広報 ひ こ ね (英歌版) Community Newsletter Koho HIKONE

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- Traffic Restrictions (P.3-4)
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(Facebook) http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng

(Digital Issues) http://www.city.hikone.shiga.jp/english/index.html

Contact Us	Telephone Number
Hikone City Hall	0749-22-1411 (Switch Board)
Human Rights Policy Division (For English Interpretation Services)	0749-30-6113 (Direct Number)
FACEBOOK	http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng

You Can Ask for English Interpreter Services at the Reception Desk at the Hikone City Hall and Via Phone (use the contact number given above.) Please Say *"EIGO TSUYAKU ONEGAI SHIMASU* (English Interpreter Please)"

• The Foreign Language Version of Koho Hikone Is Issued Every Month.

This newsletter is available at:

- * Shiga University
- * University of Shiga Prefecture
- * Seisen University
- * Hikone City Hall 3F
- * AEON TOWN Hikone

- * Welfare Center
- * Shiga Bank (Oyabu Branch)
- * "Gyomu Super Market" (Toga-cho)
- * Beisia Hikone
- * Hikone City Hospital

Interpretation Services

•Interpreters Are Available at the Information Desk of the City Hall of Hikone.

Please say "eigo-tsuuyaku-onegai-shimasu" at the information desk.

「えいご つうやく おねがいします」

Hikone City Hall: Weekdays **8:30 a.m.to 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.** Please note that the availability of our interpretation services is subject to change.

(Facebook) http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng





Japanese Language Classes



[Hikone International Lounge News] Computer use is free in the Hikone International Lounge. We are waiting for your use!!

INFORMATION

Temporary Traffic Restrictions Ebisuko Festival

November 23rd (Sat) to 24th (Sun)

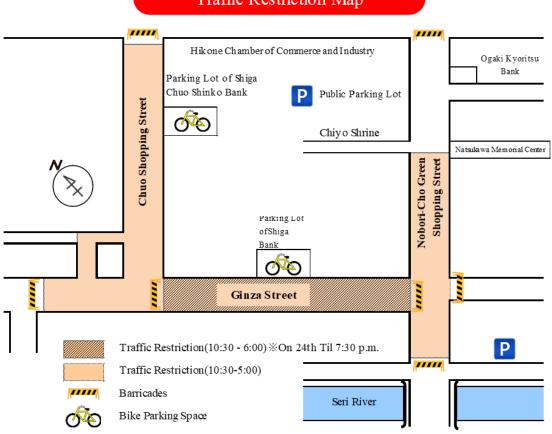
Traffic Restriction Hours

Giza Shopping Street - Sat: 10:30 until 6:00, Sun: 10:30 until 7:30

Nobori-machi Green Shopping Street, Chuo Shopping Street - 10:30 until 5:00

*Please use public transportation services.

*Do not park at the parking lot of the Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry *During the Ebisuko festival, the schedule of some route buses are subject to change.



Traffic Restriction Map

Inquiries

- Hikone Shopping Street Association Office TEL:0749-22-7303
- Ebisuko Management Office TEL:0749-22-0466
- Koto Bus Hikone Office TEL:0749-25-2501

Traffic Restrictions

33rd Hikone City Marathon

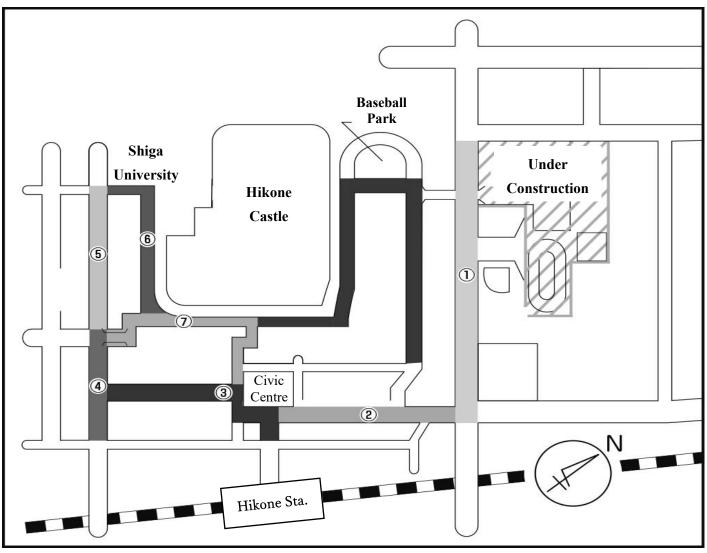
November 10th

The schedule of the temporary road closures for the 32nd Hikone City Marathon is as follows.

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④&⑤: 9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. ⑥: 8:50 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

⑦ 8:50 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.



*The above schedule of temporary road closures is subject to change.

Inquiries: Hikone City Marathon Committee Office TEL:0749-24-7975, FAX 0749-23-9190

★Autumn Fire Prevention Week November 9 (Saturday) ~ November 15 (Friday)

The fire prevention week annually takes place with the aim of raising individual awareness, and decreasing the number of fatal causalities and property damage caused by fires. Keep an eye on handling fire.

• Seven keys to save lives in fire out breaks

Three Day-To-Day Practices

- 1. Do not smoke in bed.
- 2. Keep a kerosene heater away from something combustible.
- 3. Make sure to turn off a gas stove, etc. when you leave the house.

Four Fire Prevention Measures

- 1. In order to evacuate smoothly, set up household fire alarms.
- 2. Use fire retardant items for bedding, clothing and curtains.
- 3. Have a household-size fire extinguisher to put out a fire as quickly as possible.
- 4. To save the elderly and the disabled, form a cooperation structure in the neighborhood.

Inquiries: Fire Department Tel 0749-22-0119, Fax 0749-27-0119

*Garbage Collection on November 4th Monday (Public Holiday)

The city will collect household garbage as normal on November 4th. Please check your garbage collection schedule for more details.

*Garbage Disposal Tips for Gas Lighters, Empty Spray Cans, etc.

Please sort out your trash properly for the sake of the environment.

• Gas Lighters

- 1, Use up all the remaining gas and make sure that a gas lighter does not ignite.
- 2, Separately store empty gas lighters into a transparent plastic bag (not a designated garbage bag), and take them out on a collection day for landfill waste, or drop empty gas lighters into a collection box at the city hall or each branch office.
- Spray Cans, Gas Cartridges, etc.
 - 1, Use up cans, and punch a few holes in each can (use a special tool to punch a hole in an airy place. If you nail or hammer a can, it could lead to an unexpected explosion.)
- 2, You can either take cans/cartridges on a collection day for tins and metal or bring them directly to the Hikone Sanitation Centre.

Inquiries: Hikone Sanitation Centre

TEL 0749-24-3879

★Survey on Public Opinions

In Hikone, the city is set to conduct a survey on public opinions towards our city planning and city development. The survey is going to be mailed to 1,000 residents of Hikone at random around mid-October.

Inquiries: City Planning Division TEL:0749-30-6101, FAX:0749-22-1398

*2020 Application for Public Kindergartens and Certified Kodomo-en

Eligible Age Groups

- Three Years Old (Born between 2016 April 2^{nd} and 2017 April 1^{st})
- Four Years Old (Born between 2015 April 2nd and 2016 April 1st)
- Five Years Old (Born between 2014 April 2nd and 2015 April 1st)

A Number of Vacancies

	Number of Vacancies			
School Name	3 yrs. old	4 yrs. old	5 yrs. old	
Hikone Kindergarten (Honmachi 1 Chome)	50	20		
Takamiya Kindergarten (Takamiya-cho)	25	10		
Inae Higashi Kindergarten (Inabe-cho)	25	10		
Asahinomori Kindergarten (Higashinonami-cho)	50	20		
Johoku Kindergarten (Matsubara-cho)	25	10	Several	
Kinjo Kindergarten (Ohyabu-cho)	50	20	Vacancies	
Sawayama Kindergarten (Serigawa-cho)	25	10		
Joyo Kindergarten (Hinatsu-cho)	25	10		
Hirata Kodomo-en (Hirata-cho)	34	10		

Criteria for the Application

Parents/guardians of eligible children must be residing within Hikone.

(Those who are 100% sure of moving to Hikone from another city by April 1st are included.)

Application Form Availability

Period: November 11th through 27th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Except Weekends and Holidays)
Location: Each public kindergarten, certified Kodomo-en, the reception desk of the Hikone City Hall (3F, Al Plaza Hikone), each branch office of the Hikone City Hall, Regional Childrearing Support Centre "Manmanru Hiroba" (2F, Viva City Hikone), Higashi Jido Kan, Hikone Kodomo Centre, Hikone Early Childhood Division (2Fm Welfare Center)

Application Period

Period: November 18th through 27th, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Except Weekends and Holidays) Location: Your desired kindergarten or Kodomo-en Requirement: Application form for kindergarten entrance

> Inquiries: Early Childhood Division TEL 049-23-9597, FAX 0749-26-1768

*Prevention Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women: November 12th through 25th

Violence against women, such as domestic violence by a partner, sexual violence, forced prostitution, sexual harassment, stalking, etc., is a violation of human rights against women. In recent years, so-called "dating violence" among young couples has become a social issue.

Under no circumstances, should violence be tolerated. If you are suffering, do not let yourself shoulder that burden alone. Talk to us, instead.

Consultation Numbers (Consultation services are free. Personal info will be kept strictly confidential.)

- Chuo Child & Family Consultation Centre 077-564-7867 (Exclusively for women)
- Hikone Child & Family Consultation Centre 0749-24-3741 (Exclusively for women)
- Prefectural Gender Equality Centre 0748-37-8739
- SATOCO 24hr Hotline 090-2599-3105
- Hikone Childrearing Support Division
 0749-23-7838
- DV Consultation NAVI 0570-0-55210

*In case of emergency, call the police at 110!

Inquiries: Women's Achievements Promotion Office TEL:0749-30-6101, FAX: 0749-22-1398

☆Women's Human Rights Promotion Week: November 18th to 24th

Telephone consultation services for domestic violence by a partner, bullying at work, sexual harassment, stalking, etc. are available at the given number below.

Women's Human Rights Hotline **TEL:0570-070-810** Weekday: 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Weekend: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*Note that consultation services at the same phone number are available after the promotion week from 8:30 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. on weekdays.

*Personal information collected during a consultation will be kept strictly confidential.

Inquiries: Otsu Regional Legal Bureau TEL: 077-522-4673

☆Hikone Castle Illumination Schedule

November 7th, Thursday: Orange – Child Abuse Prevention

November 12th, Tuesday: Purple - Elimination of Violence Against Women

November 14th, Thursday: Blue - World Diabetes Day

*All three illuminations will take place from sunset until 9:00 p.m.

*Protect Children's Human Rights: November is "Child Abuse Prevention Month"

· Impact of Child Abuse on Children

Abuse against children has a substantially negative impact on children's mental and physical development as well as personality formation. Given that these negative consequences can be inherited to the next generation, child abuse is unarguably a violation of human rights against children.

It is oftentimes hotly debated where the line is between "discipline" and "abuse." With that being said, there are cases in which children cannot understand why they are being scolded and are left terrified despite the fact their parents mean to just discipline them.

In this sense, against the parents' will or intention, it can be deemed as abuse. It is important to figure out what is appropriate for children in a way to help them thrive.

· If You Suspect Child Abuse Is Happening

If you witness possible child abuse taking place or see something fishy against children going on in your everyday life, please contact the following authorities. Your act can lead to great support for children in need.

Nationwide Child Consultation Centre: 189 (24 hours) Hikone Childrearing Support Division: 0749-26-0994 Hikone Family & Child Consultation Centre: 0749-23-7838 Shiga Hikone Child Consultation Centre: 0749-24-3741

*Personal information of each individual who reports or consults a possible child abuse case will be kept strictly confidential. *Even if no evidence is found after an investigation based on your report, you will not be blamed.

Inquiries: Hikone Childrearing Support Division TEL: 0749-26-0994, FAX: 0749-26-1768

<u>☆Drill for the Earthquake Emergency Alert</u>

--From 10:00 am, on Tuesday, November 5

An emergency alert will be announced by the Metrological Agency when they forecast a seismic intensity, a little under magnitude 5 and above.

Hikone City will have a drill at seventy- one municipal facilities by sending the earthquake emergency alert through FM Hikone (78.2 MHz) and eighteen emergency broadcasting stations on Tuesday, November 5.

Hikone citizens, please join the drill! For detailed information please refer to the "Hikone City Homepage".

DRILL: Crouch down, Cover your head and Keep still for one minute

Inquiries: Emergency Management Division Tel 0749-30-6150, Fax 0749-23-1777

<u>★Notification of Payment Due for National Pension</u>

Necessary for a Tax Return

In cases where you pay the National Pension for your family, it can be subject for your tax deduction.

The Japan Pension Service (*Nihon Nenkin Kikou*) will send you a notification of payment due for the National Pension. You may use this when you file a tax return.

> Inquiries: National Pension Division, Hikone Pension Office (To-*machi*) Tel 0749-23-1114, Fax 0749-23-9033

☆"HIKONE DE ASAICHI" (The Fresh Morning Market in Hikone)

Selling local fresh vegetables, bean curd, local fresh fish and shellfish from the lake, and handcrafted general goods,---under the concepts of "Reliable sourced food" "Local production for local consumption" and "Handmade" on the third Sunday of each month.

Date & Time: Sunday, November 17 8:00~12:00

Place: GOKOKU- JINJYA (shrine) (Osue- cho)

Inquiries: "HIKONE DE ASAICHI" Executive Committee

Tel 0749-24-4461 <u>hikonedeasaichi55@gmail.com</u>

*Welfare Workplace Information Session in KOTO Area

This session will support you for the welfare recruitment.

Date & Time: Friday, November 8 $15:00\sim19:00$ (Reception start $14:30\sim$)

 $15:00 \sim 15:45$ Presentation by the welfare office

16:00~19:00 ► Exhibition stand ► Counseling stand

► "FUKU RAKU Cafe " where you can talk to welfare officers.

Place: VIVA CITY HIKONE 2F VIVA CITY hall (Takegahana-cho) Eligibility: Those who are interested in working in the welfare industry in KOTO area Inquiries: Nursing Welfare Division Tel 0749-23-9660 Fax 0749-30-9231

☆Information From the Children's Center

Children's Class

Let's Enjoy Science with Mr. Fujisawa, a member of a volunteer group named *"Koronbusu no tamago "

*A group conducting scientific experiments and making things

Content: You can learn science through interesting experiments such as jellyfish using static electricity and air guns. Date: Sunday, November 24 13:30~15:00

Target: Elementary school students (must be accompanied by their guardian) and junior high school students.

Capacity: First 20 students

Cost: ¥300

Application date: Saturday, November 2~Wednesday, November 13

Junior Astronomical Experience

Content: You can learn astronomy and make astronomical observations using a binocular and a 200mm

refracting telescope.

Date: Sunday, November 17 14:00~15:00

Target: 1st grade ~ 3rd grade students of elementary school

Capacity: First 20 students

Cost: ¥200

Application date: Saturday, November 2~Wednesday, November 13

Inquiries: Children's Center Tel 0749-28-3645 Fax 0749-28-3646 * Please apply by phone or at the counter directly.



Consultation

	Date & Time	Place	Contents
	November 1 (Fri)	гасе	
Alcohol Consultation	$14:00 \sim 16:00$ (by reservation)		Issue of alcoholism Tel 0749-21-0283 Fax 0749-26-7540
Consultation for Reclusive and Unsociable People	November 14 (Thu) 15:00 ~ 17:00 November 21 (Thu) 11:00 ~ 17:00 (by reservation)	Public Health Center (<i>Wada-cho</i>)	Helping sufferers 16 years old and over and their families. Tel 0749-21-0283 Fax 0749-26-7540
Mental Health Welfare Counseling	November 15 (Fri) 13:00 ~ 15:00 (by reservation)		Medical instruction for troubled minds. Introduction of a medical institution and facilities Tel 0749-21-0283 Fax 0749-26-7540
Human-Rights Counseling	November 6 & 20 (Wed) 13:00 ~ 15:00	Consultation Room	Counseling about bullying and all acts of discrimination Tel 0749-22-0242
Vacant House <i>TSUKIICHI</i> Consultation	November 18(Mon) 9:00 ~ 17:00 (by reservation)	(AL PLAZA Hikone 4F)	Consultation for people who have vacant houses in Hikone or want to live in a vacant house or make use of it *First 7 people (about 30minutes)
Work Consultation for Cancer Patients	November 20 (Wed) 13:30 ~ 15:30 (by reservation)	Hikone Municipal Hospital (2F, 3block)	Consultation for work while receiving treatment % First 2 or 3people
Law Consultation	November 22 (Fri) 13:00 ~ 16:00 (by reservation)	Community Relations Division (AL PLAZA Hikone 3F)	 *Consultation fee: 5,500 yen per 30 minutes session (Please pay on the consultation day) *First 6 people from 8:30 on November 13 *Only those who live or work in Hikone Tel 0749-30-6117 Fax 0749-22-1398
Child • Family Consultation	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays) 8:30 ~ 17:15	Consultation Room for Children (Welfare center)	Consultation for child care issues, child abuse, domestic violence etc Tel 0749-23-7838 Fax 0749-26-1768
Developmental Disorder Consultation	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays)	Development Support Division (<i>Hirata-cho</i>)	Consultation for people with developmental disorders or their family Tel 0749-26-8282
Language Consultation	①8:30 ~ 12:00 ②13:00 ~ 17:15		Consultation for children before entering elementary school who have concerns about pronunciation or language and their family Tel 0749-26-8282
Consumer Life Consultation	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays) ①9:00 ~ 12:00 ②13:00 ~ 16:15	City life Environment Division (AL PLAZA Hikone 3F)	Consultation about the trouble of consumer life, contracts, etc Tel 0749-30-6144
Human-Rights Counseling by Multiple Languages	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays) 9:00 ~ 17:00	Otsu Regional Legal Affairs Bureau	Telephone consulting service for the trouble of human rights Exclusive telephone for consultation: 0570-090-911
Consultation for Bullying/Hot Line	Every Mon. ~ Fri. (except holidays) 9:00 ~ 17:00	School Support/ Bullying Measures Room	An experienced person in education can provide advice *You can consult on the municipal government website Exclusive telephone number for consultation: 0749-24- 7977
General Consultation for Children & Youth	Every Mon ~ Fri (except holidays) ①10:00 ~ 12:00 ②13:00 ~ 17:00	Child & Youth Consultation Center (Welfare center)	Consultation for persons 39 years old and younger who have troubles in their social life (NEET or unsociable person etc). Tel 0749-47-3001 Fax 0749-26-1768
Traffic Accident Consultation	Every Tue & Thu ①9:00 ~ 12:00 ②13:00 ~ 16:00	Koto Joint Government Building 2F (<i>Moto-machi</i>)	Consultation by telephone is also Monday to Friday except holidays 2230 Tel 0749-27-
	Every Wed. & Fri. (except second Wed. & holidays) 13:00 ~ 16:00	Welfare Center (<i>Hirata-cho</i>)	
Worries Counselor's Office	Second Wed. of even number months (except holidays) 13:00 ~ 16:00	Northern Elderly Welfare Center (<i>Baba-cho</i>)	Consultation about various worries in your life Exclusive telephone for consultation: 0749-22-0294
	Second Wed. of odd number months (except holidays) 13:00 ~ 16:00	Southern Elderly Welfare Center (<i>Tawara-cho</i>)	

Information from the Health Promotion Division, Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho) Tel 0749-24-0816, Fax 0749-24-5870

<u> ☆Health Check-ups for Infants</u>

November

Kusunoki Center 1F(Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital)/ 12:45~14:00

4-Month-Old Babies	19 (Tue)	Born between July 1 and 15, 2019
	26 (Tue)	Born between July16 and 31, 2019
10-Month-Old Babies	13 (Wed)	Born between Jan 1 and 15, 2019
	20 (Wed)	Born between Jan 16 and 31, 2019
18-Month-Old Babies	15 (Fri)	Born between Apr 1 and 15, 2018
	22 (Fri)	Born between Apr 16 and 30, 2018
2-Year & 6-Month-Old Children	14 (Thu)	Born between Apr 1 and 15, 2017
	21 (Thu)	Born between Apr 16 and 30, 2017
3-Year & 6-Month-Old Children	18 (Mon)	Born between Apr 1 and 15, 2016
	25 (Mon)	Born between Apr 16 and 30, 2016

*As individual notification of Health Check-ups is for 4 month-old babies only, please check the Suku-Suku book for what contents and items to bring.

*For Health Check-ups for18- month-old-babies, a toothbrush is necessary. There will be a class on the correct way of brushing your child's teeth.

*For Health Check-ups for 2-years & 6-month -old children, please fill out the result of a hearing test on the questionnaire.

*For Health Check-ups for 3-years & 6 -month-old children, there is a

urinalysis. Please bring a first morning urine sample in

a clean bottle.

* If you are unable to come on the date specified or if you have any questions about the Health check for infants, contact The Health Promotion Division Tel:24-0816、Fax:24-5870

★ Support of Infertility Treatment Expenses

Support of specific infertility treatment expenses

Eligibility (Those who meet all of the following conditions)

oHusband and wife who live in the city at the time of medical treatment and application, and are legally married

oThose who have received Shiga specific infertility treatment expense support

oHusband and wife who are not behind with municipal tax

The amount of support : Specific infertility treatment expenses are supported.

The amount of support is limited to 50,000yen. Please don't overlap with a Shiga specific infertility treatment subsidy.

The age of wife at the first treatment	The times of support
Under 39 year old	Maximum of 6 times
40~42 year old	Maximum of 3times
Over 43 year old	Not covered

In the following cases, 25,000 yen should be supported.

*Embryo transplantation by using frozen embryos

*When treatment is stopped because patients cannot get egg in spite of ovulating.

★Application limit: within 3 months from the date of the Shiga prefecture decision

Support of artificial insemination expenses

Eligibility (Those who meet all of the following)

oHusband and wife who live in the city at the time of a medical treatment and application, and are legally married

oHusband and wife's combine income in the last financial year was less than 7,300,000 yen.

oHusband and wife who are not behind with municipal tax

The amount of support : Half of the amount of the charge is supported.

For a total of two years, the amount of money is a maximum of 50,000 yen.

Time limit: March 31, Tuesday, 2020

If you get the treatment in March, you can apply until Thursday April 30, 2020.

Application and determination: please apply to The Health Promotion Division.

% Please ask for details. Tel 0749-24-0816 / Fax 0749-24-5870

★Habitual Abortion More than 80% can be cured.

Habitual abortion means more than two times of miscarriage, or several times of neonatal death (less than one week).

Half of the cases of habitual abortion are coincidental miscarriages due to chromosomal aberration of the fetus; patients don't need any treatment. Another half of the cases have other specific causes.

A woman who already has a child and experiences repeated miscarriages needs a check and treatment.

It is possible for more than 80% of women suffering from habitual abortion (including coincidental miscarriage) to have another baby.

The Health Promotion Division provides detailed information about habitual abortions with a homepage, and public-health nurses can give counseling.

More specific medical advice by doctors and midwives regarding habitual abortion is available as follows.

Infertility advice center, Shiga Prefecture (at the Hospital of Shiga Medical University)

Over the telephone: please call 077-548-9083 (9:00~16:00, from Monday through Friday, except holidays)

By meeting: please make a reservation first by telephone or e-mail.

e-mail:http://www.sumsog.jp/consulting-a-doctor/advice-for-sterility

*consulting will only be in Japanese.

Colon Cancer Checkup, Breast Cancer Checkup, and Uterine Cancer Checkup

≪Colon cancer checkup≫

★Eligibility: Hikone residents who aged 40 and over as of March 31 2020

☆Time limit of distribution of stool container: November (Sat) 2020

☆Time limit of submission of stool sample: December 20 (Fri) 2020

 \bigstar Please go to the following clinic directly with the check-up fee (500yen).

Some clinics might require a reservation. Please inquire at the clinic for more information.

≪Breast Cancer checkup≫

★Eligibility: women aged 40 and over as of March 31 2020 who live in Hikone city ★Time limit: March 31(Tue) 2020

* Interview and 2 way-mammography check for 40~49 year-olds.

* Interview and 1 way-mammography check for 50 year-olds and over.

 \bigstar Please go to the following clinic with the check-up fee (500 yen) after reservation

≪Uterine Cancer checkup≫

★Eligibility: women aged 20 over as of March 31 2020 who live in Hikone

☆Date: until March 31 (Tue) 2020

★ Fee: ¥500

 \bigstar Please go to the following clinic directly with the check-up fee (500 yen).

Some clinics might require a reservation. Please inquire at the clinic for more information.

*Once every two years for breast and uterine cancer checkup.

Those who have checked for breast and uterine cancer from April 1 2018 to March 31 2019 cannot have a checkup.

Those who have a Hikone-issued free coupon for this fiscal year are eligible even if they had a checkup last year.

☆Hepatitis Virus Checkup

☆Time limit: November 30(Sat) 2020

★Eligibility: Hikone residents who meet following condition

- Those who are 40, 45, 50, 55, 60-year-old and have never previously had Hikone city's hepatitis virus checkup. A notification will be delivered individually at the end of May.
- ② Those who are over 41 years old and have never previously had Hikone city's hepatitis virus checkup. (Please call to the health promotion division, or send a fax within one week before the checkups.)

★ Fee: ①free ②1,300

*When you have the checkups, you need a checkups ticket.

When you need the ticket, Please call the health promotion division.

★Rakuraku Kin-en (Quit Smoking Easily) Consultation

A smoking habit is due to dependence. If you are trying to quit smoking, please feel free to inquire.

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 13 $9:00 \sim 10:00 \sim 11:00 \sim$

Place: Kusunoki Center 2F (Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital)

Capacity: 1 person / each time slot (Reserved)

- Contents: Check for your lung's contamination (Measure the carbon monoxide density in your exhalation)
 - Check for your addiction to cigarettes (Measure the nicotine density in your urine)
 - · Consultation on how to quit smoking

Inquiry: The Health Promotion Division Tel: 0749-24-0816, Fax: 0749-24-5870

★Welcome to Brazil (No.6)

What Language is Spoken in Brazil?

When I say "I come from Brazil", I oftentimes get asked this question - "What is your first language? Brazilian, Spanish or English?" As some of you already know, Portuguese is our mother language in Brazil.

Portuguese is one of the languages, like Spanish, Italian and French, that evolved from the Latin language. All those languages use roman script and share similar grammar rules and words. For this reason, once you start to grasp the Portuguese language, it becomes easier to understand other languages that are derived from the Latin language.

Interestingly, Portuguese is the seventh most spoken language in the world. There are over 200 million people who speak the language as a mother tongue in countries such as Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, East Timor, Macao, Indonesia, and so on and so forth, aside from Portugal. The reason why this language is spoken so widely lies in Portugal's naval exploration and the rise of the Portuguese Empire during the 15th and 16th century.

Below are phrases commonly used to greet people in Portuguese. Please give them a shot when you have a chance to talk to someone from a Portuguese-speaking country. They will be happy for sure to be greeted in their first language!

- Oi, tudo bem? (Hi, how are you?)
- Meu nome é ooo. (My name is ooo.)
- Bem-vindo! (Welcome!)
- · Muito obrigado (men)/obrigada (women). (Thank you very much.)

"WELCOME TO BRAZIL" is a monthly column published in 広報ひこね. The columnist, Julia Yuri Okamoto, is from Brazil and has been working as Coordinator of International Relations of Hikone since coming to Japan in April 2019.