

**1 About the exemption of fees for kindergartens, day care centers, and centers for early childhood education**

Starting October 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, kindergartens, day care centers, and centers for early childhood education for all children between 3 and 5 years old will be free of charge.

Fees will also be exempt for children aged 0 to 2 years old in households with exemptions from municipal residence tax.

For children utilizing childcare services at unlicensed nurseries, temporary childcare services, and family support centers, fees will be exempt up to a certain amount.

For pre-school children utilizing facilities for children with disabilities, fees will also be exempt. For children from 3 to 5 years old that are also in kindergarten, nursery school and certified childcare facilities, both will be free.

This is implemented along with the rise of the consumption tax as a measure to increase the birthrate, support the child-raising generation and reduce the burden of early childhood education.

Thank you for your understanding.

## 2 About subsidies for childhood influenza vaccination

From October, subsidies for the influenza vaccination will begin for children who are at least 6 months old, not yet in elementary school, and have an address in the city.

The subsidy amount is 2,500 yen. Any additional amount is at your own expense.

The subsidy period is from October 1 to February 29, 2020, and can be received at any cooperative medical institution in the city. The number of allowed subsidies is twice during this period.

Those who wish to receive a vaccination need to apply. Please make a reservation directly with a medical institution.

### 3 About consumption tax rate increase

From October 1, 2019, the consumption tax rate will be increased from 8% to 10%.

The consumption tax applies to everyone in Japan when purchasing goods and services.

The increase in the consumption tax rate will be used for social security for all generations.

In addition, with this increase in the consumption tax rate, a reduced 8% tax rate system will be implemented for the purchase of food, beverages and newspapers excluding alcohol and food at restaurants.

When you purchase food and beverages at supermarkets and convenience stores where you are allowed to eat and drink, the reduced tax rate is applied when you take home the food and drinks. However, if it is consumed within the store, it will be considered dining out and the 10% rate will apply.

The store clerk may directly confirm whether it is to “eat-in” or “take-out”.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## 4 About Fall events

From Saturday October 19, "TOCHIGI TODAY'S MARKET" will be held once a month from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Tochigi Float Museum square.

This is a market with stores and restaurants that sell seasonal agricultural products made by farmers in and outside Tochigi City and will also feature live music.

Towards the end of November, it will be held on November 23, December 21, January 25, February 22 and March 28.

Additionally, on Sunday October 27th, from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm, the "Tochigi Collaboration Festival 2019" will be held in and around the Tochigi Float Museum Square.

Also, on Saturday November 2 and Sunday November 3 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, from Ashikaga Bank to Yorocho Koban on the main avenue, The 21st Kuranomachi Furusato Festival will be held for two days.

In addition to the sale of products, there will be exhibitions of floats by Sangokushi, demonstrations of Karakuri dolls, and antique stores around the main avenue.

Please go out and enjoy "Autumn of Tochigi".