

1 About the relief money

Because of the coronavirus, as an emergency economic measure, 100,000 yen will be paid to each resident including foreigner who has had a residence status of 3 months or longer and an address registered with the city hall.

Tochigi City Hall started mailing the application for the relief money from May 14th. When you receive the notification, please fill in the necessary items and reply with the attached envelope.

Please see the Tochigi City International Association website for details on how to fill out the application form.

On the back of the application form, please attach a copy of the your residence card or a copy of your bank handbook that allows you to check your bank account.

Please submit your application by August 20th.

2 About the "New Lifestyle"

Experts of the Japanese government recommended specific practical examples of a "new lifestyle" so that the further spread of COVID-19 can be avoided.

As preventative measures that each person should take, there are three basic acts to prevent infection:

Firstly, please increase your distance from other people to at least 2 meters.

Secondly, please wear a mask when going out.

Thirdly, please wash your hands carefully with water and soap for about 30 seconds.

Next, to stop the spread of the virus through travel, please do not travel to or from a place where there are many cases of the disease.

Additionally, please pay attention to the following three things in your daily life:

Firstly, please don't go to places where the air flow is bad.

Secondly, please don't go to places where many people tend to gather.

Thirdly, please do not converse with people without sufficient space.

In addition, for shopping, only one person or a small number of people should go from each household.

When you line up at the cash register, be sure to leave space in front and back.

Also, do not have conversations when you board a train or bus.

Finally, try to choose takeaway for meals and if dining at a restaurant, please sit side-by-side rather than face-to-face.

It is of utmost importance that each of us practices this "new lifestyle" to protect

everyone's lives.

3 About the charge for shopping bags

Starting July 1 of this year, there will be charges for shopping bags at all stores in Japan, including supermarkets and convenience stores.

There are several global environmental problems related to the use of plastic bags such as pollution of the sea caused by plastic waste and large amounts of carbon dioxide being released when the bags are burned leading to global warming.

It has been decided to make free plastic bags unavailable in order to reduce the amount of plastics used in Japan.

When shopping bags are not free, shoppers are more eco-conscious, and would be encouraged to use reusable bags.

Let's improve the earth's environment even with small actions that each of us can do daily.

As with the coronavirus, it is now necessary more than ever to rethink our lifestyles that we used to take for granted.