

HIGASHIHIROSHIMA



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

(Special feature) Gathering information to prepare for disasters

• 【特集】 災害に備える情報
• 収集

The torrential rains of July 2018 are still very fresh in the memory. Higashihiroshima City saw record levels of rainfall which had never been experienced before, and many areas of the city suffered huge damage. Higashihiroshima City is situated in an area where the underlying stone is weathered granite, which is weak and easy to break. As such, when there is continued and concentrated heavy rain, it is necessary to be careful of landslides, etc. In addition, it is impossible to tell when or whether other natural disasters, such as flooding, typhoons, high tides, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc., will occur.

In order to be able to make appropriate decisions and take appropriate actions if a natural disaster occurs, it is important to continue to gather a range of information, and to prepare for damage that could potentially occur.

Q1: How do I find out the risk of disasters occurring in Higashihiroshima City?

A1: Please use the Hazard Map.

The map enables you to see areas in which disasters are likely to occur. The map also has information about where to evacuate to if a disaster occurs.

The Hazard Map is available in English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, and Vietnamese.
<http://www.city.higashihiroshima.lg.jp/soshiki/seisakukikaku/1/2/1/bousai/14787.html>

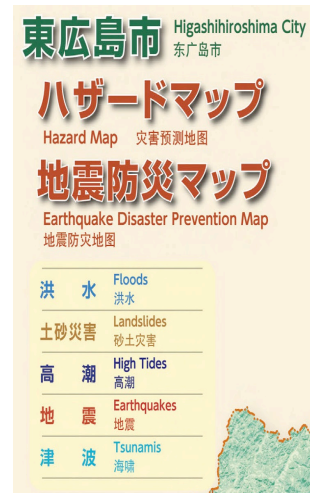
Q2: How do I find out when there is an increased risk of disaster in Higashihiroshima City?

A2: Please make use of the Higashihiroshima City Disaster Prevention Email delivery service.

When there is an increased risk of a disaster occurring in Higashihiroshima City, a warning, etc., is issued. This service informs you by email that such a warning has been issued. If you receive this email, please take steps to obtain information, for example from the Hiroshima Prefecture website or Higashihiroshima City website, from the Communication Corner Facebook page, or by watching television, etc.

Disaster prevention emails are available in English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish. To register for the emails, please see the following site:

(English) <http://www.city.higashihiroshima.lg.jp/soshiki/seisakukikaku/1/2/1/bousai/17835.html>



Q3: Are there any convenient tools that help with obtaining disaster information?

A3: We recommend the push-notification app 'Safety Tips'.

This free app provides emergency information about earthquakes, tsunamis, volcano eruptions, weather conditions, and national security situations within Japan. As of June 2020, the app provides information in 15 languages, including Japanese, English, Chinese (traditional and simplified), Vietnamese, Portuguese, etc. The app can be downloaded from the AppStore or from Google Play. Please make use of it.



To those covered by the National Health Insurance scheme

- 国民健康保険の被保険者の
- 皆さんへ

Current Health Insurance Certificates (hoken-sho, 保険証) expire on Friday July 31st. New certificates will be sent out during at the end of July. Please make sure that you use the new certificate from August 1st. If you do not receive a new Health Insurance Certificate, please contact the National Health Insurance and Pension Division.

The new Health Insurance Certificates are valid until July 31st, 2021. However, if you have unpaid National Health Insurance payments or Latter Stage Elderly Health Insurance scheme payments, the period of validity of the certificate could be shorter. If you are having difficulties paying the National Health Insurance premium, etc., please contact the National Health Insurance and Pension Division.

If you a student due to graduate during the current academic year (by the end of March 2021), the period of validity of your Health Insurance Certificate will be shorter than one year. You will not be able to use a Health Insurance Certificate whose period of validity has expired.

If you have received a new Health Insurance Certificate, but you enrol in the health insurance scheme at your workplace, etc., you will need to complete the formalities for withdrawal from the National Health Insurance scheme. Please be aware that by joining a new insurance scheme, you are not automatically withdrawn from the National Health Insurance scheme.

If your medical treatment bills are likely to be expensive, please use a Certificate of Eligibility for Medical Expense Limits (gendo-gaku tekiyo ninteisho, 限度額適用認定証). If you show this certificate to the medical facility in advance, you may be able to limit the amount of medical expenses you have to pay directly yourself. It is necessary to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility for Medical Expense Limits in advance.

Notification of the amounts to be paid for the National Health Insurance premium for the financial year 2020-2021 will be sent by post (in a gray envelope) to the head of each household around the middle of July. The amount payable is calculated based on the previous year's income of the person/people enrolled.

This year, the period for the submission of income tax returns was extended because of the effects of the coronavirus. If you submitted your final income tax return on or after Tuesday March 17th, 2020, the details may not be reflected in the notice of the amount payable for the National Health Insurance premium that you receive. As soon as the details of your tax return are confirmed, the amount of your premium will be changed, and you will be sent a new notice of the amount payable during or after August.

If ① or ② in the table below applies to you, you may be able to apply to receive a reduction in or exemption from National Health Insurance payments or Latter Stage Elderly Health Insurance scheme payments as a result of the effects of the coronavirus. For more details, please see the city website, or contact the National Health Insurance and Pension Division.

Eligibility for reduction in or exemption from payments	Items needed when applying (example)
① If the head of the household has died or suffered serious illness as a result of coronavirus.	A document to prove death, showing the date of death (death certificate, post-mortem certificate, etc.), a document showing the extent of the illness or disability (doctor's report, etc.)
② If the income of the main breadwinner for the household (for National Health Insurance, the head of the household) has been reduced significantly as a result of the coronavirus.	Wage slip, account book, or another document showing income.

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

Exemption from, or postponement of, the payment of National Pension premiums

・国民年金保険料免除・納付
：猶予申請受付開始

Those resident in Japan and aged between 20 and 60 are required as a rule to enrol in the National Pension scheme and pay the premiums. This includes non-Japanese residents. However, there is a system of exemptions from payments, or postponement of payments, for those for whom making the payments is difficult financially.

If you leave the payments unpaid, and you become disabled or die, you may not be able to receive the disability basic pension, or the basic pension for surviving family.

Even if you have been judged as exempt from some payments, if you do not pay new payments, these will not be counted in the period during which you have paid premiums, and will not be reflected in the amount of pension you eventually receive.

You can apply for exemption from or postponement of payments from Wednesday July 1st. The period of exemption or postponement lasts from July 1st, 2020 to March 6th, 2021.

If you were made unemployed on or after January 1st, 2019, you will need to enclose with your application a certificate of unemployment or a certificate of eligibility to receive unemployment insurance.

You can apply for exemption from or postponement of payments for up to 2 years and 1 month in the past, counting from the month of application.

If your income from February 2020 is forecast to decrease as a result of the coronavirus, you may be eligible for exemption from National Pension payments, as a special case. Even if you have already applied for exemption from or postponement of payments for the 2019-2020 financial year, you will need to reapply. Also, when applying, you will need a 'Notice of Income'.

Contact: National Health Insurance and Pension Division (Kokuho Nenkin-ka, 国保年金課), tel.: 082-420-0933.
Japan Pension Service, Kure Pension Office (Kure Nenkin Jimusho Kokumin Nenkin-ka, 呉年金事務所国民年金課), tel.: 0823-22-1691.

Have you applied for the Special Fixed-sum Payment for COVID-19?

・特別定額給付金の申請はお
：済みですか

Application forms for the special payment have been sent to each household. If you have not received the application form, please contact the Office for Measures Against Coronavirus.

Applications must be received by Monday August 31st. Applications postmarked on that day can be accepted.

Please be careful of fraud related to the payment of the Special Fixed-sum Payment for COVID-19! Staff of the municipal or national government, etc., will never ask you to transfer handling fees, purchase electronic money, operate an ATM (at a bank, convenience store, etc.) in connection with the payment of the Special Fixed-sum Payment for COVID-19.



Contact: Office for Measures Against Coronavirus (Shingata Coronavirus Taisaku-shitsu, 新型コロナウイルス対策室), tel.: 082-426-3127.

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Special Fixed-sum Payment Call Center (Somusho Tokubetsu Teigaku Kyufukin Call Center, 総務省特別定額給付金コールセンター), tel.: 0120-260-020.

Reservations and applications for My Number Points

・マイナポイントの予約と申し
：込みが始まります

As a way of encouraging consumption making use of your My Number Card, you will be able to receive up to 5,000 My Number Points. The amount you receive will be calculated as 25% of the amount of money you have used for charging or making payments using a cashless payment system. The scheme is scheduled to start in September.

In order to receive My Number Points, if you have a My Number Card, you need to reserve and apply for My Number Points yourself online, using a smartphone or computer. You will need a smartphone that can read your My Number Card, or a card reader.

If this procedure is difficult for you, staff at the Citizens' Affairs Division at the City Office, or staff at the branch offices, will be able to help you. This service will be available from Wednesday July 1st to Monday August 31st, from 10:00 to 16:00 (not Saturdays, Sundays, or National Holidays), at the Citizens' Affairs Division or the branch offices of the City Office. Please take your My Number Card with you.

Step 1: If you do not yet have a My Number Card, first please apply for one. It takes about six weeks for the card to be issued. As the period when the points can be used approaches, there may be more applications, and it may take longer to issue cards.

Step 2 (reservation): Reserve your My Number Points online. Reservation involves issuing a 'My Key ID', which is identification needed in order to gain points.

Step 3 (application): From July, you can apply for My Number Points. This involves selecting the cashless payment system you use.

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

Deadline for payment of taxes: Friday July 31st

納期限は
7月31日(金)

Please pay Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax (the second installment), and the National Health Insurance Premium (the first installment) by Friday July 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: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays: 9:00 to 17:00, Saturdays: 9:00 to 13:00, Mondays, Fridays, Sundays: 13:00 to 17:00.

Communication Corner website (English): <http://hhface.org/corner/en.html>

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



Communication Corner website (English)

40-minute free legal consultations are available on Saturday July 11th, at 13:00, 14:00 and 15:00. The date for August is Saturday August 1st. English translation 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.



Facebook page

Communication Corner Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Communication-Corner-544685425697277>

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

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.



English



Japanese

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. Also, advice is available on the website (you can access the website from the QR code to the right), in Japanese, English, and Chinese (simplified and traditional). 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.

This newsletter contains translations of selected articles from the Monthly City Newsletter 'Koho Higashihiroshima', published each month by the City Office. The newsletter contains details of official procedures, public housing available at low cost, subsidies available by applying at the City Office, event information, etc. This newsletter is available at the beginning of each month at the City Office (Citizens' Affairs Division, 1F), branch offices and sub-branch offices of the City Office, Kurose Library, Communication Corner (Sunsquare Higashihiroshima, 1F), Hiroshima University, Kindai University, Hiroshima International University, Fuji Grand (Higashihiroshima store), Youme Town (Higashihiroshima and Kurose stores), Shoji (Route 375 bypass and Toyosaka stores), Gyomu-yo Shokuhin Super (Saijo store), Manso (Takaya store), Bankok Store, Motonaga Hospital, Hello Work Hiroshima Saijo, Higashihiroshima Catholic Church (Takamigaoka), etc.

As of the end of May, 2020:

Population of Higashihiroshima City:
188,991

Population of foreign residents:
7,951