

HIGASHIHIROSHIMA



Published by Higashihiroshima City International Exchange Promotion Association
(Civic Affairs Division, Higashihiroshima City Office) ☎ 082-420-0922

Website <http://www.city.higashihiroshima.lg.jp/koho/multilingual/3491.html>

The classification of COVID-19 will be changed

- 新型コロナウイルス感染症
- の分類が変わります

From May 8th, the classification of COVID-19 will be changed to a 'Type-5' common infectious disease, similar to seasonal influenza, etc. Along with this, the system of provision of medical care will be revised, and the measures for those infected, such as support, will change.

1: The system of tests

The system of free PCR tests and antigen tests will end. If you have no symptoms but you wish to check whether you are infected or not, please purchase an antigen test kit, and check your state of infection yourself. If you have symptoms, recuperate at home, or have yourself checked at a medical facility. The cost for tests at medical facilities is to be borne by the patient.

2: Checks at medical facilities

It will be possible to be diagnosed and treated at general medical facilities. As a rule, medical costs (except for the costs of therapeutic drugs for COVID-19 and part of the costs related to admission into hospital) are the responsibility of the patient.

3: If you test positive

There is no longer the requirement to refrain from going outside if you have tested positive, or if you have had close contact with an infected person. The system of support by the supply of provisions, the system of health observations by health centers, and the system of recuperation in hotels, etc., will end.

4: The wearing of masks

It is up to you as an individual to decide whether you wish to stop wearing a mask, or continue to do so. The wearing of masks is recommended when being checked at a medical facility, when visiting a facility for old people, on crowded trains and buses, etc. Please be considerate, and do not demand that someone removes or wears a mask against their wishes.

5: New health habits

It is important to continue to take basic measures against infection, and to prevent infection of those with a high risk of the illness becoming more serious. Please follow the following five basic rules for preventing infection:

- 1: If you are worried about your condition or if you have symptoms, please recuperate at home, or have yourself checked at a medical facility.
- 2: Based on the state of infections, please wear a mask, and observe manners when coughing.
- 3: Please ventilate enclosed spaces regularly, and observe the 3Cs (closed spaces, crowded places, close contact).
- 4: Please wash your hands regularly.
- 5: Please eat suitably, and take an appropriate amount of exercise.

Contact: Medical Treatment and Health Division (Iryo Hoken-ka, 医療 保険課), tel.: 082-420-0936.

Applications for 'Iki-iki Kodomo Club' for the summer period

- 夏休み期間のいきいきこども
- もクラブ利用申し込み

Iki-Iki Kodomo Clubs with spare capacity are now accepting applications for use of the service during the summer vacation. For details, please see the application form, available from May from any of the clubs, from the Youth Development Division (Seishonen Ikusei-ka, 青少年育成課), from the branch offices of the City Office, or from the sub-branch offices of the City Office.

Applications can be accepted for children (grades 1-6 of elementary school) from households where all members of the household (aged between 18 and 70) work for at least four hours between 8:00 and 18:00, at least three weekdays (Mondays to Fridays) a week.

To apply, please take or send the application form to the Youth Development Division, or take it to one of the branch offices. The deadline for applications is 17:00 on Friday June 2nd. Applications must be received by this time.

If the club for your child's school is full, it is possible to use the club at a different school with places available (taking the child to the club and picking him/her up, and taking the child from his/her school to the club on days when it is necessary to go to school, is the responsibility of the parent/guardian).

Applications for year-long use beginning from July or August are also being accepted.

Contact: Youth Development Division (Seishonen Ikusei-ka, 青少年育成課), tel.: 082-420-0929.

COVID-19 vaccinations from May onwards (for those with a high risk of the illness becoming more serious) • 5月からのコロナワクチン接種
 • (重症化リスクの高い人向け)

Period for vaccinations: From May 8th to August 31st.

Availability: For those who have received the first and/or second dose in Japan (see note 1), and who fall into one of the following categories (① to ③).

Category (availability)		Vaccination coupons (see note 2)
① Those aged 65 or over		Sent as the period for vaccination approaches (it is not necessary to apply)
② Those aged between 5 and 64, with an applicable underlying illness ③ Employees at medical facilities, employees at facilities for disabled people, etc.	Those who applied for a vaccination coupon for the 4th dose between May and August 2022	Sent as the period for vaccination approaches (it is not necessary to apply)
	Those other than the above	It is necessary to apply for a vaccination coupon. Please contact the Call Center as shown below.

Note 1: For infants, the first, second and third dose.

Note 2: If you have unused vaccination coupons, and you fall into one of the categories above (① to ③), you can use those coupons.

Available doses of vaccine effective against the Omicron strain:

Category (availability)		Until May 7th	Between May 8th and August 31st
Those in categories ① to ③ in the table above		Once	Once (irrespective of whether or not previously vaccinated)
Those in 'normal' health	Aged 12 and above	Once	Vaccinations are not available (even if you have unused vaccination coupons)
	Aged between 5 and 11	Once (Vaccinations are possible even if you do not have an underlying illness. It is not necessary to apply for a vaccination coupon.)	

For details of applicable underlying illnesses, please check on the city website or on the posters displayed at medical facilities, etc., or contact us.

In the 'Fall Vaccination Period', due to begin from September, those who do not fall into one of the categories above (① to ③) can also receive one dose.

Initial vaccinations (the first and second dose) continue to be available.

Contact: Medical Treatment and Health Division (Iryo Hoken-ka, 医療 保険課), tel.: 082-420-0936.

To make a reservation or to have a vaccination coupon issued, please contact the Higashihiroshima City Call Center, on 0120-022-894. The center is open from 8:30 to 18:00 seven days a week (available languages: Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese).

The 9-valent HPV vaccine for cervical cancer has been made a routine vaccination • 子宮頸がん9価HPVワクチン
 • の定期接種化

Out of the HPV vaccines available to prevent against cervical cancer, the 9-valent HPV vaccine has been made a routine vaccination, beginning from April. Females with an address in Higashihiroshima City are eligible to receive the vaccination. The standard period for the vaccination is when the female is of an age equivalent to between the 6th grade of elementary school and the 1st grade of high school.

Catch-up vaccinations are available for females born between April 2nd, 1997, and April 1st, 2007, who missed the opportunity to be vaccinated using public funds due to 'withholding of positive recommendation' for the vaccine at the time. These catch-up vaccinations are available until March 31st, 2025.

When receiving the vaccination, please take with you your Mother and Child Health Handbook, and the vaccination questionnaire (available at the Children and Family Support Division, at branch offices, and at medical facilities offering the vaccination).

To apply, please make a reservation directly with a medical facility offering the vaccination.

Contact: Children and Family Support Division (Kodomo katei-ka, こども家庭課), tel.: 082-420-0407.

Issuing of documents from convenience stores will not be available • コンビニ交付サービスの
 • 発行休止

Issuing of documents from convenience stores will not be available at any time on Wednesday May 31st.

Contact: Citizens' Affairs Division (Shimin-ka, 市民課), tel.: 082-420-0925.

Applications for entrance into municipal housing

市営住宅入居者募集

It is anticipated that there will be vacancies in the following municipal apartments. There may be changes to the list below; please see the application forms for details.

Town	Apartment	Anticipated vacancies	Town	Apartment	Anticipated vacancies
Saijo	Misonou	2	Kurose	Sugeta Dai-san	1
	Shin-Misonou	1		Kawasumi	1
	Egeyama	2	Fukutomi	Kamishimo	1
	Terayama	1	Toyosaka	Kiyotake	1
Hachihonmatsu	Isomatsu	1		Kajiya	1
	Shin-Mukaihara	1	Kochi	Hirohata	2
Takaya	Nishi-Takaya	1	Akitsu	Oki-no-Tono	1
Kurose	Iwatani Dai-ni	1		Yakushimaru Danchi	4
	Shin-Iketani	1		Yakushimaru Heights	1
	Nomio Dai-ni	1		Wakamiya	1
	Sugeta Dai-ni	1			

Those fulfilling all of the following criteria are eligible to apply:

1. People who have an address in Higashihiroshima City, or whose place of work is in Higashihiroshima City.
2. People who are currently living with a relative, or intending to live with a relative (there are separate criteria for single people).
3. People whose income falls below a certain level (please enquire for details).
4. People who are not in arrears with municipal taxes.
5. People who are currently having trouble with housing.
6. People who are not members of criminal gangs.

Please note that it is not possible to keep pets in municipal apartments.

Applications will be accepted between Monday May 8th and Friday May 12th, at the Housing Division only (applications can also be posted). It is also possible to apply electronically. Application forms and details are available from the Housing Division (Jutaku-ka, 住宅課), or from branch offices and sub-branch offices, from Monday April 24th. Details of the amount of applications up until the previous day will be made public at the Housing Division and at each of the branch offices.

Contact: Housing Division (Jutaku-ka, 住宅課), tel.: 082-420-0946.

Special system for National Pension Scheme payments by students

国民年金保険料の学生納付
特例制度

Those aged 20 or over are required to enroll in the National Pension Scheme. This is the case even for students. However, there is a special system for National Pension Scheme payments by students, by which the payments can be postponed if the individual's income is below a certain level.

Current students at educational facilities specified by the School Education Act whose income for the previous year is below a certain level are eligible to apply for postponements. These educational facilities include universities (graduate schools), colleges, high schools, specialist high schools, vocational schools, and other schools (the enrolled course being one year or more). The upper income limit for the previous year's income is 1,280,000 yen, but this amount may differ if the student has dependent relatives, social insurance deductions, etc.

To apply, please take the application form to the National Health Insurance and Pension Division (国保年金課), or to a branch office or sub-branch office of the City Office. If you have a My Number card, you can apply via the Myna Portal site. If you received an application form (a postcard) from the Japan Pension Service, please fill in the postcard with the necessary details and return it.

The period during which you were judged eligible for the special system of payments for students is included in the period for which you will be eligible to receive pension payments, but it is not included in the calculation of the pension amount you will receive in the future. If it is within ten years, you can make additional payments to retroactively pay the pension premiums for the period during which you were judged eligible for the special system of payments, and increase the amount of pension you will receive.

Contact: Kure Pension Office (Kure Nenkin Jimusho, 呉年金事務所), tel.: 0823-22-1691.

National Health Insurance and Pension Division (Kokuho nenkin-ka, 国保年金課), tel.: 082-420-0933.

Deadline for payment of taxes: Wednesday May 31st

- 次回の納期限は
- 5月31日(水)
-

Please pay Light Vehicle and Motorcycle Tax by Wednesday May 31st.

A notice of non-payment (Tokusokujo, 督促状) will be sent to residents who have not paid their tax by the deadline. If you receive a Tokusokujo, please pay the tax immediately, using the payment slip enclosed.

※ **Note:** it takes about ten days for the Tax Collection Division to confirm payment of tax, and therefore you may receive a Tokusokujo even after you have completed payment. In this case, please ignore the letter.

Contact: Tax Collection Division (Shuno-ka, 収納課), tel.: 082-420-0912.

Consultation services for non-Japanese residents

外国人相談窓口

• **Consultation services for non-Japanese residents** are available at the Communication Corner, in Sunsquare Higashihiroshima. English-speaking staff are available daily, at the following times: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 9:00 to 17:00, Saturdays: 9:00 to 13:00, Sundays: 13:00 to 17:00.

Communication Corner website (English): <https://www.hhface.org/wp/corner/home-2/>

You can also access the Communication Corner website by using the upper QR code on the right.

• **40-minute free legal consultations** are available on Saturday May 27th, at 13:00, 14:00 and 15:00. The date for June is Saturday June 10th. English interpreting is available. **Please make an appointment at least one week in advance.**

Contact: Communication Corner (コミュニケーションコーナー), tel.: 082-423-1922.

• **Communication Corner Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/hhface.communicationcorner>

You can also access the Communication Corner Facebook page by using the lower QR code on the right.



Communication Corner website (English)



Facebook page

Night-time and holiday hospitals

夜間休日当番医

• **Night-time and holiday duty hospitals:** Full information about night-time and holiday duty hospitals within Higashihiroshima City is published in the Japanese-language version of the monthly city newsletter 'Higashihiroshima' (the page inside the back cover; only in Japanese), and on the Higashihiroshima City website (in Japanese and English). The information is subject to change at short notice, so before going to a medical facility, please be sure to call to confirm details.

Recently, there are more and more patients using emergency medical facilities at night and on holidays even though their situation is not serious. In some cases, these patients have prevented or delayed the treatment of patients with truly serious illnesses, and additionally, such cases are one of the reasons for doctors becoming overworked. Emergency medical facilities open at night and on holidays are for patients with serious, emergency conditions. Please try to visit the medical facility you use normally, during opening hours on weekdays.

• **Emergency medical treatment for children:** Please call the advice line on #8000 (if you cannot get through on this number, please call 082-505-1399). The service is available every day between 19:00 and 8:00 the following morning. You can obtain information about whether or not you should take your child to a medical facility outside of normal opening hours (at nights, on weekends or holidays, etc.).

• **If you have a medical problem at night or on weekends, and you are unsure about whether or not you should go to a medical facility:** Please call the Hiroshima area emergency consultation center on #7119. The service is free, and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The staff will be able to give you advice on whether to rest at home and see how symptoms develop, or whether you should go to a medical facility. If necessary, they can give you information about which facility to go to, or they can connect you directly to the 119 emergency service. In an emergency, do not hesitate to phone 119.



English



Japanese

Citizens' Affairs Division: Out-of-hours opening

- 市民課窓口：木曜延長・
- 日曜開庁
-

The counters of the Citizens' Affairs Division are open until 19:00 every Thursday evening (except national holidays and the new year/year-end period). There is Sunday opening on May 14th and May 28th, from 8:30 to 12:30. Wherever possible, please take someone with you who speaks Japanese. **Please note that divisions other than the Citizens' Affairs Division are not open at these times.** For details of what matters can be dealt with during these extended opening hours, and what you need to bring with you, please access the QR Code to the right, or see the city website:

<https://www.city.higashihiroshima.lg.jp/kurashi/todokede/8/23724.html>

If you have a My Number Card, you can use it to obtain Certificates of Residence, etc., at convenience stores.

Please be aware that it is necessary to make a reservation in advance if you wish to be issued with your My Number Card during an out-of-hours opening period. In addition, My Number (Myna) Points cannot be dealt with.

Contact: Citizens' Affairs Division (Shimin-ka, 市民課), tel.: 082-420-0925.

**Population and households as of the end of March, 2023:**

Population of Higashihiroshima City: 189,735 (494 fewer than February)
Households: 89,663 (148 fewer than February)
Population of foreign residents: 8,008 (99 fewer than February)
Foreign households: 6,098 (103 fewer than February)