Informational Newsletter for English-Speaking Residents

# Hiroshima NOW



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Articles in *Hiroshima NOW* are excerpts from *Hiroshima Shimin to Shisei*, a free newspaper produced by the City of Hiroshima. This monthly newsletter is published in English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Simplified Japanese. They are all available on our website (h-ircd.jp/) or in print at various public facilities.

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

*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).

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## Advice on easily caused financial trouble for young people

若者が遭いやすい消費トラブルについて ひろしま市民と市政 2月 15 日号 (P3)

Under revised civil law, from April 1, 2022 the legal age of majority is now 18 years of age. As a result, from age 18, people are now able to sign binding contracts themselves - without requiring a legal guardian's consent. However, this has also contributed to over expenditure and financial trouble among young people.

When viewing advertisements or information online, there can be misinformation and disinformation. Recently, trouble with contracts relating to health and beauty services and products, as well as supposedly safe and quickly rewarding jobs or investments are increasing. Therefore, please be particularly wary of contracts relating to these.

Inquiries: Hiroshima City Consumer Affairs Center Tel. 082-225-3300

#### **Examples and Advice**

## **Example 1 Beware of "Free Consultations"**

When attending a free consultation at a beauty salon, you suddenly have an expensive contract forced on you same day.

From the moment of contracting, they begin assertively pursuing the repayment of the loan, and demanding you refer your friends to them as well.

## Advice

- Do not be fooled nor pressured by supposed "free" or "trial" goods and services, or discounts/contracts that are "only available today".
- · If you are unsure of costs or the contents of services, simply flatly refuse to contract.
- Even if the contract holder assertively demands you refer your friends, if you do not need to reply for some reason, do not reply.

#### **Example 2 Abuse of Remote Desktop Applications**

You have found a way to quickly and easily make money through a job you found on social media. You can apply and start working easily, just by sending them a sticker.

Then, they offer you an even more lucrative opportunity and, as an upfront commitment, they ask you to install an application. Using this newly installed application, they take control of your hardware and force you to take a loan.

#### Advice

- There are no jobs where you can easily make huge amounts of money like this. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Do not be easily convinced to install remote desktop applications. They are easily abused, and can be used to make you take loans from lenders and loan sharks. If you think accounts are compromised, take precautions, such as changing passwords and usernames.

#### Please call the Consumer Affairs Center

If you are unsure of something, or in trouble - do not struggle alone. Call the Consumer Affairs Center.

## **Hiroshima City Consumer Affairs Center**

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

Availability: 10 am-7pm

Unavailable: Tuesdays, December 29-January 3

Telephone: 082-225-3300

Email: shouhi@city.hiroshima.lg.jp

## Has your child's school enrollment notification arrived?

入学通知書は届きましたか ひろしま市民と市政 2月 15 日号 (P6)

At the end of January 2025, the City sent school enrollment notifications (入学通知書 *nyūgaku tsūchi-sho*) to parents and guardians of children with Japanese citizenship who will begin elementary or junior high school this April.

The notification tells you which school your child will attend and when. Keep it in a safe place and submit it to your child's designated school on April 1 (enrollment day, not entrance ceremony day).

If you have not received your notification or have lost it, please contact the School Affairs Division of the Municipal Board of Education (see below).

# thildren with non-Japanese citizenship

If you would like to have your child attend a municipal elementary or junior high school beginning April 2025, please contact the School Affairs Division of the Municipal Board of Education (see below). You do not need to do this if you have already applied.

#### If you have moved

#### If you have moved to a different place in Hiroshima City

- If you register your change of address no later than March 14 (Friday), the City will send a school enrollment notification to your new address.
- If you register on or after March 17 (Monday), you must go to the Citizens' Affairs Division (Shimin Ka) of your local ward office or branch office to receive your notification.

### If you have moved outside Hiroshima City

Contact the board of education for your new neighborhood.

## ■ Enrolling your child in a national, prefectural, or private school

You will need a **letter of acceptance** (入学承諾書 *nyūgaku shōdaku-sho*) issued by the school your child will attend. Submit this and the enrollment notification (入学通知書 *nyūgaku tsūchi-sho*) to the School Affairs Division of the Municipal Board of Education (see below) or the Citizens' Affairs Division (*Shimin Ka*) of your ward or branch office. You can also submit these to the elementary school written on the enrollment notification, or to your child's current elementary school.

#### Children with disabilities

If your child has special educational needs due to disability, please consult with one of the following:

Counseling Center for Youth (Seishönen Sögö Södan Sentā)

Address: 1-4-15 Kokutaiji-mach, Naka-ku Tel. 082-504-2197 // Fax 082-504-2142 Hours: Monday to Friday 9 am-5 pm

\* Counseling Center for Youth (Branch Office) (Seishönen Sögö Södan Sentä Bunshitsu)

Address: 2-15-55 Hikari-machi, Higashi-ku Tel. 082-264-0422 // Fax 082-264-0436 Hours: Monday to Friday 9 am-5pm

## Changing schools

If you have a valid reason why your child cannot attend their designated school (e.g., your family is moving within Hiroshima City after April), please consult the School Affairs Division of the Municipal Board of Education (Tel 082-504-2975).

## Financial assistance for schooling

The City can provide financial assistance for schooling, such as for the cost of school supplies, school lunch, school excursions, etc. In order to receive this assistance, there are certain criteria you must fulfil and there is an income cap. For more information, including requirements, please consult the School Affairs Division of the Municipal Board of Education or the school where your child attends.

#### Who can apply for this financial assistance?

- ① Parents and guardians of children who are in a municipal elementary school, junior high school, secondary school (former curriculum), or school for special needs education (elementary and junior high school departments) in Hiroshima City
- ② Parents and guardians who reside in Hiroshima City and their children attend:
  - A municipal elementary school, junior high school, or secondary school (former curriculum) outside of Hiroshima city
  - ②-B
    A national, prefectural or private elementary school, junior high school, or secondary school (former curriculum)

The category of financial assistance that parents and guardians can receive depends on the following conditions. For further information, please consult your child's school.

#### Conditions:

- Whether you are receiving public welfare (seikatsu hogo)
- Whether your child is in a school for special needs education
- Whether you fall under category ① and live in outside of Hiroshima city
- Whether you fall under category ② (②-A or ②-B)

#### Inquiries:

- Municipal schools
- School Affairs Division, Municipal Board of Education (Kyōiku linkai Gakuji Ka)

Tel. 082-504-2469 Fax 082-504-2328

## Receive tax income certificates online

税の所得証明書が電子申請で取得可能に ひろしま市民と市政 2月 | 日号 (P3)

In Hiroshima city, using your smartphone or other devices, you can now apply to receive tax income certificates (certifications for having paid Municipal/Prefectural Residents tax/Forest environmental tax) online. You can now apply anywhere anytime, and receive them by mail later.

Inquiries: Tax System Division (Zeisei Ka) Tel. 082-504-2092

#### **Required Costs for Application**

Certification Fee: 350 yen per copy

Postage Fee: 110 yen (If the package is below 50g)

#### Note:

- If the package weight exceeds 50g the fee will be whatever cost matches the weight of the package.
- If you would like to use express delivery or registered mail service, please see the below additional charges required besides basic rate.

Express delivery: 300 yen Registered mail: 350 yen

#### **Payment Method**

Please pay by either credit card or by smartphone carrier payment applications – e.g. PayPay, auPAY, docomo's d payment (d-Barai).



## What You Need to Apply

- · Smartphone (that can read your My Number Card), or a computer and IC Card Reader.
- My Number Card, and a password (more than 6 alphanumeric characters) for digital signature certification

## Things to be Aware of When Applying

- · You may only apply for your own documents.
- · A receipt will not be issued.

## Inquiries:

For more information about this and the process, please visit the Hiroshima City's official website (Japanese):

https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/soshiki/27/408608.html



## Municipal Tax Offices (Shizei Jimusho)

Ward	Which section of which office?	Tel
Naka & Minami	Chuo Shizei Jimusho Central Municipal Tax Office (Naka Ward Office)	082-504-2558
Higashi & Aki	Tobu Shizei Jimusho Eastern Municipal Tax Office (Higashi Ward Office)	082-568-7715
Nishi & Saeki	Seibu Shizei Jimusho Western Municipal Tax Office (Nishi Ward Office)	082-532-0937
Asaminami & Asakita	Hokubu Shizei Jimusho Northern Municipal Tax Office (Asaminami Ward Office)	082-831-4932

## Tax Room (Zeimu Shitsu)

Tax Room	Tel	Tax Room	Tel
Minami (Minami Ward Office)	082-250-8946	Saeki (Saeki Ward Office)	082-943-9716
Aki (Aki Ward Office)	082-821-4913	Asakita (Asakita Ward Office)	082-819-3913

# **Extended ward office hours March 24-April 1**

区役所窓口を平日時間延長、(土)(日) 開庁 ひろしま市民と市政 3月 1日号 (P3)

From late March to early April, ward offices experience a high volume of customers since this period is when many people move in and out of the city. Thus, during this busy season, ward offices extend their weekday opening hours and add weekend hours for those submitting certain types of paperwork. (Note: regular hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm)

Inquiries: Ward Administrative Division (Kusei Ka) Tel. 082-504-2112



## **Extended opening hours**

March							April		
Dates	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Hours	8:30 am-7 pm					8:30 ar	n-noon	8:30 a	m-7 pm

Only the Citizens Affairs Division (*Shimin Ka*) and the National Insurance and Pension Division (*Hoken Nenkin Ka*) of ward offices will have their hours extended. Please note that branch offices will not extend their hours.

#### Notes:

- If you need services related to other matters, please visit during regular hours (weekdays from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm).
- For more information regarding the documents you will need to submit with each form, please contact the most relevant division using the table below.
- If you call during extended hours (From March 24 to April 1 including the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March), you will first be connected to Security (*Shuei Shitsu*), who will then transfer you to the office you need.
- Bring ID (e.g. Residence Card (zairyū card), driver's license, passport, or My Number Card if you have one)
- Depending on the situation, you may not be able to complete all your paperwork in one day.

## Services available during extended hours:

	Forms							Where	to submit
to ☑ P	odoke) Personal S	n of Change in C eal Registration r Card (12-digit i	(inkan tōr	,	ūmin hyō no i	dō-	_	zens Afl nimin Ka	airs Division
T.1	Naka	082-504-2551	Higashi	082-568-7708	Asaminami	082-831-4	928	Aki	082-821-4908
Tel.	Minami	082-250-8938	Nishi	082-532-0930	Asakita	082-819-3	907	Saeki	082-943-9709

	Forms							Where to submit		
(ko ☑ Cl	(KOKUITIIT KETIKO TIOKETI TIO STIIKAKU IGO LOGOKE)							nsion Di	surance and vision <i>nkin Ka</i> )	
+ -	Naka	082-504-2555	Higashi	082-568-7711	Asaminami	082-831-4	929	Aki	082-821-4910	
Tel.	Minami 082-250-8941 Nishi 082-532-0933 Asakita 082-819-3					909	Saeki	082-943-9712		

Forms							Where to submit		
☑ Fo	☑ Forms related to children's medical subsidies (applications, changes in eligibility, etc.) (kodomo iryōhi jukyūsha shikaku nintei shinsei/henkō						(Fu		
<b>-</b> .	Naka	082-504-2569	Higashi	082-568-7733	Asaminami	082-831-4	945	Aki	082-821-2813
Tel.	Minami	082-250-4131	Nishi	082-294-6342	Asakita	082-819-0	605	Saeki	082-943-9732

#### **My Number Card**

- ★ If you use the Myna Portal (the government-run online administrative window) to submit a notification that you are moving out (転出届 tenshutsu todoke), it is passed on to the relevant office in local authority where you have resided in. Therefore, those who submit their notice of moving out online do not need to visit their local authority.
  - Additionally, you can also make an online appointment with the local authority for that new address to submit a Moving-In Notification (転入届 *tennyū todoke*). Please note that you will still need to go through moving in procedures at the relevant office in your new municipality.
- ★ Those who use their My Number Card when using the Convenience Store Issuance Service to get their certificates can save 100 yen, less than the cost at the ward office. Please do utilize this service if you have a My Number Card.

## Parking spaces for bicycles and motorcycles:

## **Secondary applications beginning on March 10**

4月からの駐輪場登録利用者を追加募集:追加募集 3月10日(月)



Although the application period for City-owned parking spaces for bicycles and motorcycles ended on February 5, secondary applications for parking spaces that have not reached capacity will begin on March 10.

## Who can apply?

Those who will consistently use a parking space between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026. If you already have a parking space and want to renew your registration, you must reapply.

#### Fee

Bicycles:

18,000 yen per year (15,600 yen per year for some parking spaces)

Motorbikes (jidō nirinsha) and motorized bicycles (gendōkitsuki jitensha, also known as gentsuki):

30,000 yen per year (27,600 yen per year for some parking spaces)

- The fee can be split into two payments throughout the year.
- If you have one of the following, fees will be reduced by 50%:
  - Physical Disability Certificate (Shintai Shōgaisha Techō)
  - Special Needs Certificate (Ryōiku Techō)
  - Mental Disability Certificate (Seishin Shōgaisha Hoken Fukushi Techō)

#### How to apply

Please fill in the necessary information on the application form and submit it to the parking lot you wish to use or send an online application form to the relevant service corporation listed below. Application forms are available at manned parking lots and the Maintenance and Management Division (*Iji Kanri Ka*) of each ward office. You can also download the application form from the website (Japanese only) listed below:

- Application for City-owned parking lots other than the Chūō Parking Lot (Moto-machi):
   Hiroshima Prefectural Building Maintenance Cooperative website (Japanese)
   https://www.hbmc.or.jp/churin
- Application for the Chūō Parking Lot (Moto-machi):
   Amano Management Service Corporation website (Japanese)
   https://hiroshima-park.com/2025/01/15/bosyu\_motomachi\_2024/



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**Inquiries:** Hiroshima Prefectural Building Maintenance Cooperative (*Hiroshima-ken Biru Mentenansu Kyōdo Kumiai*)

Tel. 082-242-7330

Amano Management Service Corporation

Tel. 082-227-2110

Note: Only for the Chūō Parking Lot (Moto-machi)

# Tax Return Deadline: Monday, March 17

税の申告は3月 17 日(月)までに「ひろしま市民と市政」1 月 15 日号

During this year's final tax return filing (確定申告//kakutei-shinkoku), taxpayers submit a tax return to the tax office to determine their annual income and the tax to be imposed for the 2024 calendar year (January 1 to December 31, 2024). Your FY2025 residents tax will be calculated based on your finalized 2024 annual income.

#### **Deadlines**

- Income tax, recovery special income tax, residents tax (municipal and prefectural), and gift tax

  Monday, March 17
- Self-employed persons' consumption tax and local consumption tax
   Monday, March 31



Before leaving, you must file and pay any taxes you owe (if you are obligated to file a tax return).

## Who needs to file tax returns and who is exempt?

The criteria used to determine who needs to file taxes and who does not is extremely personal. If you are uncertain, please contact your local tax office to figure out the best course of action for you (a list of tax offices can be found below).

- If you wish to use either medical expenses or social insurance premiums for income tax deduction purposes, you will need to file a final tax return.
- If it is difficult for you to pay your taxes due to natural disasters or other unavoidable reasons, you may be granted tax collection postponement (*yūyo*) or tax collection reduction/exemption (*genmen*). Please consult with the municipal tax office of your residential area.

## Where to get tax forms

#### · Income tax return form

Forms for income tax are available on the National Tax Agency's website or at tax offices (税 務署// zeimusho).

#### · Residents tax return form

Forms for residents tax are available on the City of Hiroshima's official website or at municipal tax office (市税事務所//shizei jimusho) or tax rooms (税務室//zeimushitsu).

## What kind of documents are required

The required forms will vary by applicant, so please be sure to check online or at your local tax office for details regarding what sort of forms are needed.

## My Number (12-digit Individual Number) required!

When filling final tax returns, applicants will need to provide proof of their Individual Number, also known as My Number. You will need to bring either ① or ② below:

- ① My Number Card (hard, plastic card)
- ② Notification Card or other form that has your number written on it. ID (or a copy of ID) which can be used to prove your identity, such as residence cards, driver's licenses, or national health insurance cards, will also be required.

Note: Only Notification Cards with information, such as name and address, identical to Resident Records (*Jūmin Hyō*) will be accepted.

## Online tax returns using the National Tax Agency's e-Tax website

File your tax return online via computer or smartphone! After completing the form, simply send it through the e-Tax system (electronic application) to file. Using this online tax return filing system, you can file your taxes anywhere, anytime! Applications are processed 24 hours/day until March 17. You can also print out your completed form and send it in via postal mail. If you save the data, you will be able to use it as a reference for your next year's tax return. For more information about e-Tax, please see the National Tax Agency website (Japanese only):

https://www.nta.go.jp/taxes/shiraberu/shinkoku/tokushu/index.htm



#### Filing municipal and prefectural residents taxes via the City of Hiroshima's website

You can file your municipal and prefectural residents tax online from the City of Hiroshima's official website. Enter the necessary data such as your income status in the previous year (from January to December) in order to make the filing form. Print out your completed form and submit it to the municipal tax section or taxation office of your local ward office by postal mail or inperson. You are not able to submit your completed filing form over the Internet.

Note: Income tax return (national tax) cannot be accepted from the City of Hiroshima's website.

#### Form submission and consultation

## 1. Income, gift, and consumption taxes

Please submit your form to your local tax office.

#### Filing venue at NTT Cred Hall

Between February 17 and March 17, 2025, taxes for Hiroshima-higashi, Hiroshima-minami, Hiroshima-nishi, Hiroshima-kita, Hatsukaichi, and Kaita should be filed at the following venue. Taxes for Hatsukaichi and Kaita can also be filed at their district taxation office.

Venue	NTT Cred Hall (Pacela 11F) 6-78 Moto-machi, Naka-ku
Date	February 17 (Mon) - March 17 (Mon), 2025
Time	Reception: 8:30 am-4 pm Consultation: 9 am-5 pm
Closed	Saturdays, Sundays and national/public holidays

## Filing via smartphone

At the venue, guidance on how to file via smartphone is available.

#### Note:

To avoid crowding, the venue has a ticket system in place. You will need a ticket to enter the venue. You can get a ticket on the day at the venue or in advance via the LINE app. If the venue is particularly crowded, you may be asked to come another day.

For more information, please inquire to your local taxation office or see the National Tax Agency website (Japanese only): https://www.nta.go.jp\index.html

## **Inquiries:** Taxation office (*Zeimu-sho*)

Tax Office	Tel	Tax Office	Tel
Hiroshima Higashi	082-227-1155	Hatsukaichi	0829-32-1217
Hiroshima Minami	082-253-3281	Kaita	082-823-2131
Hiroshima Nishi	082-234-3110	Yoshida	0826-42-0008
Hiroshima Kita	082-814-2111		

## 2. Municipal and prefectural residents taxes

Please submit your form to your municipal tax office.

#### Note:

- Municipal tax offices are located in each ward office.
- The following municipal tax offices (Shizei Jimusho) and tax offices (Zeimu Shitsu) are closed on weekends and public holidays.

#### Consultations about residents tax

Consultations about residents tax will be held at ward offices and community halls. For more information including consultation schedule and venues, please check the city's official website.

## Municipal Tax Offices (Shizei Jimusho)

Ward	Which section of	Which section of which office?			
Naka	Chuo Shizei Jimusho	Municipal Residents Tax Section I	082-504-2564		
Minami	Central Municipal Tax Office (Naka Ward Office)	Municipal Residents Tax Section II	082-504-2751		
Higashi & Aki	<b>Tobu Shizei Jimusho</b> Eastern Municipal Tax Office (Higashi Ward Office)	Municipal Residents Tax Section	082-568-7719		
Nishi	Seibu Shizei Jimusho	Municipal Residents Tax Section I	082-532-0942		
Saeki	Western Municipal Tax Office (Nishi Ward Office)	Municipal Residents Tax Section II	082-532-1012		
Asaminami	Hokubu Shizei Jimusho Northern Municipal Tax Office	Municipal Residents Tax Section I	082-831-4935		
Asakita	(Asaminami Ward Office)	Municipal Residents Tax Section II	082-831-5016		

Municipal Residents Tax Section = Shiminzei Kakari

## Tax Room (Zeimu Shitsu)

Tax Room	Tel	Tax Room	Tel
Minami (Minami Ward Office)	082-250-8946	Saeki (Saeki Ward Office)	082-943-9716
Aki (Aki Ward Office)	082-821-4913	Asakita (Asakita Ward Office)	082-819-3913

# Holiday trash collection on March 20

2025年3月20日(祝)の家庭ごみの収集について

March 20 (Thu) is a national holiday, so waste collection will be conducted as follows:

# ○ · · · Garbage collected × · · · Garbage is <u>NOT</u> collected

National Holiday	Burnable Trash/Plastic Bottles/Recyclable Plastics in your local ward	Recyclable & Harmful Waste/ Non-combustible/Other in your local ward
March 20 (Thu)	×	0

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

