

広報ひこね (英語版)

Community Newsletter

KOHO HIKONE

March 2024



- Traffic Control During Sakura Festival (P. 2)
- Disposal of Old Computers (P. 4)
- Hikone Biwako Spring Fireworks (P. 5)
- Shiitake Mushroom Planting (P. 6)



(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
- Inaechiku Kominkan
- Mega Center TRAIAL Hikone
- Mega Don Quijote Toyosato
- Don Quijote Hikone
- Hikone City Hospital

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.



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

Japanese Language Classes in Hikone



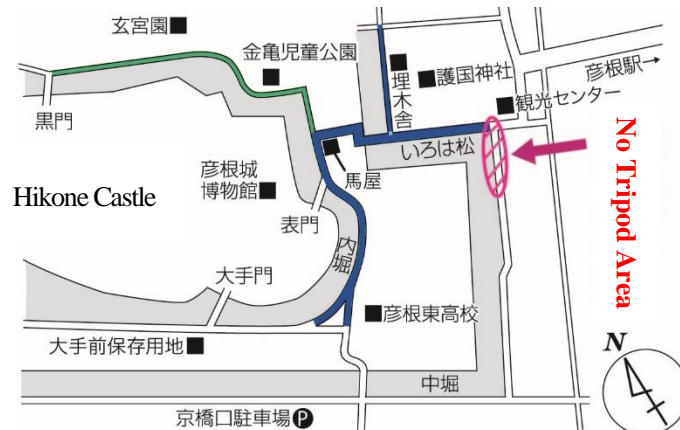
Day	Time	Location	Organization Name	Cost
Wednesday	7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Kokusai Kouryu SALON 	Hikone International Friendship Association Tel: (0749)-22-5931 E-mail: hikone-il@za.ztv.ne.jp	2,000 yen (Total 10 Classes) <u>*Ticket System</u>
Friday	2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.		*Japanese classes we offer are suitable for those who have never studied Japanese before and are beginners. <u>*To check our opening schedule, please scan the QR code on the left or contact us by phone or email directly.</u>	
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-machi 1, 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

★Traffic Control During Sakura Festival: March 28 – April 16

[Traffic Restrictions]

During the period of Sakura Festival, Hikone Castle and its neighboring areas are expected to bustle with a great number of visitors. To prevent potential traffic accidents from occurring, please be informed that traffic control will come into force as follows around Hikone Castle. In addition, use of tripods is prohibited in the certain area highlighted on the map below.



[Traffic Regulation Area & Time]

*The north intersection of the stable through the Kuromon gate

9:00 AM until 6:00 PM (Pedestrians only)

9:00 AM until 9:00 PM during the cherry blossoms in peak bloom (Pedestrians only)

*The Irohatsu avenue through Hikone Higashi High School

9:00AM until 6:00 PM (Pedestrians only)

[Important Notes]

- The time of traffic restrictions is subject to change depending on the weather, traffic condition, etc.
- Use public transportation rather than drive to Hikone Castle during the festival season.
- Do not park on the roadside lest you disturb the local residents.
- For more information of the cherry blossom forecast, please visit the Hikone Tourism Association's website.

Inquiries: Hikone Tourism Association, Tel: 0749-23-0001, Fax: 0749-26-1919

★Road Safety Campaign: Mar 15 – Apr 15

The period from March 15 (Fri) through April 15 (Mon) is designated as the Road Safety Awareness Month. This campaign reminds all who use the road of having a greater responsibility to follow traffic regulations as a new school year begins in April. If you see children, seniors, cyclists, and people with disabilities walking while behind the wheel, please let them go first as a sign of kindness.



*Cyclists are required to put effort into wearing a helmet under the newly revised traffic law which went into effect in April 2023. Compared to cyclists who wear a helmet, the fatality rate of those who do not wear a helmet is more than twice higher according to the national statistics. Please wear a helmet to protect your own life.

★National Childhood Immunization Week: Mar 1 – 7

Immunization throughout childhood is crucial as it helps built up immunity before children are exposed to certain diseases. Be sure to follow the immunization schedule by consulting your Boshi Techo (mother and child health handbook) so that your child/children will get all the necessary vaccines on time at the recommended ages. Note that if you fail to get your child/children vaccinated on time, you will be required to bear the cost of a vaccine in the future.

★March Is Suicide Prevention Month

If you see anyone who has been unusually in low spirits, has been frequently out sick, and so on, please casually say hello and ask how he/she is doing. The following numbers are telephone counseling numbers to help people suffering from depression to find solutions and comfort.

- Yorisoi Hotline (Telephone Counseling) – Tel: 0120-279-338, 24/7
- Kokorono Nayami Soudan (Mar 9, Saturday Only) – Tel: 0749-27-9981, 9:00 to 16:00, 45 mins per person
- Shiga Inochino Denwa – Tel: 077-553-7387, Fri – Sun, 10:00 to 22:00
- Hikone Welfare Division for People with Disabilities – Tel: 0749-27-9981, Mon – Fri, 8:30 – 17:15

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

★Study Space for Children during Spring Break

Location: 3F, Hikone Fukushi (Welfare) Center, 670 Hirata-cho

Opening Period: March 25 (Tue) to April 5 (Fri), 9:00 to 12:00

*Closed on Wednesdays and weekends

Target Age Group: Children in elementary, junior-high, and high school

*There are some other study spaces for children across Hikone. Please visit the website of Hikone City or contact the relevant division at the number below.

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

★The Process of Getting A Koseki (Family Register) Certificate Will Become Easier

A certificate of Koseki (family register) could only be issued from a municipality where the Koseki was registered.

However, starting March 1 (Fri), a certificate of Koseki can be obtained regardless of which municipal government office you visit to obtain it. In this regard, you will be required to present your ID, etc. and do the necessary paperwork accordingly.

If you want to know more about it, be sure to contact the division of the Hikone City Hall in charge of the family register system.

Inquiries: Hikone Life Service Division, Tel: 0749-30-6111

☆Sunday Opening of the City Hall for My Number Card Procedures

Date: March 10 (Sun)

Opening Hours: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: First Floor, Hikone City Hall

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

☆Sunday Opening of Hikone Seisou (Garbage Collection) Center

The Hikone Garbage Collection Center is scheduled to open to accept bulk waste and small household appliances on March 24, Sunday. Ensure to check the following important points if you want to drop off bulk waste or household appliances at the said center on that day.

[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 free of charge.
- *Unbroken fluorescent tubes and light bulbs can be also disposed of.
- *Certain appliances, such as a television, cannot be disposed of at the center under the Japan Recycling Act.
- *Make sure to follow instructions given by center workers to not cause a backlog of traffic.

Inquiries: Hikone Garbage Collection Center, Tel:0749-22-2734

☆Disposal of Old Computers for Free

Renet Japan Recycle and Hikone City entered into an agreement where old computers can be collected free of charge for recycling. Please take the following steps to send your old computer(s) to Renet Japan Recycle for its free computer disposal services.

[Steps Prior To Sending Old Computers]

1. Send a request to Renet Japan Recycle on its website (Scan the QR code).
2. Pack a computer(s) you want to get rid of in a cardboard box.
3. A delivery person will visit your place to pick up the package on the date and time of your choosing.



[Notes]

- *Small appliances, printers, etc. can be also collected.
- *Any cardboard box is accepted but has to be smaller than one meter in depth, length, and width combined.
- *Ensure to completely format your computer.

Inquiries: Renet Japan Recycle, Tel: 0570-085-800

Event

★Hikone Eco-Market

Date and Time: March 31 (Sun), 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Otemae Park, Konki-cho

★Hikone Morning Market

March 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!

★Hikone Biwako Spring Fireworks

Date and Time: March 17 (Sun), 7:00 PM – 7:50 PM

Site: Hikone Port

[Traffic Control In Place On The Date Of Fireworks]

No parking lot is available for the fireworks. Therefore, you are strongly advised to use public transportation services instead of driving a car. On top of this, between 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM, certain roads around the Hikone Port are scheduled to turn into a pedestrian only zone. For further details, please contact the North Biwako Fireworks Committee Office.

Inquiries: North Biwako Fireworks Committee Office, Tel: 0749-23-001

★Hikone Castle Projection Mapping

Date and Time: March 22 (Fri) – 31 (Sun), 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fee: 1000 yen per adult, 500 yen per child



Inquiries: Hikone Cultural Treasure Division, Tel: 0749-26-5833

★Free Live Soccer Matches at Heiwado Hato Stadium

Date and Time: March 10 (Sun) at 1:00 PM

March 24 (Sun) at 1:00 PM

April 7 (Sun) at 1:00 PM



[Get Free Tickets To Watch A Soccer Match!]

Please scan the QR code to download a free soccer match ticket. One ticket enables a maximum of five people to watch the game! If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office in charge at the number given below.

Inquiries: Hikone J. League Promotion Office, Tel: 0749-22-5955

☆Events at Hikone Kodomo Center

[Kaleidoscope Making Class]

Let's create your own kaleidoscope!

- Date and Time: March 17 (Sunday), 10:00 – 11:30
- Target Age Group: Children in elementary and junior-high school
 - *Elementary schoolers must be accompanied by their parents/guardians.
- Capacity: 10
- Fee: 300 Yen
- Application Period: March 4 (Mon) until 13 (Wed)
 - *An application is accepted on a first come, first served basis.

[Family Concerts]

Date and Time: March 3 (Sun) at 1:30 PM and 3:00 PM *Performed by Hikone Children's Choir
March 24 (Sun) at 1:30 PM and 3:00 PM * Performed by Inae Boys and Girls' Choir

Inquiries: Hikone Kodomo Center, Tel: 0749 – 28 – 3645

☆Indian and Nepali Cooking Class

While learning different food cultures, you can cook Indian and Nepali dishes that are a cut above!

Date and Time: March 11 (Sun), 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Fee: 1,800 yen

Capacity: 10

Application Due Date: March 7 at 4:00 PM

[Important Notes]

- *This cooking class is available for Hikone residents and those who work or study in Hikone.
- *Please apply for the cooking class by phone, email, or online (scan the QR code).
- *If you want to leave your young child/ren in the care of short-time childcare during the cooking lesson, be sure to mention the need of childcare services in your application, and note that you will be charged for 500 yen extra per child.



Inquiries and Application: Hikone Gender Equality Center, Tel: 0749-24-3529

☆Shiitake Mushroom Planting Experience Workshop

Are you interested in getting hands-on experience in cultivating Shiitake mushrooms?

Hikone Kodomo Center has such a workshop on March 11, Saturday as follows!

- Date: March 20, Wednesday
- Time: Morning Class – 10:30 to 11:30, Afternoon Class – 13:30 to 14:30
- Meeting Spot: In front of the ground of Hikone Kodomo Center
- Target Age Group: Elementary School Children *They must be accompanied by their parents.
- Capacity: 20 for each class

*You are required to call 0749-25-2599 to sign up your child for the Shiitake mushroom planting experience workshop. Applications for this workshop will start on March 6, Wednesday at 10:00 AM. Please note that applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Consultation

Legal Consultation	March 22 (Fri) 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per consultation (Reservations available from Mar 13)	Hikone Community Development Division	0749-30-6117
Labour Consultation	March 22 (Fri) 18:30 – 20:00 *30 minutes per person *A reservation has to be made. (Reservations available from Mar 1)	Hikone Proceed Arena	0749-30-9228
<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 March 6 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 (Offered by reservation only) Support for Continuing to Work March 27 (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 8:30 – 17:15 (Offered by reservation only)	Development Support Division (Hirata-cho)	0749-26-8282
Language Development Consultation	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15 (Offered by reservation only)		
Human Rights Consultation in Foreign Languages	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 17:00		0570-090-911
Bullying & Social Withdrawal 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 ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:15	Consumer Affairs Center	0749-30-6144
Road Accident Consultation	Tue & Thu ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 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

☆April Health Check-ups for Infants and Young Children

Location: Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho)

Starting with the health check-ups for infants and young children in April, you are required to make an appointment in advance via a mobile app “母子モ(Boshi Mo)”. If you come to the Kusunoki Center for your child’s check-up without an appointment, you will not be permitted to get your child checked.



April

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	17 (Wed)	Children born between 2023 June 1 and 15
1 and ½ years olds	12 (Fri)	Children born in 2022 September
	19 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	11 (Thu)	Children born in 2021 September
	18 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	15 (Mon)	Children born in 2020 September
	22 (Mon)	

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

☆COVID-19 Vaccines (Publicly Funded) Information

Please note that COVID-19 vaccines that have been administered nationwide at no cost are expected to end on March 31. If you are thinking of getting a primary series of the vaccines or a booster shot, please schedule your appointment at your earliest convenience.

If you want proof of vaccination in a paper format after March 31, please visit the Hikone Health Promotion Division and apply for one in person.

[How to Schedule an Appointment]

Please call the Hikone COVID-19 Appointment Call Center at 0120-152-811 between 8:30 and 5:00.

The call center is scheduled to be shut down permanently on March 29 (Fri) at 5:00 PM.

★Financial Assistance for Rubella Vaccines

[Eligibility Criteria] Those who meet all the criteria listed below qualify for financial help to get a rubella vaccine.

- Those who got tested or will get tested for antibodies to the rubella virus between 2023, March 1 and 2024, March 31 in Shiga.
- Those who got tested and whose test results show a lack of rubella immunity.
- Those who got vaccinated or will get vaccinated against rubella between 2023, April 1 and 2024, March 31.

[Amount of Financial Assistance] The maximum of 5,000 JPY, limited to one payment per person.

[Application Period] Until March 31 (Fri), 2024

*If you apply by mail, be sure to have your application arrive no later than March 31.

★Free Rubella Antibody Testing

[Qualification Criteria] Those who meet all the criteria listed below qualify for a free rubella antibody test.

- Women who want to have a baby.
- Persons living with a woman who wants to have a baby.
- Persons living with a pregnant woman who has weak immunity to rubella.



[Where to Get Tested] Please scan the QR code to see the list of medical institutions offering rubella antibody tests.

[Due Date] March 31 (Sun)

Inquiries: Shiga Health And Crises Management Division, Tel: 077-528-3632