

Preparations are underway for COVID-19 Vaccination

The COVID-19 Vaccine is expected to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to reduce the mortality rate and the number of serious illness cases caused by this infection as much as possible.

In Tsukuba City we are proceeding with preparations in order to provide our residents with vaccination as quickly as possible. Detailed schedule and vaccination venues etc., will be announced on the City Hall's webpage after they have been decided.

Information regarding COVID-19 Vaccine (as of February 15th)

○ **The order of vaccination:** for the purposes of maintaining the medical system and giving priority to people with high risk of serious illness, the below vaccination order has been instructed by the government.

① Healthcare workers, etc.

The [Vaccination Voucher] will be provided by the place of employment, etc.

② Elderly persons (persons who were born before April 1st, 1957)

The City Hall will send out the [Vaccination Vouchers] to the persons who as of March 9, 2021, are registered as residents of Tsukuba city.

③ Persons who have underlying condition and persons working at elderly care facilities.

Persons other than the elderly.

④ The rest of the people.

Sending [Vaccination Vouchers]

When the period of vaccination approaches, the municipality will send out the [Vaccination Voucher] and [COVID-19 Vaccination Notice].

It is expected that people who fall under ② and ④ and people with circumstances described on the right may receive the vaccination outside of their place of registration.

1. Persons who are hospitalized/admitted to a medical or other facility outside of their registered residence area may receive the vaccine at the institution they are currently residing in.
2. Persons with underlying condition may receive the vaccine at the medical institution where they are currently undergoing treatment.
3. Persons whose residing location differs from the registered address.

- **Vaccination Fee:** it is free of charge, because it is entirely publicly funded.
- **Number of inoculations:** the type of the planned vaccination requires 2 inoculations.
- **Obtaining consent for the vaccination:** vaccination is not compulsory. If the person does not give consent, the vaccination will not be provided.
- **Relief System for Adverse Vaccine Reactions:** The relief system can be used based upon the Immunization Act if the vaccination has caused damage to the vaccinees health. Even though health deterioration caused by an adverse reaction to a vaccination is extremely rare, the risk cannot be eliminated completely. Therefore, Relief System has been prepared. The relief system can be used based upon the Immunization Act (payment of medical expenses, disability pension) if treatment at a medical facility is necessary due to health deterioration or lasting impairment caused by the immunization.

!!! Please be careful about fraud concerning the COVID-19 Vaccination

Consumer Affairs Centers nationwide have been receiving fraudulent attempts to deceive people into giving money or personal information, claiming that it is necessary for the vaccination. Municipalities, etc., do not ask for money or personal information via phone. Also, in Japan the COVID-19 vaccine is free of charge, so there is no cost for the vaccination or appointment. If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be a city official saying that "Vaccine costs money" please come for a consultation.

Tsukuba City Counseling Service for Foreigners TEL: 029-883-1313 (phone consultations are available in Japanese, English, and Chinese only).



For people changing their address in Tsukuba City

During the period from mid-March to the beginning of May the counters at the Citizens Services Division become extremely congested. In order to avoid crowded situation, please come to the City Hall on less busy days with minimum number of people and do not forget to have all the necessary documents with you. We ask for your cooperation to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What you need to bring for the [change of address] procedure:

- Certificate of Moving out (only in the case of Moving in)
- ID of a person that comes to complete the procedure (Residence Card, Driver's License etc.)
- My Number Card and Juki-card of all family members whose address will be changed (new address will be recorded on the cards).
- In case a representative comes to complete the procedure, the power of attorney is necessary. Please specify details such as **who** has delegated **whom** to complete **what** procedures.

When moving to Tsukuba from other city complete “**Moving in**” procedure. When moving to other address inside Tsukuba complete “**Change of address**” procedure. When moving from Tsukuba to other city complete “**Moving out**” procedure. When completing these procedures, please allow plenty of time, because procedures will include national health insurance and national pension, as well as these of family members.

It is required to complete the [Moving In] and [Change of Address] procedures **within 14 days** after starting to live in a new address.

2-3 hours waiting time	March: 22, 26, 29, 30, 31 April: 1, 2, 5 May: 6, 7
1.5-2 hours waiting time	March: 23, 24, 25 April: 9, 28, 29
1-1.5 hours waiting time	March: 18, 19 April: 6, 7, 8

Waiting time forecast based on congestion situation on an average year. The City Hall is relatively less crowded on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Operating Hours:

- Monday – Friday → 8:30 – 17:15
- * On Thursdays the operating hours are extended until 20:00. The procedure of changing address (excluding foreign residents) and issuance of certificates (excluding tax related certificates) are handled.
- Saturday – Sunday → 8:30 – 17:15
- Issuance of certificates (including tax related certificates) is handled.

[Free of Charge] Preschool: about school life in Japan and Japanese language learning

[Contents]

1. Evaluation of Japanese Language ability & learning “Survival Japanese” that may be useful at school

«Intended for» children who are starting elementary school or changing schools.

«Quota» 30 people/ «Schedule» March 6th (Sat.) and March 13th (Sat.) – 10:00 – 12:00

2. Guidance on Elementary and Middle Schools

Sharing information useful when attending school. «Schedule» March 6th (Sat.) – 14:00 – 15:30

3. Guidance on entering a High School

Providing information about how high school is different from elementary and middle school, guidance on entrance examination and school expenses. «Schedule» March 13th (Sat.) – 14:00 – 15:30

4. Consultations for those having difficulties at school (in Japanese, English, and Chinese)

☎ (029-868-7700)/ email: sodan@inter.or.jp/ every Wednesday 10:00 – 13:00

«Intended for» Children who are starting or already going to elementary or middle school in Tsukuba City and their parents/guardians.

«Place» to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the meetings will take place online (ZOOM).

«Application» Apply by sending us an email specifying your name, in which meeting you want to participate (①②③), your phone number, language (-s) you know and whether language interpretation will be necessary. We can also arrange a connection trial beforehand to see if there are any troubles for you to join the meeting.

«Email» event@inter.or.jp/ Tsukuba International Association

«Sponsored by» Tsukuba International Association and Tsukuba City Board of Education

«In cooperation with» University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba Gakuin University, Tsukuba International Association, Ibaraki NPO Center Commons



Invitation to become a “Foreign students’ representative of Tsukuba”

International Exchange Office is now recruiting persons for Foreign Students’ Representative position for FY2021.

The two main responsibilities of the Foreign Student’s Representatives of Tsukuba are the translation and editing of the multilingual newsletter along with providing lectures on “International Understanding” where a representative will be talking about his/her country to elementary and middle school students of Tsukuba city. Please read below for more detailed description:

[Multilingual Newsletter]: together with the respective language proofreader, Foreign Student’s Representative is responsible for editing multilingual newsletters. The task starts from receiving a Japanese language draft created by the International Exchange Office which explains relevant procedures, events, and other information useful to foreign residents of Tsukuba. This information is then translated, edited, and compiled into an informative newsletter available in 8 languages! The total count of each edition of the multilingual newspaper reaches around 3000 copies and the newsletter is distributed to various institutions, train stations, elementary and middle schools as well as to businesses in Tsukuba City. The newspaper is translated into English, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Portuguese, Spanish, Indonesian and Vietnamese. Newsletters are issued 4 times per year: Summer Edition (in June), Autumn Edition (in September), Winter Edition (in December) and Spring Edition (in March). The remuneration for one page is 9,000 JPY (in general, every edition is 4 pages long).

[International Understanding Class]: the Foreign Students’ Representative is dispatched to an elementary or middle school in Tsukuba where the Representative makes a presentation about his/her country to students. Adjusting to the current situation, we are now also using ZOOM if going directly to the school is not the best option. During the presentation, the Foreign Students’ Representative explains about the location of the country, national anthem, greetings, climate, currency, cuisine, culture, national clothes, games for children, school life, traditional dances, and music, etc. The presentation is made by using PowerPoint and to make it more illustrative Foreign Students’ Representatives bring actual artifacts from their home countries to show them to the students. The main goal of these classes is to reduce discrimination by introducing children to the notion that there are people from various countries who have their own unique culture and traditions. One class is around 45 minutes and the remuneration for one class is 3,000 JPY.

«**Recruited languages**» English (2 persons), Chinese (2), Korean (1), Thai (1), Portuguese (2), Spanish (2), Indonesian (1), Vietnamese (2). ※ There may be adjustments

The requirements that the applicant has to fulfill are as follows:

- 1) A person registered as a resident of Tsukuba city with residential status being “Student”.
- 2) A person who is currently enrolled in university, graduate school, or junior college and will maintain this status until the end of appointment on March 31st, 2022. (Auditing students are not permitted)
- 3) A person who has interest in international exchange and volunteering.
- 4) A person who has a sufficient Japanese communication ability.
- 5) A person who can use Word, PDF, PowerPoint, and Excel to complete the tasks.
- 6) A person who is good at translation.

«Application process»

Fill in required items in the “Foreign students’ representative of Tsukuba application form” (available here: www.tsukubainfo.jp) and attach a photo. After compiling all the necessary documents, please mail or bring them directly to International Exchange Office on the 5th floor of the Tsukuba City Hall, or send them via email.

«**Deadline**» March 15th, 2021 (Mon.) 5 PM (in the case of mailing, the documents that have the postage stamp dating no later than March 15th will still be considered even if it reaches the City Hall later than the due date).

We are waiting for your applications!

Experience of Foreign Students’ Representative of Tsukuba in 2020:

My name is Giedre and for the last 2 years I have had the pleasure of contributing to the community of foreign residents of Tsukuba by putting together an English translation of the most relevant information concerning life in this city. It is a great joy to edit a newsletter that will be read by the residents of the city, but at the same time it is a great responsibility as well. However, I never do it alone. I always have the support and help of the International Exchange Office and my proofreader to make the translation the best version it can be.

International Understanding Classes are fun beyond description. Can you imagine going to a classroom with 20 unbearably adorable children who are genuinely interested in knowing your country and it is you who has the rare and wonderful opportunity to widen their worldview? During these two years I have not only been channeling information to others – I was continuously learning myself. Would it be a translation or International Understanding Class it is never the same, never monotonous, and always engaging. I can say with confidence that I am very grateful to myself for taking upon this challenge that turned out to be such a great experience. How about you give it a try too?



Why not study on ZOOM? Japanese language courses for foreign residents (April~September)!

This is an online course for adults teaching daily Japanese language that will come in handy!

※ For details, please check our website.

«Date and time» (20 meetings in total)

Day-time course: 10:00-11:00

Evening course: – 18:30-19:30

※ Every course has 4 classes (divided by level)

«Intended for» foreign residents currently living or/and working in Tsukuba as well as their families.

«Quota» first 10 people to come (every class, every level)

«Application» please submit the application form available on our webpage or email us the application sheet that can also be found on our website. Application opens on **March 1st (Mon.)**.

«Contact» Tsukuba International Association ☎ 029-869-7675

«Website» <https://www.inter.or.jp/> «Email» info@inter.or.jp

Why not enjoy some time at the Everyone's Cafeteria?

Everyone's Cafeteria (Tsukuba's version of Children's Cafeteria) is a place where everyone from children to the elderly are welcome to come and stay as long as they want. **N.B.** Due to the COVID-19, it is difficult to keep regular opening hours and instead, some of the cafeterias provide bento etc., or have changed their operations in some other way, so for details please inquire beforehand (Japanese only). Information at the websites is available in Japanese only.

Tsukuba's [Kodomo no Uchi] Cafeteria (Incorporated NPO Mannarz)

Address: Kitanakazuma 399-2/ ☎: 029-838-5366/ Open: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month 17:30 – 19:30 /

Fee: young children – free/ children (up until middle school) 100 JPY/ adults 300 JPY

Children are welcome to come on their own! We have pick up and drop off services, so please feel free to consult with us. We are pioneers among the Children's Cafeterias in Tsukuba city!

Children's Cafeteria for Everyone (Tsukuba's Atsumare Chibikko in Toyosato Society)

Address: Koya 1197-20, Toyosato Koryu Center/ ☎: 090-3685-7088

Open: 1-2 times per month/ Saturday – 11:30 – 13:30/ Thursday evening – irregular opening hours /

Fee: children (until 18 y/o) 100 JPY/ adults 300 JPY

Handmade cuisine in consideration to the season and regional tradition.

Takezono Saturday Plaza

Address: Takezono 3-19-2/ Takezono Koryu Center / ☎: 090-3047-1265 (Mori)

Open: Once per month/ Saturday 10:30 – 14:30/ Fee: children (up until middle school) 100 JPY/ adult 300 JPY

Priority for advance reservations! Students older than elementary school age are welcome to come without supervision! Volunteers of all ages and nationalities are greatly appreciated!

Chiiki Koryu Plaza (Hanabatake)

Address: Hasunuma 220-1 Flower Child Nursery School/ ☎: 029-864-6464

Open: 4th Saturday of every month – 11:30 – 13:30/

Fee: children (up until middle school) 100 JPY/ adult 300 JPY

Priority for advance reservations! School lunch made by nutritionist/chef!

You can also have a consultation with childcare specialist about child rearing.

Chiiki Korvu Plaza (Numazaki)

Address: Numazaki 3097-1 Tsukuba Kodomo no Mori Nursery School/ ☎: 029-875-4539

Open: 4th Tuesday of every month – 11:30 – 13:30 Fee: children (up until middle school) 100 JPY/ adult 300 JPY

Priority for advance reservations! School lunch made by nutritionist/chef!

Pre-schoolers can play at the Child Rearing Support Base.

Baobab Children's Cafeteria

Address: Onozaki 858-1/ ☎: 029-856-5087 ✉: amemura45@gmail.com Email reservation is necessary!

Open: 1-2 times per month/ Friday 18:30 – 20:45/ Fee: young children – free/ children and adults 300 JPY

Our meals are made from vegetables and rice harvested from the fields next to our studio and our rice is cooked in kamado (cooking pot).

Tatsumi Children's Cafeteria

Address: Matsunoki 99-34/ ☎: 029-838-5666 (Kaisen & Tatsumi)

Open: 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month 7:00 – 9:00/ Fee: children (up until middle school) - free/ adult 300 JPY

We offer original curry made from vegetables grown locally.

48th Mt. Tsukuba Plum Festival

At the Mt. Tsukuba Plum Grove around 1,000 plum trees bloom from February to March.

«Period» starting after lifting of state of emergency and expected to continue until March 21st (Sun.).

«Entrance» free of charge

«Access» board the Mt. Tsukuba Shuttle Bus at the Tsukuba Center (fare: adult – 740 JPY, child – 370 JPY) and get off the bus at a bus stop named [Tsukuba-san Jinja Iriguchi] (the ride takes around 36 min.) and then walk for 5 minutes until you reach the entrance of the Plum Grove (bairin iriguchi).

※ The festival is subject to change or cancelation according to the situation regarding COVID-19.

※ In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 we ask for your cooperation in wearing a mask and keeping social distancing. Also, if you are not feeling well (having fever etc.) we kindly ask you to refrain from visiting the Plum Grove.

