 16:00	Traffic Accident Consultation Center, Hikone Office	0749-27-2230

Information from the Hikone Health Promotion Division
Tel: 0749-24-0816, Fax: 0749-24-5870

★January Health Check-ups for Infants and Young Children

Location: Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho)

January

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
4 months olds	To have a 4-month-old baby checked, parents are required to do so at a medical facility. Please contact the Hikone Health Promotion Division for more details.	
10 months olds	16 (Tue)	Children born between March 1 and 15, 2023
	24 (Wed)	Children born between March 16 and 31, 2023
1 and ½ years olds	12 (Fri)	Children born between June 1 and 15, 2022
	19 (Fri)	Children born between June 16 and 30, 2022
2 and ½ years olds	11 (Thu)	Children born between June 1 and 15, 2021
	18 (Thu)	Children born between June 16 and 30, 2021
3 and ½ years olds	15 (Mon)	Children born between May 27 and June 15, 2020
	22 (Mon)	Children born between June 16 and 27, 2020
	29 (Mon)	Children born between June 28 and July 7, 2020

Notes

- * No reminder will be mailed. Therefore, make sure to check further details on the website of Hikone City.
- * As a general rule, only one parent/guardian is permitted to accompany the baby/child during the check-up.
- * For 3 and a half years olds, a urine test will be conducted. For this, do not forget to take a urine sample on the morning of the checkup and bring it in a sanitized glass container, etc.

Inquiries: Hikone Health Promotion Division, Tel: 0749-24-0816

★Preventative Measures Against Norovirus

[Symptoms of Norovirus]

The incubation period of norovirus is between 24 hours and 48 hours. Typical symptoms are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain and a mild fever that last for a couple of days. Some who come down with norovirus show no symptoms or only experience symptoms like a head cold.

[Precautions]

- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap, and rinse hands well.
- Be sure to cook food items well.
- When dishing out food, put on a mask and single-use gloves.
- Disinfect kitchen utensils and tableware.
- Wear a mask and disposable gloves when caring for a person who has fallen ill with norovirus.

★COVID-19 Vaccination (Publicly Funded)

Please note that, in order to get vaccinated against COVID-19, a COVID-19 vaccination ticket is required. For further details, please call the Hikone COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Center.

[Appointments for COVID-19 Booster Shots]

- December: Slots are still available!
- January: Appointments are scheduled to be open on December 14.



Inquiries: COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Center, Tel: 0120-152-811 (Weekdays, 8:30 until 5:00)