

広報ひこね (英語版)

Community Newsletter

KOHO HIKONE



April 2024

- Prepare For Disasters (P. 3)
- Convenience Store Is Now Open! (P. 5)
- Free Soccer Match (P. 6)
- Mt. Kojin Spring Festival (P. 6)



(Official Hikone Website)



(New Facebook Page!)

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.


(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 are 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	① 9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. ② 11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. ③ 1:30 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. ④ 3:00 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. ⑤ Online 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

★Cash Handout Program for *Kintowari* Tax Payers and Low-Income Families With Children

100,000 Yen Provided To Households That Are Subject To Fiscal 2023 *Kintowari* (Per-Capita, 5,800 Yen) Resident Tax

Eligibility Criteria: Households that meet all the following criteria can qualify for the handout money.

- Households that were registered in Hikone City as of December 1, 2023
- Households that are subject to fiscal 2023 *Kintowari* resident tax

Caution!: Tax-exempt households and households where all household members are a dependent of someone who is subject to resident tax DO NOT qualify.

50,000 Yen Per Child Provided To Low-Income Households With Children

Eligibility Criteria: Households that meet all the following criteria can qualify for the handout money.

- Households that were registered in Hikone City as of December 1, 2023
- Households that are fully exempt from fiscal 2023 resident tax or subject to fiscal 2023 *Kintowari* resident tax.
- Households that have a child/children who was/were born after 2005 April 2.

Important Point: Babies born before April 1, 2024 will be included in this program.

Caution!: Households where all household members are a dependent of someone who is subject to resident tax DO NOT qualify.

What exactly are *Kintowari* resident tax and *Shotokuwari* resident tax?

- *Kintowari* is a tax levied on every liable individual as a fixed sum. It is known as a per capita tax, a poll tax, head tax or simply capitation. The fixed amount of *Kintowari* is 5,800 yen.
- *Shotokuwari* is a tax levied on every liable tax payer based on their previous year's total income.

How To Determine If Those Who Qualify Are Required To Apply Or Not

A: If you have received a notice letter regarding this cash handout program in the mail, there is no need to apply to receive your handout money. For those who want to renounce your eligibility or update your pre-printed bank account details, please submit the necessary paperwork by April 10 (Wed).

B: If you have received an application form or confirmation form regarding this cash handout program in the mail, you are required to apply by May 31 (Fri).

*If you have a child who is living separately but is your dependent, please get in touch with the call center by the due date to confirm if you can be eligible to receive the handout money.

When Is The Handout Money Expected To Be Provided?

- To those who do not have to apply, the handout money will be paid around late April.
- To those who have to apply, it takes one month to receive the handout money after submitting their application.

*Note that if you want to change your bank account, are required to send additional information, need to make corrections, etc., the process may take more time.

☆How We Should Help Ourselves Prepare For Disasters

Suzuka West Earthquake Fault Line

Map Showing an Estimated Scale of Damage in Hikone



• How Strong Is Seismic Intensity 7?

It is impossible to keep standing, and even buildings reinforced for a strong earthquake could crumble. Intensity of this level of a powerful earthquake can cause cracks in the ground, landslides, and other secondary disasters.

[Disaster Preparedness You Can Put Into Action Starting Now!]

- Check the location of the nearest evacuation center from your house.
- Prepare a so-called “emergency go bag” for emergency evacuations.

List of Recommended Items for a Go Bag



Valuables

- Cash (change should be included)
- Inkan (a name seal)
- Bankbook
- Photo ID

Food Items

- Bottled Water
- Emergency Freeze Dried Food
- Baby Formula (with a feeding bottle)
- Baby Food
- Nursing Care Food
- Allergy-Free Food

Clothing

- Underwear
- Jacket
- Towel
- Work Gloves
- Rain Coat
- Diaper

Other Necessary Items

- Flashlight
- Portable Radio
- Battery
- Oral Care Product (a tooth brush, etc.)
- Portable Toilet Kit
- Stationery
- Pocket Knife
- Can Opener
- Glasses
- Contact Lens
- Infection Disease Prevention Disease

Medication

- Medicines for Chronic Illnesses
- Household Medicines
- First Aid Kit

- Hikone City Disaster Prevention Manual



- Other Resources To Obtain Disaster Information In Real Time



☆Bumps in the Amount of Benefit Rates for People with Disabilities

Starting April, the following benefit rates are slated to increase as follows.

[Special Disability Benefit per Month]

27,890 yen to 28,840 yen

[Welfare Benefit for Children with Disabilities per Month]

15,220 yen to 15,690 yen

☆Taxi Services for People with Disabilities

Up to 12,000 JPY of tax fares or up to 6,000 JPY of gas prices can be provided to people with disabilities.

Application Date: Starting April 1 (Mon) at the Hikone Welfare Division for People with Disabilities.

Inquiries: Hikone Welfare Division for People with Disabilities, Tel: 0749-27-9981, Fax: 0749-30-9231

☆Financial Aid for School Expenses

To parents who are having financial difficulties, financial aid can be provided to partially cover the costs of school items, school lunches, field trips, and other expenses.

[Eligibility Criteria]

- Parents who live in Hikone and their children are in elementary or junior-high school.
- Tax-exempt households or households whose tax has been lowered.
- Parents who receive Jido Fuyo Teate (Child rearing support allowance, not child allowance).
- Households whose eligibility of the Seikatsu Hogo Program has been terminated or suspended.

To find more details about this financial aid program, please contact the Hikone Board of Education or visit the website of Hikone City.

Inquiries: Hikone School Learning Division, Tel: 0749-24-7973

☆Spring National Road Safety Campaign

The period from April 6 (Sat) through 15 (Mon) is designated as the Spring National Road Safety Campaign. This campaign reminds all who use the road of having a greater responsibility to follow traffic regulations. Please take the following actions to not violate the traffic law.

- 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.
- Driving under the influence is a criminal offence. If you had even a drop of alcohol, refrain from driving.
- Cyclists are required to put effort into wearing a helmet under the newly revised traffic law which went into effect in April 2023. When riding a bicycle, stay on the left side of the road.

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

☆Convenience Store Is Now Open In City Hall!

A new Family Mart convenience store is now available on the first floor of the Hikone city hall!

The convenience store is open from 7:30 AM until 6:30 PM and open until 7:00 PM on Thursdays.

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

Date: April 14 (Sun)

Opening Hours: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: First Floor, Hikone City Hall

Note: A priority will be given to people with a reservation.

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

Event

☆Spring Constellation Viewing

Date and Time: April 19 (Fri), 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM *It will be cancelled if it rains.

Application Period: April 5 (Fri) – 11 (Thu)

Capacity: 20 *On a first-come, first-served basis, and children in elementary school
and younger must be accompanied by their parents/guardians.

Fee: 300 yen *It is free for young children.

☆Afterschool Playground Project Hosted by Shiga University

Participating children will be playing soccer, tag, frisbee, etc. with university students.

Date and Time: April 18 (Thu), 17:00 – 18:00

Location: Shiga University Hikone Campus (Hikone, Baba-cho, 1-chome)

Target Age: Children in Elementary School

*Pre-school children can join the project on the condition that their parents/guardians accompany them.

Capacity: 30 *first come, first served

How to Apply: Please scan the QR code, and apply online by April 11 (Thu).



Inquiries: Shiga University, Tel: 0749-27-1047

☆Free Soccer Match

Date and Time: April 7 (Sun) at 1:00 PM

Location: Heiwado HATO Stadium



☆Hikone Castle Illumination for World Autism Awareness Day

April 2 is designated as World Autism Awareness Day. To collaborate with this internationally recognized day, Hikone Castle is scheduled to be lit in blue which is considered to be the color of hope and comfort.

Illumination Period: April 2 (Tue) through 4 (Thu) between sunset and 9:00 PM



☆Hikone Eco-Market “Yume Batake”

Date and Time: April 21 (Sun), 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Otemon-mae Park (Hikone, Konki-cho)

Inquiries: Yume Batacae Association, Tel. 090-1224-3782

☆Mt. Kojin Spring Festival

Some special events and experience workshops will be hosted. In addition, food stalls, exhibitions, shops, and more will be at the festival site.

Date and Time: May 4 (Sat), 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Mt. Kojin Park



Consultation

Legal Consultation	March 22 (Fri) 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per consultation (Reservations available from April 26)	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 April 3 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 (Offered by reservation only) Support for Continuing to Work April 17 (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 Division (<i>Hirata-cho</i>)	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
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

☆May 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 2024, 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 be told to return with an appointment.

May

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	15 (Wed)	Children born between 2023 June 16 and 30
	28 (Tue)	Children born between 2023 July 1 and 15
1 and ½ years olds	17 (Fri)	Children born in 2024 October.
	24 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	16 (Thu)	Children born in 2023 October.
	23 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	13 (Mon)	Children born in 2022 October.
	27 (Mon)	

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

☆About Hikone Urgent Care Unit

Opening Days: Sundays, National Holidays, Year End and New Year Holiday Period

Reception Hours: 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Available Medical Departments: Internal Medicine and Pediatrics

Important Notes: • Ensure to make an appointment in advance at 0749-22-1119.

• Do not use this urgent care service for minor injuries or other non-emergency reasons.

☆Subsidy Program for Fertility Testing/Treatment

If a married couple is formally diagnosed with infertility or possibility of infertility, a government subsidy is available for them to cover the partial amount of fertility testing and treatment.

Eligibility Criteria: *Couples who meet all the following conditions are eligible.

- Legally married at the time of applying for this subsidy program.
- Being covered under health insurance.
- Neither husband or wife is having unpaid balance for resident tax.

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

☆Breast Cancer And Cervical Cancer Screening

[Breast Cancer Screening]

Target Group: Women aged over 40 as of March 31, 2025 who are registered as a resident of Hikone

Screening Method: A mammogram from two directions for 40 to 49 years old

A mammogram from one direction for 50 years and older

Things to Bring: ¥500, a health insurance card, and identification

How to Get Screened: Please visit one of the health facilities designated by the city with your photo ID.

Note that some health facilities require anyone who wants to get screened for cancer to make an appointment first.

☆Pneumococcal Vaccination

Those who never get vaccinated against pneumococcal infection and can meet either condition A or B specified below are advised to get a pneumococcal shot.

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

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

Subsidy Amount: 2,660 yen

Important Points: • Please schedule your appointment with a health facility where a pneumococcal vaccine is administered.
• A pre-vaccination questionnaire is available at a health facility across Hikone.
• People who fall under an age group of 60 to 64 with a said medical condition are required to apply at the Hikone Health Promotion Division.