

HIGASHIHIROSHIMA



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Living info

2024 Japanese Traditional Culture Workshop

- ・ 2024 日本伝統文化体験
- ・ ワークショップ

A workshop of traditional Japanese culture will be held in Azalea Hall (Sunsquare 3F) on Sunday January 14th, from 13:30 to 15:30.

Participants will be able to enjoy a range of traditional Japanese culture, including flower arranging, tea ceremony, calligraphy, origami, yukata (summer kimono) and kendama, a traditional Japanese toy. Participation is free, apart from for the tea ceremony (100 yen per person), and calligraphy (0 to 100 yen per piece).

There will be 25 yukata available for females, 25 for males, and 10 for children. Numbered tickets will be distributed at the entrance to Azalea Hall from 13:10, on a first-come-first served basis.

Contact: Communication Corner (Sunsquare Higashihiroshima 1F) (コミュニケーションコーナー (サンスクエア 東広島 1F)), tel. 082-423-1922, email: corner@hhface.org

Exemptions from National Health Insurance Payments During Periods Before and After Childbirth

- ・ 国民健康保険税の産前産後期
- ・ 間の免除制度がはじまります

Outline of the system

A system of exemptions from National Health Insurance payments during periods before and after childbirth will begin in January 2024.

This is applicable to those insured by National Health Insurance whose expected birth date or birth date is during or after November 2023. By applying, your National Health Insurance payments will be reduced by an amount equivalent to your National Health Insurance payments (the income-based amount and per-capita amount) for four months, starting from the month before the expected birth date or the month in which the birth date falls (in the case of multiple pregnancy, for six months, starting from three months before the expected birth date or the month in which the birth date falls).

You can apply from six months before your expected birth date, and you can also apply after giving birth.

Procedures are accepted at the National Health Insurance and Pension Division on the first floor of the City Office, or at branch offices or sub-branch offices.

	3 months before childbirth	2 months before childbirth	1 month before childbirth	Month in which childbirth falls	1 month after childbirth	2 months after childbirth	3 months after childbirth
Single pregnancy							
Multiple pregnancy							

* 'Childbirth' refers to childbirth after 85 days (4 months) or more of pregnancy. This includes cases of stillbirth, miscarriage, premature birth, and induced abortion.

* The income-based amount and per-capita amount of National Health Insurance payments for the period before and after childbirth will be reduced from the annual amount. National Health Insurance payments during the period before and after childbirth are not guaranteed to be 0.

* For the 2023-24 financial year, National Health Insurance payments will only be reduced for the part of the period before and after childbirth which falls in or after January 2024.

August 2023	September	October	November	December	January 2024	February
			Month in which childbirth falls		Applicable period	

Example: If the child was born in November, the National Health Insurance payment will be reduced by an amount equivalent to the payment for January 2024. The period before January 2024 is not applicable for any reductions.

Exemptions from National Health Insurance Payments During Periods Before and After Childbirth

- ・国民健康保険税の産前産後期間の免除制度が始まります

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※ When National Health Insurance payments are reduced, any overpayment will be refunded.

Items needed for application

1. A document to confirm the expected date of birth or the birth date, and whether the pregnancy is single or multiple (such as a Mother and Child Health Handbook)

* If you submit a notification after giving birth, you will need a document that clarifies the parent-child relationship.

2. An identification document for the person who comes to complete the formalities (A My Number Card, driver's license, Basic Resident Register Card, etc. If a person from another household is carrying out the procedure, a power of attorney is also required.)

3. A document that can confirm the individual numbers of the head of the household and the person giving birth (A My Number Card, etc. If you are not the head of the household, you can also write a memo.)

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

Please be careful that your water pipes, water meter, etc. don't freeze

- ・水道管や水道メーターなどの凍結にご注意ください

If you have water pipes or your water meter is outside, on the north-facing side of your accommodation or in a place exposed to the wind, or if the lagging for the pipes or meter is peeling away, wrap the pipes and meter in insulating material, etc., to keep them warm.

If your water pipes burst, shut the telescopic water shut-off valve (the stopcock) inside the meter box, and call a designated water supply works company to request repairs. To ensure that you are prepared for any bursts, check in advance the location of the stopcock, etc. and test to see if the water can be shut off completely.

If you require emergency repairs for a leak inside your house during the year end and new year period (Friday December 29th - Wednesday January 3rd), please contact the following, between 9:00 and 22:00.

	Friday Dec 29	Saturday Dec 30	Sunday Dec 31	Monday Jan 1	Tuesday Jan 2	Wednesday Jan 3
Saijo, Hachihonmatsu, Shiwa, Takaya, Fukutomi, Toyasaka, Kochi	(Higashihiroshima City Designated Plumbing Businesses Cooperative Association) (Higashihiroshima mizu no o-tasuketai, 東広島水のお助け隊), tel.: 082-430-4855.					
Kurose	Hiramoto Setsubi Tel.: 080-5230-5661	Chugoku Jusetsu Kiki Tel.: 090-3740-4098	Yumawari Seikatsu Tel.: 0823-82-6234	Iwatani Sanyo Kurose-Kure Tel.: 0823-82-2054	Yamamoto Pump- Ten Tel.: 090-4144-5377	Hiramoto Setsubi Tel.: 080-5230-5661
Akitsu	Doi Tekko Tel.: 0846-45-1043 Iwasaki Tel.: 0846-45-5507	Doi Tekko Tel.: 0846-45-1043 Iwasaki Tel.: 0846-45-5507	Doi Tekko Tel.: 0846-45-1043 Iwasaki Tel.: 0846-45-5507	Doi Tekko Tel.: 0846-45-1043 Iwasaki Tel.: 0846-45-5507	Doi Tekko Tel.: 0846-45-1043 Iwasaki Tel.: 0846-45-5507	Doi Tekko Tel.: 0846-45-1043 Iwasaki Tel.: 0846-45-5507



Telescopic water shut-off value. When the water is shut off, the white lever is perpendicular to the pipe.

(Other meter boxes may differ.)

Parent-and-child swimming lessons

- ・初心者向け親子水泳教室

Swimming lessons, aimed at children in the first to third grades of elementary school and their parents/guardians, will be held on February 4th, February 11th, February 18th, February 25th and March 3rd (all Sundays), from 10:30 to 12:00. The course will be held at the Akitsu B&G Ocean Center Indoor Pool. There are spaces for five groups, and participants will be decided by lottery.

To apply, please send a fax or email, with the name, sex, date of birth, age, address and telephone number of the participant. Please also include the child's school grade, and the name of the parent or guardian. The deadline for applications is Friday January 26th.

Contact: Akitsu B&G Ocean Center (Akitsu B&G Kaiyo Center, 安芸津B&G海洋センター), tel./fax: 0846-45-3932.
Email: aki2@hhface.org

Fire Department New Year event

東広島市消防出初式

The Fire Department will hold a New Year event ('Dezomeshiki') on Sunday January 7th, from 9:40 to 12:00, in the athletics area of the Higashihiroshima Sports Ground (in the main arena of the gymnasium in the case of rain).

Firefighters will perform a demonstration of simultaneous water discharge and drills.

Contact: Fire General Affairs Division (Shobo-somu-ka, 消防総務課), tel.: 082-422-6621.



Coming-of-Age Celebration in Sakagura-Dori (the sake brewery area)

酒都・西条酒蔵通りお酒の成人式



This event will take place at the Tourist Information Center on Sakagura-Dori, on Monday January 8th.

Commemorative photographs are free, and a bottle of Japanese sake with an original label will be 2000 yen.

Contact: Saijo Sakagura-Dori Tourist Information Center (Saijo Sakagura-Dori Kanko-Annai-sho, 西条酒蔵通り観光案内所), tel.: 082-421-2511.

Coming-of-Age ceremony

二十歳のつどい

The Coming-of-Age ceremony is held on the second Monday of January every year to celebrate those who have reached the age of adulthood. Each local government holds this ceremony for those who reach the age of adulthood between April 2 of the previous year and April 1 of the current year. Although the age of adulthood was lowered from 20 to 18 on April 1, 2022, Higashihiroshima City continues to hold the Coming-of-Age ceremony for those who are 20 years old. At the Coming-of-Age ceremony, those who have newly reached adulthood in the community are invited to a large venue, and receive a commemorative gift and words of congratulations from the mayor. A representative of the new adults may also speak, in which they make a pledge with regard to their coming of age.

Dress for the coming-of-age ceremony is up to the individual, but most women who attend wear kimono (furusode), while men usually wear suits in navy, black, gray, or other subdued colors. Some people participate in the traditional costume of their own country.

The 2023-24 Coming-of-Age ceremony will be held on Monday January 8th (a national holiday), from 11:00 to 12:00, at the gymnasium of the Higashihiroshima Sports Park. The doors will open at 10:15, and attendees need to be in their seats by 10:45 (it is not possible to enter during the ceremony).

The ceremony is for those born between April 2nd, 2003, and April 1st, 2004. Even those (born between the dates above) whose address is not registered as Higashihiroshima City are welcome to take part.

Invitation postcards will be sent out at the end of December to

those in the age range above with registered addresses in the city. If you are in the above age range and you do not receive an invitation, please contact the Youth Development Division.

If you forget your invitation on the day, you will need to show proof of identity.

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



Deadline for payment of taxes: Wednesday January 31st

- ・ 次回の納期限は
- ・ 1月31日(水)

Please pay Municipal and Prefectural Tax (the fourth installment) and the National Health Insurance Premium (the seventh installment) by Wednesday January 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 January 13th, at 13:00, 14:00 and 15:00. The date for February is Saturday February 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.

<https://www.city.higashihiroshima.lg.jp/kenko/iryo/3/11526.html>

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 January 14th and 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 to check the city website.

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

Please be aware that formalities relating to My Number Cards cannot be dealt with.

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

<https://www.city.higashihiroshima.lg.jp/en/3/35917.html>

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

Population of Higashihiroshima City: 190,573 (80 more than October)
Households: 91,016 (89 more than October)
Population of foreign residents: 8,797 (102 more than October)
Foreign households: 6,859 (84 more than October)