

1. About disaster preparedness

Disasters in places such as Kyushu have occurred this year due to heavy rain and flood damage due to typhoons and heavy rain in other areas will most likely follow. It is important to prepare during normal times by learning how to safely evacuate when a disaster occurs.

In Japan, when a disaster occurs, evacuation information is issued using five alert levels.

If your area is on alert level 4, it means that you are in danger so please evacuate with everyone around you.

Evacuation grounds are usually elementary and junior high school buildings designated by the city.

These are called “evacuation centers” and it’s where everyone can escape and live for a while.

You can receive water and food and you can sleep comfortably at night.

You can also find more important information at the "evacuation centers".

You may also choose to escape to relatives’ and friends' homes that are in safe places.

If your home is a safe place, you don't have to escape.

Alert level 5 means that a disaster has already occurred.

Even if the alert level hasn’t reached 3 or 4, you should start evacuating if you ever feel at risk.

To find weather and disaster information, the Japan Meteorological Agency widely informs citizens through TV, radio and the Internet in English, Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Nepali, Sinhalese, and Thai.

Please inform yourself and help evacuate.

In Tochigi City, there is a hazard map that indicates the areas where there is a high risk of floods and landslides.

Hazard maps are distributed at city halls and public halls.

You can also look it up on the city's website so please check where your home is on the hazard map.

If your house is in a colored zone, there is a risk of disaster, so you may need to evacuate.

Also, make sure to prepare things you may need before disaster strikes.

For example a mobile radio, medicine, food that can be eaten without heat, drinking water, flashlights, clothing, towels, diapers, chargers, slippers, etc.

Additionally, please prepare masks, alcohol disinfectant, and a thermometer as a countermeasure against infectious diseases.

Please think about what you will do when your life is in danger and consider the timing of evacuation and the evacuation actions you should take to protect everyone around you.

2. About the national survey

This year, there will be a national survey which takes place every five years. This is to investigate the current situation of Japan's population and households. There are several items that must be filled such as name, gender, birth date, nationality, education status, place of employment or school, number of household members, type of house, etc. The due date for the survey is October 1 and everyone living in Japan must participate, including foreign residents.

In order to prevent the spread of Covid-19, this survey will be conducted in a method with the least amount of physical contact possible for distribution and collection of the survey documents.

When the survey documents arrive at your home, please access the response site on the internet and follow the on-screen instructions to respond to the national survey.

If you cannot respond using the internet, please use the survey form to answer and submit it by mail.

Various statistical results obtained from the census are regarded as public property and will be used in a wide range of fields such as research, educational activities, and economic activities.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

3. About This Year's "Child care household support benefits"

In Tochigi City, a lump sum payment will be provided to support the lives of child-rearing households affected by COVID-19.

A notice in the mail will be mailed to the eligible in late July of this year but you are not required to apply.

As of June 30, 2020, households with children under the age of junior high school registered in Tochigi City are eligible for the benefits.

The amount you could receive is 10,000 yen per eligible household.

The payment period is scheduled for the end of August, 2020.

If you get a suspicious call or email regarding these benefits, please immediately contact the police.