

広報ひこね（英語版）

Community Newsletter *KOHO HIKONE*



July 2026

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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 speak with our English interpreter by phone at the number above or in person at Hikone City Hall.

This English Version of *Koho Hikone* Is Issued Monthly.

This Foreign-Language Community Newsletter Is Available At:

- Hikone Fukushi Center
- Hikone Bunka Plaza
- Hikone City Library
- Hikone City Hall (1F)
- AEON TOWN Hikone
- Nakachiku Kominkan
- Inae Branch Office
- “Gyomuyou Super” (Toga-cho)
- Beisia Hikone
- Inae-chiku Kominkan
- Mega Center TRAIAL Hikone
- Mega Don Quijote Toyosato
- Don Quijote Hikone
- Hikone City Hospital
- Hello Work Hikone

Interpreting Services (Available in English, Portuguese, Chinese, and Vietnamese)

Onsite Foreign-Language Interpreting Services Are Available At 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 Operating Schedule: Weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

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



***Please Contact Each Organization Before Attending.**

Japanese Language Classes in Hikone



Day	Time	Location	Organization Name	Fee
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	Free
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 (1 hour each in the afternoon and evening)	Innovation Office Nayashichi (Shiro-machi 1-7-16)	Weekday Japanese Language Class Mizuno-San Tel: 070-5661-7345	200 yen per lesson
Please contact the institute for details about the days and times of its Japanese language courses.		Ohmi Furusato Hall (Kaidema-cho 1351-3)	Mother Lake Nihongo Gakuin (Japanese Language Institute) Tel: 0749-47-3447	Please contact the institute for details about the lesson fees.
1 st , 3 rd , 4 th Saturday	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Higashi-chiku Community Center (Daito-cho 1-26)	*This class is available for children only! Hikone UNESCO Association, Japanese Language Class “JUMP” Learning Japanese as a foreign language educational support for children Tel: 090-2384-9760	200 yen per lesson

Public Notices & Information

Price Increase for Hikone City-Designated Garbage Bags (Effective June 19)

*One Package Contains 10 Bags.	Before	After
Burnable Garbage Bag (40L) for Household Waste	130 yen	230 yen
Burnable Garbage Bag (30L) for Household Waste	110 yen	200 yen
Burnable Garbage Bag (22L) for Household Waste	100 yen	180 yen
Burnable Garbage Bag (12L) for Household Waste	80 yen	140 yen
Burnable Garbage Bag for Business Waste	120 yen	250 yen
Plastic Garbage Bag (40L) for Household Waste	80 yen	160 yen
Plastic Garbage Bag (22L) for Household Waste	60 yen	120 yen
Landfill Garbage Bag for Household Waste	80 yen	140 yen



Validity Period of Hikone City Cost-of-Living Support Coupons

Please be reminded that Hikone City Cost-of-Living Support coupons will become usable at participating stores digitally or in paper form as issued starting Wednesday, July 1.

Please scan the QR code to see what stores in Hikone accept the coupon.

The validity period of the coupon is up to Wednesday, September 30. After this date, you will not be able to use your coupon under any circumstances.

If you have not received your coupons even though you meet the eligibility for this program, please contact the call center for the Hikone City-of-Living Support Coupon Program.

Contact: Call Center for the Hikone City Coupon Program, Tel: 0570-033-242

Applications for Pension Exemption and Contribution Deferment

For households facing financial hardship and other difficulties, pension exemption and contribution deferment programs are available under Japan's National Pension System.

Please note that if you leave your pension contributions unpaid, you may not be eligible to receive benefits under the National Pension Program for Persons with Disabilities or the Pension Program for Surviving Family Members.

Applications start on Wednesday, July 1, and may be submitted retroactively for up to 2 years and 1 month.

[Where to Apply in Hikone]

Hikone Pension Office, Hikone City Hall, and Branch Offices of Hikone City Hall

[Validity Period of Exemption and Deferment]

July, 2026 to June 2027

Contact Hikone Insurance and Pension Division: 0749-30-6136

August 9: Temporary Opening at Hikone City Hall for My Number Card Procedures

Date and Time: August 9 (Sun) from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Hikone City Hall, 1F

*Appointments can be made in advance by scanning the QR code or by calling the number below.



*If you would like to collect your newly issued My Number card, you must make an appointment in advance online or by phone.

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

Must-Know Fireworks Safety Rules

Fireworks are fun and beautiful, but their main ingredient is technically gunpowder.

For this reason, you must take extra caution when using fireworks to prevent accidental fires and injuries.

Below are essential safety rules to follow when enjoying fireworks.

- Do not let children play with fireworks unsupervised.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby, and soak used fireworks thoroughly to ensure they are fully extinguished.
- Do not play with fireworks in windy and/or dry weather.
- Do not light fireworks with a match or lighter – use a candle instead.
- Do not light multiple fireworks at once.
- Use fireworks away from homes, flammable objects, and other people.
- Keep fireworks sparks away from clothing.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or try to dismantle them.
- Never look directly into a firework that has stopped producing light or smoke until you are sure it has completely burned out.



In addition to the important points above, do not play with fireworks late at night, and be sure to clean up afterwards so as not to disturb others or cause a nuisance.

Cooling Centers in Hikone

When the risk of heat-related illness is expected to be extremely high on the following day, a Special Heat Warning Alert is issued at around 2:00 PM via Hikone City's Emergency Information Email System (refer to Special Heat Warning Alert below). Please note that the following public facilities are designated by Hikone City as cooling centers during periods of extreme heat.

[Location of Each Cooling Center]

Hikone City Hall, Fukushi Center, Kusunoki Center, Kodomo Center, Inae Branch Office, and other public facilities.

[Special Heat Warning Alert]

Hikone City has established an emergency email information system that provides registered users with up-to-date information on emergencies, including Special Heat Warning Alerts. The service is available in foreign languages (via machine translation). To begin receiving important notices from the city, please scan the QR code and register your email address.



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



Places for Children to Do Self-Study During Summer Break

[Locations]

- 3F, 3I Meeting Room, Hikone Welfare Center (Hikone, Hirata-cho 670)
- Kokusai Koryu Salon (Hikone, Chuo-cho 2-26)
- Each Local Community Hall in Hikone

[Opening Period]

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between July 21 (Tue) and August 28 (Fri), 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

[Important Points]

- Other city-owned facilities will be open for children to study during summer break.
- Please visit the Hikone City's official website for more information.

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

Students Wanted!! – Techno College Maibara and Kusatsu

Techno College Maibara and Techno College Kusatsu are now accepting applications from job seekers who are eager to learn new skills through hands-on vocational training courses (ranging from several months to about one year) starting in October.

[Eligibility] Job Seekers

*All courses are designed for beginners.

[Course Name and Capacity] • Welding Engineering Course (Maibara): 10 people
• ICT Technology Course (Kusatsu): 15 people
• Home Renovation Course (Kusatsu): 10 people

[Application Due Date] August 13, Thursday

[Where to Apply] Each Hello Work office (Japan's public employment service)

Contact: Techno College Maibara, Tel: 0749-52-5300
Techno College Kusatsu, Tel: 077-564-3296



Upcoming Events & Fun News

Hikone Yukata Festival

[Date and Time] August 1 Saturday, 5:00 PM – 8:30 PM

[Location] Yume Kyobashi Castle Road and Yonban-cho Square

*The festival will be canceled if severe weather is forecast.



If you come to the festival in Yukata or Jinbei;

- Yukata festival gifts will be handed to first 1,000 visitors in Yukata or Jinbei in front of Pocket Park!
- You can receive a ticket for participating in a raffle starting at 8:00 PM!

Contact: Hikone Yukata Festival Committee, Tel: 0749-22-4551



45th Birdman Rally

Date: July 25, Saturday (Human-Powered Propeller Aircraft Division)

July 26, Sunday (Glider Division)

Location: Matusbara-cho Lakeside Beach



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Hikone Morning Market

July 19 (Sun) 8:00 AM – Noon

Location: Osue-Cho, Gokoku Shrine

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

Contact: Hikone Morning Market Committee, Tel: 0749-24-4461

Opening of Public Pools for Young Children

[Locations]

- Sotobaba Park (Hikone, Kyo-machi, 2-chome)
- Take Park (Hikone, Hassaka-cho)

[Opening Schedule]

July 17 (Fri) to August 31 (Mon), 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

[Eligible Age]

Children below preschool age

* There are rules for using these public pools for young children. For more details, please to visit Hikone City's official website.



Contact: Hikone City Planning Division, Tel. 0749-30-6124

Hikone Seiso Center (Garbage Incineration and Recycling) Tour

[Date and Time] ①July 18 (Sat), ②August 1 (Sat), ③August 8 (Sat), ④August 22 (Sat)

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

[Eligibility] ①, ② and ③: Elementary School Students and Parents/Guardians who Reside in Hikone
④: Hikone Residents

[Capacity] 20 participants for each tour (first come, first served)

[How to Apply] Please contact the Seiso Center at 0749-24-3879.



Consultation Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
Legal Consultation	July 24 (Fri), 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per person *Reservations available from July 15.	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] August 5 (Wed), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. [Support for Continuing to Work] July 15 (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 Center (Hirata-cho)	0749-26-8282
Language Development Consultation	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15 *Offered by reservation only.		
Traffic Accident Consultation	Tue · Thu ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:00	Koto Joint Government Building	0749-27-2230
Consumer Affairs Consultation	Mon – Fri ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:15	Hikone Consumer Affairs Center	0749-30-6144
Human Rights Consultation for Foreigners	9:00 – 17:00 on weekdays		0570-090-911
Bullying Hotline	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 16:45	School Support, Human Rights, and Anti-Bullying Division	0749-24-7977
Consultation for Children and Adolescents (Social Withdrawal, Abuse, etc.)	9:00 – 16:45 on weekdays	Hikone Children and Family Center “Hikomaru”	0749-26-0994
Consultation for Women (Domestic Violence, etc.)	9:00 – 16:45 on weekdays		0749-49-2251

[Hotlines for Domestic Violence]

- Hikone Children and Adolescents Support Division: 0749-49-2251, Weekdays, 9:00 – 16:45
- Hikone Children and Families Consultation Center: 0749-24-3741, Weekdays, 8:30 – 17:15
- Chuo Children and Families Consultation Center: 077-564-7867, Every day, 8:30 – 22:00
- Shiga Gender Equality Center: 0748-37-8739, Tue–Sun, 9:00 – 12:00, 13:00 – 17:00 (*Until 20:30 on Thursdays)

[Hotlines for Child Abuse]

- National Consultation Hotline for Children: 189, 24 hours, 7 days a week
- Hikone Children and Adolescents Support Division: 0749-26-0994
- Hikone Children and Families Consultation Center: 0749-24-3741
- Child Abuse Hotline: 077-562-8996, 24 hours, 7 days a week

*In case of emergency, do not hesitate to call the police at 110 or 0749-27-0110.

Labor Law Consultation

Date and Time: July 24 (Fri), 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Capacity: 3 people (first come, first served)

Location: Proceed Arena HIKONE

*Please call 0749-30-9228 to make an appointment.

*Appointments start on July 1 at 9:00 AM.

Health and Wellness Information

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

Health Check-ups for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers

Location: Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho)

Starting in April 2024, appointments for health check-ups for infants and young children must be made in advance through the mobile app 'Boshi Mo (母子モ).' If you visit the Kusunoki Center without an appointment, you may be asked to return after making one.



Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	5 (Wed)	Children born between September 15, 2025 and September 30, 2025.
	18 (Tue)	Children born between October 1, 2025 and October 15, 2025.
1 and ½ years olds	7 (Fri)	Children born in 2025, January.
	21 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	20 (Thu)	Children born in 2024, January.
3 and ½ years olds	17 (Mon)	Children born in 2023, January.
	24 (Mon)	

Contact: Hikone Mother and Child Welfare Division, Tel. 0749-24-3931

World Hepatitis Day 2026 – July 28 (Tue)

Viral hepatitis often shows no symptoms, so many won't know they have it until it's too late.

Hepatitis testing is fast and accurate, which can help determine whether you have been infected with this disease.

If you have never been tested for hepatitis and meet the following conditions, you can receive a test for either free or a small fee.

[Eligibility]

A: Hikone residents aged 41 as of March 31, 2027, who have never undergone a hepatitis test in the city.

B: Hikone residents aged 40 or older, excluding those eligible under Category A, who have never undergone a hepatitis test in the city.

[Fees]

A: Free

B: 1,300 yen at a medical facility, 700 yen via mobile hepatitis screening

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