

広報ひこね（英語版）

Community Newsletter *KOHO HIKONE*



March 2025

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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	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

General Information

City Hall Sunday Opening for Moving-in/-out, My Number Procedures, etc.

***“No” On-Site Language Interpreting Services Will Be Available!**

[Details]

Date and Time: March 23 (Sun), March 30 (Sun), April 6 (Sun)

Opening Hours: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: 1st Floor, Hikone City Hall (Motomachi, 4-2)

Available Procedures:

- Moving-in, Moving-out, Address Changes within Hikone
- My Number Card Procedures (picking up a card, renewing a card, resetting passwords, etc.)
- Issuance of Government-issued Certificates (a certificate of residence, Koseki, Inkan registration certificate, etc.)
- Inkan (a name seal) Registration

[Important Points]

- Procedures for registering a childbirth, obtaining a cremation permit, etc. can be processed at the security guard office.
- The resident registration procedure for foreigners, as well as the moving-in and moving-out procedures using an IC-chipped My Number card cannot be completed.
- Be sure to bring a photo ID with you.

Contact Info: Hikone Life Service Division, Tel: 0749-30-6111

Sunday Disposal for Bulky Waste and Small Appliances at Seiso Center

Date and Time: March 23 (Sun), 8:00 – 11:00

[Cautions]

- Please have your photo ID ready and present it at the gate to prove you are a Hikone resident.
- Only bulky waste and small appliances will be accepted.
- Bulky waste can be dropped off for a fee, while appliances smaller than one meter in length, width, and depth can be disposed of free of charge.
- Unbroken fluorescent tubes and light bulbs can also be disposed of.
- Certain appliances, such as televisions, cannot be disposed of at the center under the Japan Recycling Act.
- Do not park on the roadsides or wait on the road for the center to open.

Contact Info: Hikone Seiso Center (Garbage Incineration Plant), Tel:0749-22-2734

Temporary Closure of Hikone Water and Sewage Customer Service Center

Please be notified that on March 29 (Sat) and 30 (Sun), the Hikone Water and Sewage Customer Service Center is scheduled to be closed. Ensure that you complete any necessary procedures, such as stopping the city's water service, or paying your water bill by the 29th or after the closure.

Contact Info: Hikone Water and Sewage Customer Service Center, Tel: 0749-22-2722

Service of Government-Issued Certificates at Convenience Stores to Go Offline

Due to maintenance work, the issuance of government-issued certificates at convenience stores, using a My Number card, will be unavailable from March 11 (Tue) at 11:00 PM until March 14 (Fri) at 6:30 AM.

Contact Info: Hikone Life Service Division, Tel: 0749-30-6111

Vendors Wanted for the Upcoming Shiga National Sports Festival!

The Hikone City National Sports Festival Committee is looking for vendors to spice up the festival.

- Event Dates: September 28 (Sun) to October 1 (Wed), October 3 (Fri) to October 7 (Tue)
- Venues: Proceed Arena HIKONE, Hikone Sogo High School, Panasonic Hikone Factory



Please apply via email, through the mail, or in person at the relevant division by March 31 (Mon).

Contact Info: Hikone Shiga National Sports Festival Committee, Tel. 0749-30-6141

Study Space for Children during Spring Break

Location: 31 West Meeting Room, 3F, Hikone Fukushi (Welfare) Center

Opening Dates & Time: March 25 (Tue), 28 (Fri), 31 (Mon)

April 1 (Tue), 3 (Thu), 4 (Fri), 7 (Mon)

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

*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.

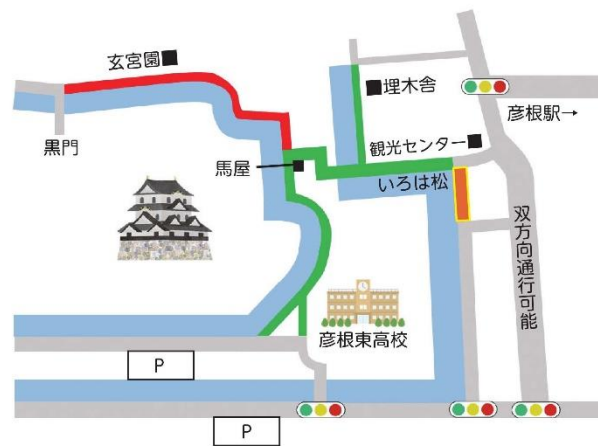
Please visit the website of Hikone City or contact the relevant division at the number below.

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

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

[Details on Traffic Control]

Between March 28 (Fri) and April 16 (Wed), certain areas around Hikone Castle will be designated as pedestrian-only streets, as shown on the map below. In addition, because many visitors are expected to flock to Hikone Castle and its surrounding tourist areas, you are strongly advised to visit the castle during the Sakura Festival period by public transportation, on foot, or by bicycle. Please be reminded that parking on roadsides or private properties without permission is a violation of the traffic law.



[Areas in Traffic Control and Effective 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 blossom peak season (Pedestrians only)
- The Irohatsu avenue through Hikone Higashi High School
9:00 AM until 6:00 PM (Pedestrians only)
- The Irohatsu avenue through Hikone Castle Resort & Spa
6:00 PM until 9:00 PM

[Important Notes]

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

Contact Info: Hikone Tourism Association, Tel: 0749-23-0001



One-Way Road Now Reopened as Two-Way Road

The road from Funa-machi to Tachinaba-cho, previously a one-way road, has been reopened as a two-way road.



Contact Info: Hikone Road and River Division, Tel. 0749-30-6122

Road Safety Campaign: Mar 15 – Apr 15

The period from March 15 (Sat) through April 15 (Tue) is designated as Road Safety Awareness Month. This campaign reminds all road users of their greater responsibility to follow traffic regulations as the new school year begins in April. If you see children, seniors, cyclists, or people with disabilities walking, please yield to them as a sign of kindness. Cyclists are required to wear a helmet under the newly revised traffic law that went into effect in April 2023. According to national statistics, the fatality rate for cyclists who do not wear a helmet is more than twice as high as for those who do. Please wear a helmet to protect your own life.

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

Events and Activities

Hikone Morning Market

March 16 (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 the Hikone Morning Market!

Hikone Eco-Market

Date and Time: March 23 (Sun), 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Otemae Park, Konki-cho

Semi-Pro Soccer Game: Reilac Shiga FC Vs Atletico Suzuka

Date and Kick-Off Time: March 9 (Sun), 1:00 PM

Venue: Heiwado HATO Stadium

Free Ticket: Please scan the QR code to download your free ticket.



Interactive Activity for Parents and Children

Date and Time: March 13 (Thu), 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Shimin Kyoryu Center (163-1, Satonecho, Hikone)

Target Age Group: Children who are not enrolled in a childcare facility and their parents

Capacity: 10 Participants

Fee: 200 Yen

How to Apply: Please sign your child up for this activity via email, by phone, in person, or online (scan the QR code).

Contact Info: Hikone Higashiyama Jido Hall, Tel. 0749-23-3582,

Email. higashiyama_ha@ma.city.hikone.shiga.jp

Shiitake Mushroom Planting Experience Workshop

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

Hikone Kodomo Center is hosting such a workshop on March 20 (Thursday, holiday) as follows!

[Date] March 20, Thursday, Holiday

[Time] Morning Class – 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Afternoon Class – 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

[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 participants for each class

*Please 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.

Note that applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Consultation Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
Legal Consultation	March 28 (Fri) 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per consultation *Reservations available from Mar 19.	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 Mar 5 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. Support for Continuing to Work Mar 19 (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
Labour Law Consultation	Mar 28 (Fri), 18:30 – 20:00 *Reservations available from March 1. *30 minute per individual.	Proceed Arena HIKONE	080-6159-3486

March Is Suicide Prevention Month

March is a time of year when the number of people taking their own lives increases due to changes, such as starting a new school, or shifts in their social environments. If you are suffering, do not go it alone. Please call the number below to seek help.

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

Health and Wellness Information

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

April 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 “母子モ (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.



April

Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	15 (Tue)	Children born between 2024 May 16 and June 5
1 and ½ years olds	18 (Fri)	Children born in 2023 September.
	25 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	17 (Thu)	Children born in 2022 September.
	24 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	14 (Mon)	Children born in 2021 September.
	21 (Mon)	

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

National Childhood Immunization Week: Mar 1 – 7

Immunization throughout childhood is crucial as it helps build 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) to ensure that your child/children receive 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 vaccination in the future.

Free HPV Vaccines

[Eligibility] *Those who meet either A or B below can receive an HPV shot at no cost.

A: Born between April 2, 1997 and April 1, 2009.

B: Born between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2025, have received more than one HPV shot so far and need to complete the HPV vaccine series.

[Vaccination Availability Period]

Available for those who meet either criterion above until March 31, 2026

[HPV Vaccination Subsidy System] *Application deadline: March 31, 2025.

The subsidy system covers the full/partial cost of the HPV vaccine series.

Anyone who can meet all the following criteria can take advantage of the system.

- Those who reside in Hikone as of April 1, 2022.
- Those who were born between April 2, 1997 and April 1, 2005.
- Those in the above eligible age group who completed the HPV vaccine series.

Please contact the Hikone Health Promotion Division at the number below for further details of the subsidy system.

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

Free Rubella Antibody Testing

[Qualification Criteria]

Those who meet either of the following criteria qualify for a free rubella antibody test.

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

[Where to Get Tested]

Please scan the QR code to view the list of medical institutions offering rubella antibody tests.



[Due Date] March 31, 2025

Contact Info: Shiga Health and Crises Management Division, Tel. 077-528-3632

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 2024, March 1 and 2025, March 31 in Shiga.
- Those whose test results from the above time frame show a lack of rubella immunity.
- Those who have been vaccinated or will be vaccinated against rubella between 2024, April 1 and 2025, March 31.

[Amount of Financial Assistance]

The maximum of 5,000 JPY, limited to one payment per person.

[Application Period]

Until March 31 (Fri), 2025

*If you apply by mail, be sure that your application is received no later than March 31.