

広報ひこね（英語版）

Community Newsletter *KOHO HIKONE*

December 2024



- Public Services during Holiday Season (P. 2)
- Protect Water Pipes From Cold Of Winter (P. 3)
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- Hikone Morning Market (P. 5)



[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 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
- Inae-chiku Kominkan
- Mega Center TRAIAL Hikone
- Mega Don Quijote Toyosato
- Don Quijote Hikone
- Hikone City Hospital

Interpreting Services (Available in English, Portuguese, Chinese, and 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 Schedule: 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
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	100 yen per lesson
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 st , 3 rd , 4 th Saturday	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Higashi-chiku Community Center (Daito-cho 1-26)	Hikone UNESCO Association, Japanese Language Class “JUMP” Learning Japanese as a foreign language educational support for children Tel: 090-2384-9760	Free

Japanese Conversational Club “Nihongo Hiroba”



[Opening Schedule]

- ① Saturday, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
- ② Friday, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

*Please search the link shown below or scan the QR code for monthly schedules and more.

<https://x.gd/gJBbE>

[Location] Kokusai Koryu Salon

[Fee] 100 JPY each time (A drink and snacks will be offered.)

[Contact Info] Tel: 0749-22-5931, Email: hikone-il@za.ztv.ne.jp



General Information



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

Please note that from Dec 28 (Sat) through Jan 5 (Sun), the city hall is scheduled to be closed. However, the following public services will remain available as follows.

[Trash Collection Services]

Open on December 29 (Sun) and 30 (Mon)

[Hikone Incineration Plant] Tel: 0749-22-2734

- Large-Sized Waste Collection: December 29 (Sun) and 30 (Mon), 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Hikone Bunka Plaza's Parking Lot
- Burnable and Recyclable Waste: December 29 (Sun) and 30 (Mon), 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

[Shiunen Crematorium] Tel: 0749-48-1318

Open from Dec 28 (Sat) to Jan 5 (Sun) except Jan 1 (Wed)

[Water and Sewer Customer Services Center] Tel: 0749-27-2802

Open from Dec 28 (Sat) to 31 (Tue) and on Jan 4 (Sat) and 5 (Sun)

[Hikone Urgent Care Center] Tel: 0749-22-1119

Open from December 29 (Sun) to January 3 (Fri) and on January 5 (Sun), 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

*Be sure to call the urgent care center beforehand.

*Internal medicine and pediatrics only will be provided.

[Hikone Municipal Hospital] Tel: 0749-22-6050

Open from December 28 (Sat) to January 5 (Sun)

[Night Soil Treatment]

In addition to the already scheduled collections, night soil treatment collections will take place on December 21, and January 4 and 5, weather permitting. For further information, please contact City Hall prior to the holiday period.

[Important Notes]

- Be sure to consult your trash collection calendar, and take out the trash by following Hikone City's trash disposal rules.
- Getting certain government-issued certificates at convenience stores by using a My Number card will be unavailable from December 29 until January 3. Registering childbirth, death (the issuance of a cremation permit is available between 9:00 and 4:45), divorce, etc. can be completed at the city hall even during this year-end and new-year holiday period.
- Payments for resident tax, national health insurance, night soil treatment, water, sewer services, and other fees can be made at banks designated by the city (please check each bank's holiday schedule). If your payment bill can be settled at a convenience store, you can use cashless payment apps such as PayPay, LINE Pay, au PAY, Pay B, etc., via your smartphone.

Dental Clinic Schedule for the New Year and Year End Holiday Season

*Opening hours are from 9:00 AM until 3:30 PM

*If you have any questions, please call the clinic directly during their operating hours.

Date	Dental Clinic Name (Address)	Telephone Number
December 30 (Mon)	Nakajima Dental Clinic (Hikone, Moto-machi)	0749-23-3907
December 31 (Tue)	Ikeda Dental Clinic in Takamiya (Hikone, Takamiya-cho)	0749-27-1717
January 1 (Wed)	Tsutsumi Dental Clinic (Hikone, Haramachi)	0749-24-2363
January 2 (Thu)	Koba Dental, Orthodontics Clinic (Gosanjo-cho)	0749-26-6050
January 3 (Fri)	Kitamura Dental Clinic (Shiromachi Ni-chome)	0749-22-0622

Places Where Children Can Do Self-Study 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, Community Centers, and more.

*Please access the official website of Hikone City to check other places open for children to do self-study.

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

Understanding and Support for the City's Snow Clearing Efforts

During the wintertime, road traffic conditions tend to be affected by snowfall and icy road surfaces.

To minimize the negative impact on Hikone residents, the city designates the period from December 1 until March 20 as the snow clearing focus period. During this time, snow plowing and removal operations, as well as ice control measures, will be carried out on major roads with high priority.

The snow plowing and removal operations are expected to take place from midnight through early morning.

That said, some operations may have to be done in broad daylight. Please also keep in mind that parking cars on the roadside is prohibited and will hinder city crews from completing snow plowing and removal operations.

[Please Help the City Deal with Heavy Snow]

The city is committed to carrying out snow and ice operations as effectively as possible. However, the city alone has its limits in clearing enough snow for all Hikone residents. For this reason, the city asks Hikone residents to clear snow off sidewalks, residential streets, and so on. When clearing snow, please dump it into a canal, trench, or drainage ditch nearby.

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.
- It is advisable to regularly check for a water leak by taking a look at your home water meter.



Contact Information: 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 courteous while behind the wheel to the elderly and children. As for pedestrians and cyclists, with days becoming shorter, it is advisable to wear light-colored 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.

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

Sunday Opening for My Number Card Procedures

Date and Time: December 8 (Sun), 9:30 -12:30

Location: 1F, Hikone City Hall



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

World Aids Day (December 1)

Symptoms of HIV may not appear for a long period of time in the early stages, allowing the virus to be transmitted to others unknowingly by 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.

*Please be sure to call the number to schedule your appointment (it can be done anonymously).

Available Days: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of Each Month

Available Time: 2:00 PM – 3:20 PM

*Only on Dec 17, 9:20 AM – 2:30 PM

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

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

Tel: 0749-21-0283

Disabilities Awareness Week: Dec 3 – 9

[With the Aim of Forming a Local Society Where Diversity and Inclusion Are Valued]

Hikone City has been moving forward with its city development plan for people with disabilities to create a city where everyone can live safely, actively, and with peace of mind.

[Providing Reasonable Accommodations to All Is Now Mandated under the Amended Act for Eliminating Discrimination]

Effective April 1, 2024, all business operators are now required to provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities under the revised act for eliminating discrimination.

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

Human Rights Awareness Week: Dec 4 (Wed) – 10 (Tue)

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

If you are struggling or know someone who is struggling, please feel free to call one of the telephone numbers below.

[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

- Human Rights for Everyone

Tel: 0570-003-110

- Human Rights for Children

Tel: 0120-007-110

- Human Rights for Women

Tel: 0570-070-810

Events and Activities

The 27th Annual University Brass Concert

Date and Time: December 28 (Sat), 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Grand Hall, Hikone Bunka Plaza (Nose-cho)

Contact Information: University of Shiga Prefecture, Tel: 0749-28-8614

Christmas Concert

The Hikone Children's Choir will sing Christmas songs.

Date and Time: December 8 (Sun), Starting at 1:30 PM and 3:00 PM

Venue: Hikone Kodomo Center (Hinatsu-cho)

Tel: 0749-28-3645

Hikone Morning Market

December 15 (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 Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
Legal Consultation	December 27 (Fri) 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per consultation *Reservations available from Dec 18.	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 Dec 4 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. Support for Continuing to Work Dec 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 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
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

Health and Wellness Information

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

January Health Check-ups for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers

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 “母子毛 (Boshi Mo)”. If you come to the Kusunoki Center for your child’s check-up without an appointment, you may be told to return with an appointment.



January

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	15 (Wed)	Children born between 2024 February 16 and 29
	28 (Tue)	Children born between 2024 March 1 and 15
1 and ½ years olds	17 (Fri)	Children born in 2023 June.
	24 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	16 (Thu)	Children born in 2022 June.
	23 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	20 (Mon)	Children born in 2021 June.
	27 (Mon)	

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