

広報ひこね（英語版）

Community Newsletter *KOHO HIKONE*



September 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! 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

Information That Could Save Your Life

September is a time of year when Japan is prone to heavy rains and gusty winds caused by typhoons and the autumn rain front. These annual weather phenomena increase the risks of flooding on roads and streets and houses being submerged.

In recent years, a series of extreme downpours, such as the torrential rain in the Noto Peninsula in 2024, have been recorded across Japan, causing serious flooding, mudslides, and other disasters. The term “First Time Since Records Began” is being used more frequently to describe unexpected weather events and weather events that are much worse than forecast.

To protect yourself and your loved ones and minimize potential damage, it is important to keep yourself updated about emergency warnings issued by the Japan Meteorological Agency and your municipal government and know what steps you need to take to evacuate to a safe place early.

Do not assume that Hikone City is free from disasters. Instead, please be prepared for the unexpected in your daily life.

[Hazard Maps and Hikone Disaster Preparedness Manual]

- Hikone Official Website

You can find hazard maps for flooding and other disasters in Hikone.

- Hikone Official LINE Account

You can search for the nearest evacuation shelter using the Disaster Prevention icon.

- Hikone Disaster Preparedness Manual

The city has published this manual in several foreign languages as well.

You can pick up a copy of the manual at Hikone City Hall and its branch offices.



Contact: Hikone Crisis Management Division, Tel: 0749-30-6150

Summer Local Safety News (Crime Statistics Summary)

The following is a summary of crimes reported in Hikone and Inukami from January to June 2026.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Bicycle Theft: 90 | • Shoplifting: 68 | • Theft from Vehicles: 8 |
| • Vandalism: 35 | • Vehicle Parts Theft: 4 | |
| • Burglary: 27 | • Special Fraud: 37 | • Other Crimes: 244 |

[Information from Hikone Police Department]

Please take the following precautions to help protect children and women from crimes.

- At night, choose well-lit or busy streets, even if it means taking a slight detour.
- Lock the doors and windows of your home, whether you are inside or away.

Contact: Hikone Community Development Promotion Division, Tel: 0749-30-6117

National Autumn Traffic Safety Campaign: September 21 – 30

Starting around this time of year, the days become shorter and shorter. Drivers are advised to turn on the headlights of their cars or motorbikes earlier as the days get shorter. Cyclists and pedestrians are reminded that wearing bright-colored clothing, using reflectors, and wearing a helmet can make you more visible at night, which could potentially save your life.

Do not drive under the influence of alcohol. Remember that a person who does not drive but knowingly lets someone who is going to drive later drink alcohol will also be held accountable.

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

Be Kind to Animals Week: Sep 20 – 26

This year's Be Kind to Animals Week is from September 20 through 26. This campaign reminds all of us of the importance of being responsible pet owners and showing respect for all living things.

- While walking your dog, make sure to clean up after it so that you do not leave a mess in public places.
- Keep your cat indoors, and have your cat spayed or neutered to prevent unwanted pregnancies.
- If you want to help stray cats, please consider getting in touch with local organizations that rescue stray cats.
- Commit yourself to caring for your pet for its entire life. Abandoning pets and abusing animals are inhumane and criminal acts.
- Please also note that feeding wild animals is prohibited, as doing so can make them less able to find food on their own.

Contact: Hikone Living Environment Division, Tel. 0749-6116

Suicide Prevention Week: September 10 (Thu) to 16 (Wed)

According to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, 19,188 people died by suicide in Japan in 2025. Men in their 40s and 50s accounted for the highest proportion of suicides, and many men in these age groups died by suicide for health-related reasons.

The number of children who died by suicide was 538 in the same year, the highest number since statistics began being recorded. The number of suicides among minors under 18 years old tends to increase after long school breaks. If you notice that someone is behaving differently, please ask how they have been doing.

[Suicide Prevention Hotlines]

- Shiga Inochino Denwa – Tel: 077-553-7387
- Yorisoi Hotline (in English) – Tel: 0120-279-338

[Consultation Service “Kokorono Nayami Soudan”]

This consultation service is available from September 10 to 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The location is Hikone Welfare Center (Hikone, Hirata-cho).

Please contact the Hikone Welfare Division for People with Disabilities to make a reservation.

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

Help Program for Pensioners

This program provides monetary benefits added to the monthly pension amount to help pensioners whose total monthly earnings and public benefits are below a certain threshold.

For pensioners who become newly eligible for this program due to reductions in their income and other public benefits, a postcard notice will be mailed by the Japan Pension Service.

Please note that if you are already a recipient of the program, no further action is required.

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



Reminder: Cost-of-Living Support Coupon Program to End On Sep 30

Please be reminded that the Hikone City Cost-of-Living Support Coupon Program is scheduled to end on Wednesday, September 30. The coupons cannot be used after this date under any circumstances.

Please call the Hikone Cost-of-Living Support Coupon Program Call Center if you have any questions.

The call center is available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Contact: Hikone Cost-of-Living Support Coupon Program Call Center, Tel: 0570-033-242

Oct 11 (Sun): Hikone City Hall Open for My Number Card Procedures

Date and Time: October 11 (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 calling the number below.

*To collect your newly issued My Number Card, you must make an appointment in advance online or by phone.

*Please do not forget to bring your identification.



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

Sep 19 (Sat): Bulky Waste and Small Household Appliance Collection

[Date and Time] September 19 (Sat): 8:00 – 11:00

[Location] Hikone Seiso (Garbage Incineration and Recycling) Center

[Important Points]

- Please have your photo ID ready and present it at the gate of the center to prove that you are a Hikone resident.
- Only bulky waste and small household appliances will be accepted.
- Bulky waste can only be disposed of for a fee, while appliances measuring less than one meter in length, width, and depth can be collected free of charge.
- Unbroken fluorescent tubes and light bulbs will also be accepted.
- Please follow the instructions given by center staff to help traffic flow smoothly.
- Certain appliances, such as televisions, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, and clothes dryers, cannot be accepted at the center under the Japan Recycling Act.

Contact: Hikone Seiso Center, Tel: 0749-22-2734

Tips for Reducing and Recycling Waste

In Hikone alone, approximately 264 tons of plastic bottles were collected during fiscal year 2025. Scan the QR code to see how they are recycled.

This amount of plastic bottles is equivalent to roughly 2.39 kg per resident. If everyone reduced their use of plastic bottles by one 500-mL bottle per week, it would result in a reduction of roughly 1 kg per resident, or an almost 40% decrease annually.

[Use Your Own Bottle Instead of Buying Bottled Beverages]

- You can reduce waste by buying beverages in larger containers and pouring them into a reusable bottle.
- You can save a lot of money by using your own bottle.
- More and more shops are starting to offer services where you can bring your own bottle, have a beverage poured into it, and receive a discount. You can find which shops offer such services across the Kansai area by scanning the QR code.



Health Check-ups for New First Grade Students

Health check-ups will be conducted for children who will enter elementary school in April 2027.

More details, including the date and location, will be mailed in early October to parents and guardians whose children are required to undergo a health check-up.

If you do not receive any information regarding your child's health check-up, please contact the relevant division.

Contact: Hikone School Education Division, Tel: 0749-24-7973



Fiscal 2027 Applications for Private Kindergartens and Kodomo-en

The following information applies to parents/guardians of children who are certified as Group 1.

Please note that some kindergartens and Kodomo-en listed below are closed on weekends and national holidays.

Childcare Facility Name	Available Spots	Application Period	Tel.
ABC ENGLISH Preschool	3-year-olds: about 5	Sep 1 (Tue) to 30 (Wed)	0749-20-8829
Hikarinomori Kodomo-en	3-year-olds: 6 4-year-olds: 1 5-year-olds: 1	Oct 1 (Thu) to 16 (Fri) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. *A lottery will be held if necessary on Oct 27.	0749-47-3237
Leimond Hikone Johoku Kodomo-en	3-year-olds: 10 4-year-olds: 10 5-year-olds: 10	Oct 1 (Thu) to 16 (Fri) 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. *Information sessions will be held on Sep 5 and 6 at the Nishi Chiku Community Hall. Please scan the QR code to register for the session. *Please submit your enrollment application to the Leimond Oyabu Nursery School.	06-6926-4719
Kinjo Kodomo-en 	3-year-olds: 20 4-year-olds: 3 5-year-olds: 6	Oct 19 (Mon) to 30 (Fri) 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. *Please contact Kinjo Kodomo-en via LINE or by phone before submitting your application.	0749-47-3237
ST. Joseph Kodomo-en	3-year-olds: 20	Oct 27 (Tue) to 30 (Fri) 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. *Information sessions will be held on Oct 3 and 24 at 9:00 a.m. Please make a reservation to participate in the session.	0749-22-5376
Midori Kindergarten	3-year-olds: 30 4- and 5-year-olds: a few	Nov 2 (Mon) – 7 (Sat) 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. *On the 7 th only, until 1:00 p.m.	0749-25-2066

Upcoming Events & Fun News

18th Toriimoto Shukuba Festival

There will be street performances, workshops, local product sales, an ink stamp-collecting event, and more during the festival. Souvenirs will be provided to visitors who travel by Ohmi Rail trains.

[Day and Time] October 4 (Sun), 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*The opening ceremony will start at 9:45 a.m. in the parking lot of JA Toriimoto.

[Venue] JA Toriimoto (1677 Toriimoto-cho, Hikone) and Nakasendo Street

Contact: Toriimoto Otakara Hakken Tai Office, Tel: 0749-22-0627

Hikone Castle Mirai Festival 2026: Sep 13

[Day and Time] September 13 (Sun), Starting at 1:30 p.m.

[Venue] Hikone General Sports Park (3028, Matsubara-cho, Hikone)

Contact: Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tel: 0749-22-4551

Science Class for Children: Let's Make Grabbable Water!

[Day and Time] September 26 (Sat), 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

[Target Children] Elementary and Junior High School Students

*Elementary school students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

[Capacity] 20 children (first come, first served)

[Fee] 300 yen per participant

[Application Period] September 11 (Fri) to 19 (Sat)

[How to Apply] Please call the Kodomo Center directly.

Contact: Hikone Kodomo Center, Tel: 0749-28-3645

Hikone Eco Market “Yumebatake”

Hikone Eco Market is a flea market held periodically in Hikone, Konki-cho.

[Day and Time] September 27 (Sun), 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

[Venue] Ohtemon-mae, 2nd Preserved Area

Contact: Yumebatake Committee, Tel: 090-1224-3782

Hikone Morning Market

September 20 (Sun) 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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!

J3 Soccer Matches at Heiwado HATO Stadium

[Reilac Shiga FC VS Tokyo Verdy]

Kickoff: September 9, 6:30 p.m.

[Reilac Shiga FC VS Kagoshima United FC]

Kickoff: September 13, 6:30 p.m.

[Reilac Shiga FC VS FC Ryukyu]

Kickoff: September 20, 5:00 p.m.

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

International Understanding Seminar: Migrant Workers in Adult Care Services

This time, foreign workers in long-term care services are invited to talk about their work, what they have learned and experienced through their work, and their future goals.

[Day and Time] September 18 (Fri), 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

[Venue] International Exchange SALON (1F, Hikone Chuo-cho Annex)

[Capacity] 20 people (first come, first served)

[How to Apply] Please apply to participate in the seminar by phone, email, or in person.

**Contact: International Exchange SALON,
Tel: 0749-22-5931, Email: hikone-il@za.ztv.ne.jp**

Human Rights Seminar 2026

[Speaker] Tamaki Yukinori

[Day and Time] September 26, Saturday

1:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

[Venue] Hikone Bunka Plaza (Hikone, Nose-cho)

[How to Apply] Please contact the Hikone Human Rights Policy Division by email, phone, or in person.

You can also scan the QR code to apply online.

[Notes] If you need sign-language interpretation or childcare services,
please contact the relevant division directly by September 17.



**Contact: Hikone Human Rights Policy Division,
Tel: 0749-30-6115, Email: jinken@ma.city.hikone.shiga.jp**

Hikone Castle Light-ups

- September is Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month

Hikone Castle will be lit up in gold to raise awareness of pediatric cancer from September 5 to 7, from sunset until 10:00 p.m.

- World Alzheimer's Day: September 21

Hikone Castle will be lit up in orange from September 21 to 23. Orange is designated as the symbolic color for promoting dementia awareness.

Consultation Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
Legal Consultation	September 25 (Fri), 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per person *Reservations available from Sep 16.	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] October 7(Wed), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. [Support for Continuing to Work] September 16 (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
Labour Law Consultation	September 25 (Fri), 18:30 – 20:00 *30 minutes per person *Reservations available from Sep 2.	Proceed Arena Hikone	0749-30-9228

[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.

Health and Wellness Information

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

October 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	6 (Tue)	Children born between November 16, 2025 and November 30, 2025.
	14 (Wed)	Children born between December 1, 2025 and December 15, 2025.
1 and ½ years olds	16 (Fri)	Children born in 2025, March.
2 and ½ years olds	8 (Thu)	Children born in 2024, March.
	15 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	5 (Mon)	Children born in 2023, March.
	19 (Mon)	

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

Increasing Measles Cases Across Japan: Consider Getting Vaccinated

Rising cases of measles have been reported across Japan. Under the Japan Childhood Immunization Program, two doses of MR vaccines are administered for free. The first dose is available for one-year-old children, and the second does becomes available for one year before starting elementary school.

When it comes to adults, if they are not sure whether they have been vaccinated against measles, the measles vaccine can be administered at an out-of-pocket cost.

Please take into account that a majority of patients who have come down with measles are 10 to 40 years old. If you are in this age group and not sure about the measles vaccination record, please consider getting vaccinated.

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

Annual Chest X-ray Recommended for Respiratory Diseases and Tuberculosis!

The period from September 24 (Thu) to 30 (Wed) is Respiratory Disease and Tuberculosis Prevention Week. Hikone City provides chest X-rays for residents aged 40 and older. The cost is 600 yen for those aged 40 to 59 and free of charge for those aged 60 and older. Please contact the Hikone Health Promotion Division for more information, including the screening schedule and how to make an appointment.

For people aged 65 and older, chest X-rays are conducted to screen for tuberculosis as well as lung cancer.