

Informational Newsletter for English-Speaking Residents

Hiroshima NOW

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Hiroshima Shimin to Shisei is available to view on the city's website. It can also be translated via an automatic translation app into several languages (English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino).

 For those who would like to receive notices via e-mail regarding new issues, etc., please send an e-mail to the following address: internat@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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 Unless stated otherwise, services and webpages mentioned are likely to be only provided in Japanese. Translations of proper nouns are not necessarily official English translations.

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Japan's legal age for adulthood

日本の成人年齢を知っていますか？

Since April 2022, Japan's legal age of adulthood has been lowered from 20 to 18. Each country has their own legal age of adulthood, and it might be different from Japan; however, while you live in Japan, the laws of Japan apply and should be followed.

There are some age limits that you should be aware of. Here is a list of what you can do once you turn 18 and what you cannot do until you reach 20.

Things you can do once you turn 18

- ☒ Enter into a contract without parental permission and consent

Example of contracts:

- Mobile phone contracts
- Loan applications
- Credit card applications
- Apartment leases (subject to tenancy review by the real estate agent and landlord)



- ☒ Apply for a 10-year passport (for Japanese nationals)
- ☒ Take national examinations, such as exams for medical practitioners, certified accountants, pharmacists, and others
- ☒ Get married (under Japanese law)
- ☒ Request to legally change your recognized gender (for those with gender dysphoria)
- ☒ Apply for a driver's license (for standard motor vehicles) and/or convert your foreign license into a Japanese license
- ☒ Apply for naturalization
 - ▶ You must be a legal adult in your home country as well in order to apply.
- ☒ Choose your nationality (for those with dual nationalities between Japan and another country)
 - ▶ Those with a second nationality before the day when they reach 18 must choose one of their nationalities before they reach 20.
 - ▶ Those with a second nationality after the day when they reach 18 must choose one of their nationalities within two years after the day they acquired their second nationality.

Things you cannot do until you turn 20

- ☒ Buy or drink alcohol
- ☒ Purchase or use tobacco products
- ☒ Gamble and bet on events such as horse racing, bicycle racing, auto racing, and boat racing
- ☒ Apply for a driver's license (for mid-sized motor vehicles)
 - ▶ In order to apply for a driver's license for a large-sized motor vehicle, you must be 21 or older.
- ☒ Enter the National Pension System
 - ▶ As a general rule, everyone living in Japan aged 20 to 59 must enroll in the National Pension system.

For newly recognized legal adults:

Beware of consumer issues and scams

18歳から成年。消費者トラブルに注意 ひろしま市民と市政 10月1日号 (P2)

Japan's legal age of adulthood is now 18. Once you are legally an adult, you can enter into contracts without your parental consent. On the other hand, young adults will have to take responsibility for any issues which may arise when entering contracts and must understand the terms and conditions when signing a contract.

Advertisements and posts on the internet and social media sometimes include misleading content and tricks targeting young adults and can easily become the target of malicious businesses, such contracts/subscriptions for aesthetic and medicinal products and services, and get-rich quick scheme investments and side business. Young adults need to be aware of these scams in order to avoid trouble in the future.

👉 Things you can do to avoid consumer issues:

1. Read the terms and conditions carefully before signing any contracts, take a step back, and evaluate the situation by asking whether you truly need the service or not.
2. Don't trust anything that promises quick and easy money. Do not hesitate to refuse if you feel uneasy or worried; for example, if they demand a large sum of money.
3. Before taking out a loan or applying for a credit card, carefully consider whether the terms and condition suit your income level.

👉 If you are worried about how to deal with the situation, please consult with:

Hiroshima City Consumer Affairs Center (*Shōhi Seikatsu Santā*)

Hours: 10 am-7 pm (except for Tuesdays, and December 29-January 3)

Address: 6-27 Moto-machi, Naka-ku AQ'A Hiroshima Center City 8F

Tel: 082-225-3300 Email: shouhi@city.hiroshima.lg.jp

- ▶ Consumer issue consultations are available in-person, and via phone and e-mail. Speech translation app available for 12 languages at the Center.

Changes to elementary school enrollment

入学する小学校を変更できます ひろしま市民と市政 10月1日号 (P3)



Future students whose assigned elementary school has too many students enrolled are allowed to change to a different school in their area. The City will send a notice to families with children who are eligible. For more information, please refer to said notice and/or the City of Hiroshima website for further information.

City of Hiroshima website (Japanese)

<https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/education/301920.html>



Who is eligible?

First year students who are set to enroll in one of the schools outlined below as of April 1, 2024

How do I apply?

Bring your city-issued Enrollment Notice にゅうがくつうちしよ 入学通知書 (*Nyūgaku Tsūchisho*) to the Municipal Board of Education, or go directly to the school where you wish to have your children enroll in. If you prefer to apply at the school directly, please contact them first before you visit.

Application period

By mid-February (you will be send an Enrollment Notice にゅうがくつうちしよ 入学通知書 (*Nyūgaku Tsūchisho*) for 2024 at the end of January)

Please note that it is possible for seats to fill quickly, or that applications will no longer be accepted in some cases.

Schools:

Ward	Assigned Elementary School	Available Schools
Naka	Senda Elementary School	♦ Takeya ♦ Nakajima ♦ Yoshijima-higashi
Higashi	Ushita Elementary School	♦ Waseda ♦ Ushita-shinmachi ♦ Onaga ♦ Hakushima
Minami	Ujina Elementary School	♦ Ujina-higashi ♦ Midori-machi ♦ Moto-ujina
Nishi	Inokuchi Elementary School	♦ Suzugamine ♦ Inokuchi-myojin ♦ Inokuchi-dai ♦ Itsukaichi-higashi ♦ Itsukaichi-minami
Asaminami	Kawauchi Elementary School	♦ Midorii ♦ Nakasuji ♦ Furuichi ♦ Bairin ♦ Kuchita-higashi ♦ Kuchita
	Tomo Elementary School	♦ Yasu-kita ♦ Yasu-nishi ♦ Tomo-higashi ♦ Ōzuka ♦ Tomo-minami ♦ Kuchi-minami
	Gion Elementary School Yamamoto Elementary School Kasugano Elementary School	♦ Furuichi ♦ Ōmachi ♦ Nagatsuka ♦ Hara ♦ Hara-minami ♦ Nagatsuka-nishi
Saeki	Ishiuchi-kita Elementary School	♦ Ōzuka ♦ Tomo-minami

Inquires: School Affairs Division of the Municipal Board of Education (*Kyōiku linkai, Gakuji Ka*)

Tel: 082-504-2469

For the elderly

Subsidy for Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccines

インフルエンザ・肺炎球菌予防接種の助成 ひろしま市民と市政 10月15日号 (P6)

Influenza Vaccine

Who is eligible?

Eligibility	Copayment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those 65 years and older Those 60-64 years with physical disabilities including heart, kidney, or respiratory diseases classified as Physical Disability Certificate Level 1 	1,600 yen for one dose (Only available once)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who meet one of the above conditions and receive public welfare payments or exemption on income-based municipal residents tax <p>Note: You need to bring documents showing you receive public welfare payments (<i>Hihogosha shōmei-sho</i>) or pay your Long-term health insurance premium (<i>Kaigo hokenryō nōnyū tsūchisho</i>)</p>	Free

Subsidy period

Until January 31, 2024 (Wed) Only available once

How to receive a vaccine

Bring documents showing you are eligible to a clinic or hospital.



Pneumococcal Vaccine

Who is eligible?

Those aged 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 or 100 in the FY 2023 (Between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024)

▶ Please note that after April 1, 2024, only those 65 years old will be eligible for the subsidy.

Subsidy period

Until March 31, 2024 (Sun.)

Inquiries:

Your ward office's Mutual Community Support Division (*Chiiki Sasaeai Ka*)

Ward	Telephone	Ward	Telephone
Naka	082-504-2528	Asaminami	082-831-4942
Higashi	082-568-7729	Asakita	082-819-0586
Minami	082-250-4108	Aki	082-821-2809
Nishi	082-294-6235	Saeki	082-943-9731

Garbage collection schedule for national holidays

2023年11月の祝日と12月29日～1月3日のごみの収集スケジュール



○・・・Garbage is collected ×・・・Garbage is **NOT** collected

National Holiday	[Burnable Trash / Plastic Bottles / Recyclable Plastics] In your local ward	[Recyclable & Harmful Waste / Non-combustible / Other] In your local ward
November 3 (Fri)	×	○
November 23 (Thurs)	×	○
December 29 (Fri)	○	×
From December 30 (Sat) to January 3 (Tues)	×	×

▶ Household waste guidelines available on the Hiroshima City official website:

<https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/kateigomi/318942.html>



Inquiries: City Office Environmental Bureau, Operation Division I
(Kankyō Kyoku Gyōmu Dai-ichi Ka) Tel: 082-504-2220

Fall COVID-19 Vaccination Booster

新型コロナワクチン:秋開始接種を実施しています「ひろしま市民と市政」10月1日号 (P3)



The COVID-19 updated booster is now available at either medical facilities offering individual vaccinations, or the group vaccination sites listed below. In order to receive the vaccine, you must make a reservation.

- ▶ Children aged 6 months to 11 years can only receive a vaccine at medical facilities offering individual vaccinations. Please confirm with the medical facility where you want to receive the vaccine for details.

Who can receive a booster shot?

Booster shots are available to individuals aged 6 months or older who have completed the 1st dose of the vaccine. One shot per person.

Type of Vaccine

In principle, Omicron XBB.1.5-adapted monovalent COVID-19 vaccines will be used.

- ▶ For more information about the vaccine, please check the city website.

Vaccination schedule

Until March 31, 2024

Group Vaccination venue

	Ward	Venue
Primary vaccines (1 st and 2 nd dose)	Nishi-ku	Nishi-Hiroshima Warehouse, Nippon Express Co., Ltd. Hiroshima Branch office (Address: 4-1 Kusatsu-ko 3-chome)
Booster vaccines	Nishi-ku	Nishi-Hiroshima Warehouse, Nippon Express Co., Ltd. Hiroshima Branch office (Address: 4-1 Kusatsu-ko 3-chome)
	Asaminami-ku	AEON Mall Hiroshima Gion (Address: 3-2-1 Gion)
	Asakita-ku	Across Plaza Koyo (Address: 5-30-38 Fukawa)

😊 For details about the updated booster, please visit the official city website:

<https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/korona/206315.html> (Japanese)



◆ Inquiries about COVID-19 Vaccine

- **Hiroshima City COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center** Tel: 082-298-0525
(*Hiroshima-shi Shingata Korona-uirusu Wakuchin Sesshu Kōru Sentā*)
 - ▶ Available from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm everyday
 - ▶ Japanese only
- **Hiroshima Prefectural COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center** Tel: 082-513-2847
(*Hiroshima-ken Shingata Korona-uirusu Wakuchin Sesshu Sōdan Sentā*)
 - ▶ Available from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm everyday
 - ▶ Multilingual support offered in Chinese, English, Korean, Portuguese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

◆ Inquiries about COVID-19

- **The Hiroshima City COVID-19 Call Center** Tel: 082-241-4566
 - ▶ Available 24 hours/7 days a week
 - ▶ Japanese only
 - ▶ If you are not confident in your Japanese, please contact the Hiroshima City & Aki County International Resident Consultation Service.

◆ Latest COVID-19 Information

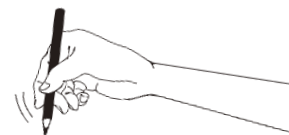
Please visit the City of Hiroshima website:

<https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/english/list2370.html>



Useful Japanese daily
rules and customs

Hot springs and bathhouses



Featured words: 温泉 (おんせん // *Onsen*) · 銭湯 (せんとう // *Sentō*)



温泉 (*Onsen*) are hot springs and 銭湯 (*Sentō*) are public bathhouses

Onsen are natural hot springs created by ground water that is heated by magma and bubbles to the surface. Since Japan is home to many volcanos, and thus, lots of magma, you can find hot springs all around Japan.

Sentō are public bathhouses where users pay fee to relax and bathe. There's even an upgraded version of these bathhouses called **Super Sentō** that include spa facilities, such as a variety of baths, rock baths, saunas, and even places to eat.

👉 Below is a list of rules to know and follow when using hot springs or public bathhouses

- ❑ Wash your body thoroughly before getting in.
- ❑ There are no towels allowed in the water.
- ❑ Do not use soap, shampoo, or conditioner in the water.
- ❑ Do not do laundry in the water.
- ❑ Those with tattoos may not be allowed to enter public baths or hot springs; if the facility has a website, check online in advance.

Hot springs in and around Hiroshima

Chugoku area (Hiroshima, Okayama, Tottori, Shimane and Yamaguchi)

- ❑ Hiroshima: Yuki Onsen and others
- ❑ Okayama: Mimasaka Santo (Yubara, Yunogo and Okutsu), and others
- ❑ Tottori: Misasa Onsen, Kaike Onsen, Hawaii Onsen, and others
- ❑ Shimane: Tamazukuri Onsen, Yunotsu Onsen, and others
- ❑ Yamaguchi: Nagotoyumoto Onsen, Yuda Onsen, and others

Kyushu, Shikoku, and Kansai

- ❑ Kyushu: Beppu Hatto (Oita), Yufuin Onsen (Oita), Kurokawa Onsen (Kumamoto), Ibusuki Onsen (Kagoshima), Ureshino Onsen (Saga) and others
- ❑ Shikoku: Dogo Onsen and others
- ❑ Kansai: Arima Onsen (Hyogo), Kinokuni Onsen (Hyogo) and others

